

Bow-Concord I-93 Transportation Planning Study

PROJECT CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Bow-Concord section of Interstate 93 (from the I-89 interchange to the I-393 interchange) serves as a critical link for New England-wide travel to the White Mountains and the Lakes Region, a regional commuting route for Concord and state workers, as well as an important local route for Bow, Concord and the surrounding area. The continued pressures of high traffic volumes and safety concerns have led to this study of the I-93 Corridor through Bow and Concord.

The problems, concerns and opportunities that exist in the corridor can be summarized in the following categories. The specifics found in this list were gathered from previous planning efforts, presentations at public meetings, displays at public venues, and input from technical and citizen advisory committees.

Community Vision: The project needs to be aware of the vision each of the surrounding communities has for its future. The opportunity exists to incorporate a transportation system that is compatible with the community's vision.

- Bow Master Plan
- Concord 2020
- Pembroke Master Plan
- Opportunity Corridor
- MasterPlan Concord
- Other planning initiatives

Safety: Several locations exist within the study limits where geometric conditions create less than desirable driving conditions. It will be a challenge to improve the safety of the transportation system while maintaining access to it.

- Entrance and Exit Ramps too close together between Exits 14 and 15
- Entrance and Exit Ramps too close together within Exit 15
- Entrance and Exit Ramps too close together between Exit 15 and Exit 1 on I-393
- Excessive speed on southbound I-89 near Exit 1
- Entrance and Exit Ramps too close together between Exit 1 on I-89 and the I-89/I-93 Interchange
- Insufficient deceleration distance on the Exit 12 Ramps

Mobility: The ability for regional and local traffic to move through Bow and Concord is critical. The challenge is to meet the regional demands on the transportation system while maintaining the ability to move within the local communities.

- I-93 congestion during peak periods and special events
- Access to alternative modes of transportation including buses, trails, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian
- Traffic from I-93 diverting to local streets
- Local traffic diverting to I-93
- Regional traffic passing through Bow and Concord
- Loudon Road traffic signals

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Economic Vitality: The economies of the surrounding communities are dependent upon the transportation system. The challenge and opportunity is to balance the regional needs for I-93 with the needs of the local communities.

- Opportunity Corridor
- Garvin's Falls
- Downtown Concord
- Loudon Road Retail Area
- Route 106 Connection
- Better access to I-93
- Fort Eddy Road Retail Area

Aesthetics: The views of the surrounding communities from I-93 and the view of I-93 from these communities are important. This project offers the opportunity to enhance these views.

- Visual Quality
- Gateway Elements

Natural Environment: The study corridor includes areas of open space, ponds and rivers. The challenge is to minimize impacts to these natural resources. There may also be opportunities to enhance the relationship between the natural and built environments.

- Access to the Merrimack River from Downtown Concord
- Garvin's Falls
- South End Marsh
- Undeveloped floodplains

Access: Access to and from I-93 is critical for the region and local communities. The challenge is to meet the access needs while maintaining mobility.

- I-93
- Downtown Concord
- Steeplegate Mall/Concord Heights
- West Concord
- Bow
- Pembroke

Transportation Choice: Within the study area there are limited transportation options. The challenge and opportunity is to improve access to alternative modes of transportation.

- Transit/Rail
- Bus
- Trails
- Bicycle
- Pedestrian

Cultural/Social Resources: The transportation system is one component of the community. The challenge is to integrate transportation so that it serves and preserves the community around it.

- Community Cohesion
- Historic Context
- Archeology
- Noise impacts on residential communities
- Noise impacts on recreational use of the river

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