

6. Transportation

Three arterial roads, Franklin Avenue, Wethersfield Avenue and Brown/Airport Road traverse the neighborhood. Franklin and Wethersfield provide north-south access and Brown/Airport allow for east-west movement.

Interstate 91 lies to the east of the neighborhood with access from Airport Road. The approach to the Interstate along Airport Road can be difficult at times with traffic from the industrial areas in the neighborhood mixing with commuters. Improvements to the area may be difficult due to a railroad bridge parallel to the Interstate. An option to improve access to the neighborhood could include an exit ramp from the Charter Oak Bridge to connect with Airport Road

The north-south roads allow access into the neighborhood, to downtown, and to areas beyond the City. Wethersfield Avenue continues into the Town of Wethersfield as a major arterial. Franklin Avenue continues into the Town of Wethersfield as Wolcott Hill Road, but has less of an arterial presence.

The concept of angled parking and median on Franklin Ave. was reviewed. This was discussed as a way to increase parking and improve pedestrian safety. There was agreement with the consultant's analysis that this concept would not be feasible, given the existing width of the public right of way and the desire to keep the four traffic lanes open. A more feasible option would be to construct bump-outs at specified intersections, and develop off-street parking at strategic sites.

The CT-Transit routes map depicts bus access within the South End area. Four routes service the neighborhood: the N, T, U and G lines. While the transit system provides a variety of north-south access links in the South End, there is no east-west linkage. The G line provides access to the industrial areas of the South Meadow. City buses use all main arterial roads for services throughout the neighborhood. The remaining routes serve residential and commercial areas within the neighborhood.

