

Chapter 4

TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION

1. Existing Conditions Introduction

The effectiveness and functionality of the transportation system and how it services population growth has significant impact on the community. The Town plans should provide a safe, convenient and efficient system of transporting both people and goods to, from and throughout the community, and complements the quality of life in Rockville.

Rockville sits astride State Highway 9, which serves as the main street and has an annual average traffic count of 3000 vehicles per day. The remainder of the town is served by improved and unimproved access roads. The layout of the street system is adequate for present needs.

Certain traffic safety problems exist. These include excessive traffic speed, on street parking, and illegal passing on the main highway. These problems pose safety hazards to both the residents and the transient motorists.

Another area of concern is the intersection of Bridge Road and Highway 9. The narrowness of the road at this point poses difficulties to entering and exiting traffic. The limited width of the roadway is compounded by the existence of utility poles and a ditch.

2. Assumptions for the Future Transportation Master Plan

A Transportation Master Plan provides for safe and efficient transportation and flow of traffic within the community. It is recommended that the Town prepare and maintain such a plan to meet the demands of future growth and the use of town streets. The existing roadways that are shown on the Rockville Transportation Map, provide a foundation for such a plan. The map can be viewed in the Town Office.

Recommended components of a Rockville Town Transportation Master Plan include:

- a. Policies which foster a safe and effective street system
- b. Classification of streets according to their intended function
- c. Street design standard guidelines
- d. Identification of areas where street improvements are needed.

If much of the anticipated future residential growth occurs on the south side of the Virgin River increasing traffic flow may exceed the capacity of the bridge. If this occurs it may be necessary to locate an alternate crossing and to construct a new bridge. Inasmuch as the existing bridge has historical significance for the community, reconstruction or replacement may not be a desirable solution.

~~There is developable land on the north side of the river adjacent to the town proper. This area is expected to experience development in coming years, bringing with it access problems.~~

~~It is assumed that visitation to Zion National Park will continue to rise and that the increasing traffic flow along Highway 9 will serve to exacerbate the existing problems regarding speed, parking and illegal passing.~~

~~Increase traffic on residential access roads may result in greater maintenance needs and costs.~~

~~An increasing nationwide interest in hiking, walking, and biking activities has encouraged the building of trail networks in various regions. One such trail is proposed to run along the Virgin River from Zion National Park to St. George.~~

3. Community Goals Street and Traffic Issues

The following transportation issues relating to streets and vehicular traffic were identified in the preparation process and should be incorporated in the updates to the Transportation Master Plan:

- Street maintenance and improvement throughout town
- Improved street signage
- Improved sidewalks in the community
- Traffic / speed calming throughout town
- Construct a new transportation corridor and bridge on the west side of Town.

~~The citizens have expressed a desire for the following goals concerning transportation and circulation in Rockville:~~

~~The traffic speed along Highway 9 should be decreased and/or enforced.~~

~~Ensure the safe accommodation of traffic on all the streets within Rockville through proper maintenance, signage and controls.~~

~~Minimize impact of on-street parking and traffic speed.~~

4. Planning Policies Existing Conditions

Rockville sits astride SR-9, which serves as the main street and has an annual average traffic count of 3,000 vehicles per day. The remainder of the town is served by improved and unimproved access roads. The layout of the street system is adequate for present needs.

Certain traffic safety problems exist. These include excessive traffic speed, on-street parking, large RV's and trailers, and illegal passing on the main highway. These problems pose safety hazards to both the residents and the transient motorists.

Another area of concern is the intersection of Bridge Road and SR-9. The narrowness of the road at this point poses difficulties to entering and exiting traffic. The existence of utility poles and the historic irrigation ditch compound the limited width of the roadway.

~~The following policies will guide the stated community goals regarding transportation and circulation:~~

Coordinate efforts with the Utah Department of Transportation in order to ameliorate the traffic problems along Highway 9.

Monitor traffic flow and parking within the town to identify potential problems and trouble spots.

Establish a transportation element within a Capital Improvements Program for the maintenance and phased improvement of roads and other transportation needs.

Despite the assumption of an increased interest in public trails, the citizens of Rockville have chosen to not support or fund such trails.

5. ASSUMPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Due to the increasing traffic flow due to recreational traffic and potential for residential growth on the south side of the Virgin River, it will be necessary to locate an alternate crossing and construct a new transportation corridor and bridge. Inasmuch as the existing bridge has historical significance for the community, rehabilitation to preserve the bridge and continue its use for vehicular traffic is desired by the community.

There is developable land on both the north and south sides of the river adjacent to the town proper. Development in these areas is expected in coming years, bringing with it access problems.

It is assumed that visitation to Zion National Park will continue to rise and that the increasing traffic flow along SR-9 will serve to exacerbate the existing problems regarding speed, parking and illegal passing.

Increase traffic on residential access roads may result in greater maintenance needs and costs.

6. COMMUNITY GOALS

The citizens have expressed a desire for the following goals concerning transportation and circulation in Rockville:

- a. The traffic speed along Highway 9 should be decreased and/or enforced.
- b. Ensure the safe accommodation of traffic on all the streets within Rockville through proper maintenance, signage and controls.
- c. Minimize impact of on-street parking and traffic speed.

7. PLANNING POLICIES

The following policies will guide the stated community goals regarding transportation and circulation:

- a. Coordinate efforts with the Utah Department of Transportation in order to ameliorate the traffic problems along SR-9.
- b. Monitor traffic flow and parking within the town to identify potential problems and trouble spots.
- c. Establish a transportation element within a Capital Improvements Program for the maintenance and phased improvement of roads and other transportation needs.