

CAN ANYTHING BE DONE ABOUT TRAFFIC?

Of course, more business development in Bedford means more cars on the road, in a town with limited public transit options. The town is constantly trying to pursue new transportation opportunities. For example, the town worked hard to obtain state funding for widening Rte. 3 and Middlesex Turnpike, both to take traffic off local roads and to spur business development and revitalization.

As in most suburban communities, traffic has long been a major problem in Bedford, and it is a tough one to solve. Addressing it will require creative, long-term efforts (see more on this in the Comprehensive Plan). The basic strategy is to chip away at the problem with multifaceted approaches. These include working diligently toward creating an “alternative infrastructure” for pedestrian and bicycle travel; working with businesses to expand transportation demand management programs to reduce auto trips; working to retain and expand local and regional public and private transit options, such as shuttle buses; and encouraging land-use patterns that lessen auto-dependency, including home occupations and mixed use where appropriate.