

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the West Dover Connector is to improve mobility across the Norfolk Southern Railroad for all modes of travel to and from the west side of Dover, reduce congestion at key intersections in the study area, improve the connectivity of the roadway network for regional, through and local travel, reduce through traffic volume on local streets and within historic districts, and improve safety, including emergency service access.

Traffic Congestion

- Existing peak hour traffic conditions include failing intersections, long back-ups and delays.
- Future traffic conditions without a West Dover Connector would be much worse.

Congestion in Historic Districts/Areas

- The North Street and the Camden and Wyoming Historic Districts experience traffic congestion in large part due to through traffic volumes.
- Heavy vehicle traffic on North Street and Camden-Wyoming Avenue may have a negative impact on the foundations of buildings in the historic areas.

Projected Growth and Land Development

- In the greater Dover area, population is projected to increase by approximately 15% and employment by 21% between 2000 and 2030.
- Future growth is expected to occur in the West Dover Connector study area and infrastructure to support it must be planned.



Purpose and Need

Connections

- Saulsbury Road lacks a direct connection to US 13.
- As land development continues, the lack of direct connections to US 13 will make traffic conditions worse on local streets.
- Traffic moving across the Norfolk Southern Railroad is limited by the location of at-grade (road-level) crossings. Crossings at Front Street and North Street are approximately 2.9 miles apart, adding travel time and distance to trips crossing the railroad.



Emergency Access

- Limited railroad crossings provide few travel options for emergency services (fire, police, and rescue) between points west of the railroad and the hospital east of the railroad. Time and distance for some emergency service trips are lengthened.

