

Mystic Multi-Modal Transportation Study Towns of Stonington & Groton, CT

February
2008



Mystic Multi-Modal Transportation Study

Towns of Stonington & Groton, CT

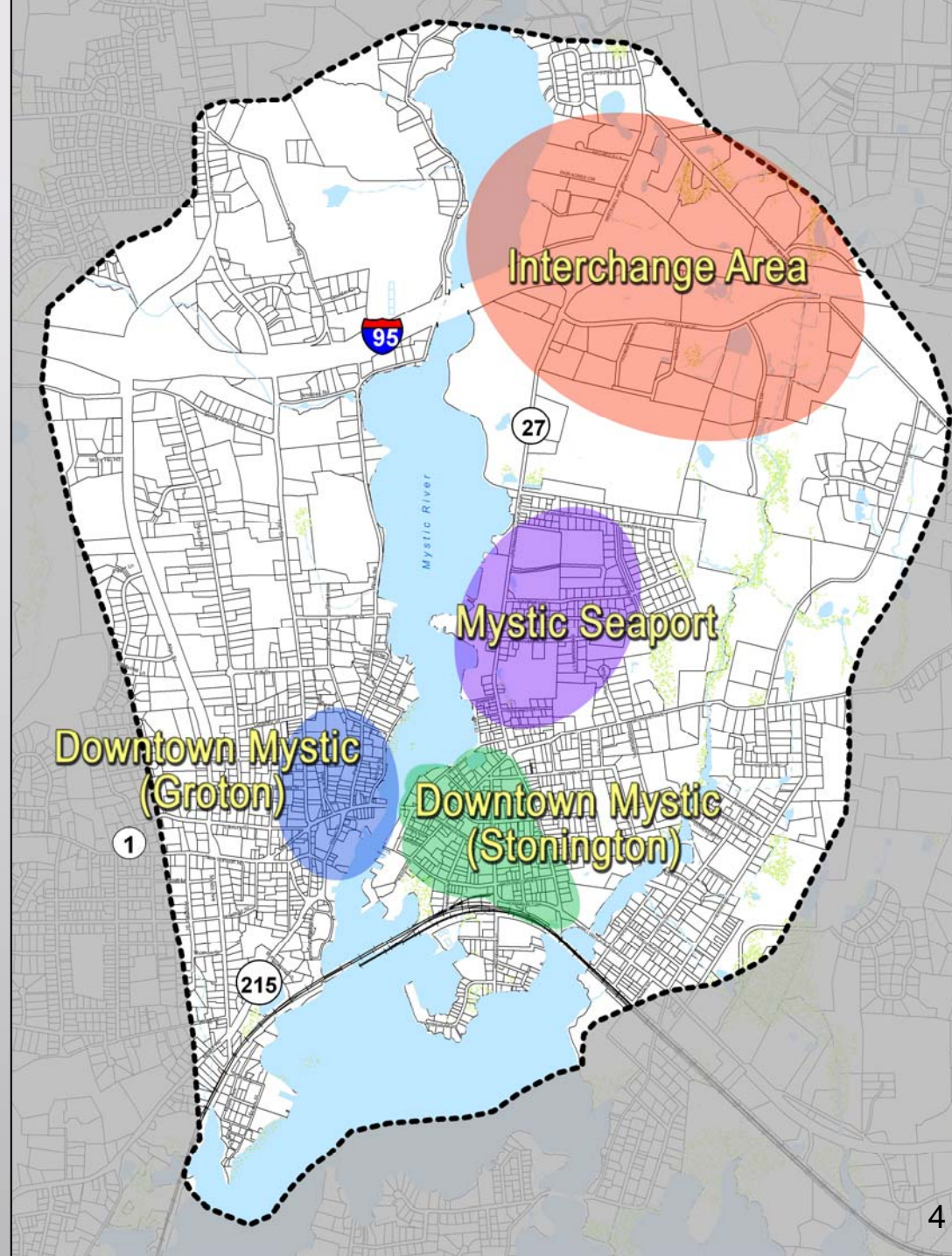
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PURPOSE OF STUDY

- Identify and analyze traffic patterns into and around Historic Mystic
- Analyze on-street and off-street parking space utilization at tourist attractions, hotels and in Downtown Mystic
- Analyze and discuss past and current mass transit and non-vehicular transportation options within Mystic
- Identify peak hours of parking utilization, peak traffic volumes and times, and vehicular flows between different areas within Mystic
- Based upon quantitative and qualitative analysis, identify specific deficiencies in the Mystic transportation system
- Recommend specific actions to limit or eliminate identified deficiencies

Mystic Activity Areas

- Interchange Area
 - Mystic Aquarium
 - Olde Mistick Village
 - Hotels
- Mystic Seaport
- Downtown Mystic (Stonington)
- Downtown Mystic (Groton)



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The background of the slide features a map of the towns of Stonington and Groton, Connecticut. A dashed line outlines the town boundaries. Major roads are shown, including Interstate 95 (I-95) running vertically through the center, and State Routes 1, 27, 215, and 234. Water bodies, including a large lake in the center and a smaller one at the bottom, are shaded in light blue. The text 'Parking Analysis' is overlaid in a large, bold, black serif font.

Parking Analysis

Parking Analysis Methodology

- Data collected on Saturday, August 23, 2003
- Hotel Parking Lots
 - “One-time” counts of vehicles begun at 7:00AM
- Downtown Mystic (Stonington & Groton) Parking and Parking Lots for Olde Mistick Village, Mystic Aquarium and Mystic Seaport
 - Hourly vehicle counts for on-street parking and parking lots in Downtown Mystic from 9:00AM to 8:00PM; Mystic Aquarium lot from 10:00AM to 4:00PM; and Olde Mistick Village from 10:00AM to 6:00PM
 - Vehicle counts every two hours for Mystic Seaport lots from 10:00AM to 6:00PM
 - Hotel parking lots not included in these counts

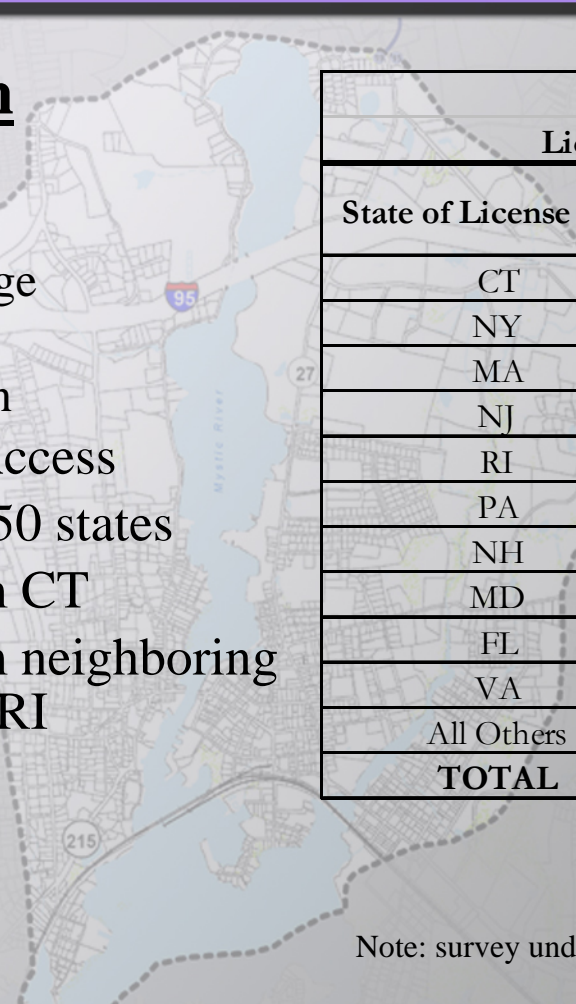
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Visitation

- Mystic Attractions
 - Mystic Aquarium
 - Olde Mistick Village
 - Mystic Seaport
 - Historic Downtown
- Downtown Marine Access
- Vehicles from 48 of 50 states
- 44% of vehicles from CT
- 37% of vehicles from neighboring states of NY, MA & RI



A map of the Mystic River area, showing the river flowing through the towns of Stonington and Groton, CT. The map includes major roads like Interstate 95 and State Routes 27, 215, and 234. The study area is outlined in a dashed line.

State of License Plate	Number of Vehicles Observed	Percent by State
CT	2,820	44.1%
NY	1,184	18.5%
MA	724	11.3%
NJ	477	7.5%
RI	460	7.2%
PA	197	3.1%
NH	63	1.0%
MD	62	1.0%
FL	61	1.0%
VA	55	0.9%
All Others	286	4.5%
TOTAL	6,389	100.0%

Note: survey undertaken Saturday, August 23, 2003

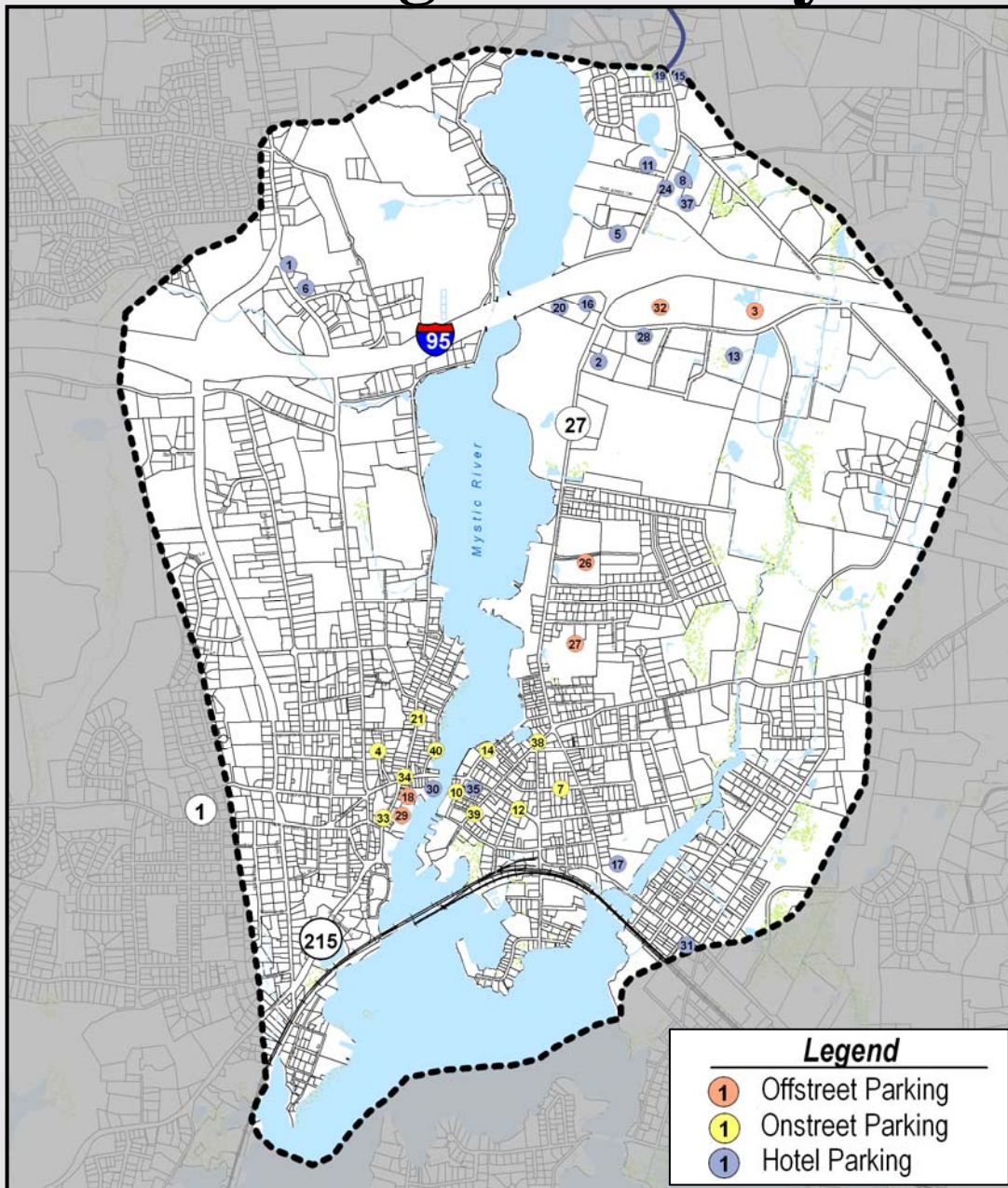
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Existing Mystic Parking

- 38 identified parking areas in survey
 - 20 hotel parking lots
 - 11 on-street locations
 - 7 public parking lots
- Approx. 4,700 on-street and off-street parking spaces
- Mystic Aquarium, Olde Mistick Village & Mystic Seaport offer free parking.
- North and South Downtown Lots in Groton charge a fee of \$3/hour.
- On-street parking in Downtown is free and without a time limit.
- Conclusion:
 - Principal attractions and hotels have adequate parking
 - Parking in Downtown Mystic is constrained

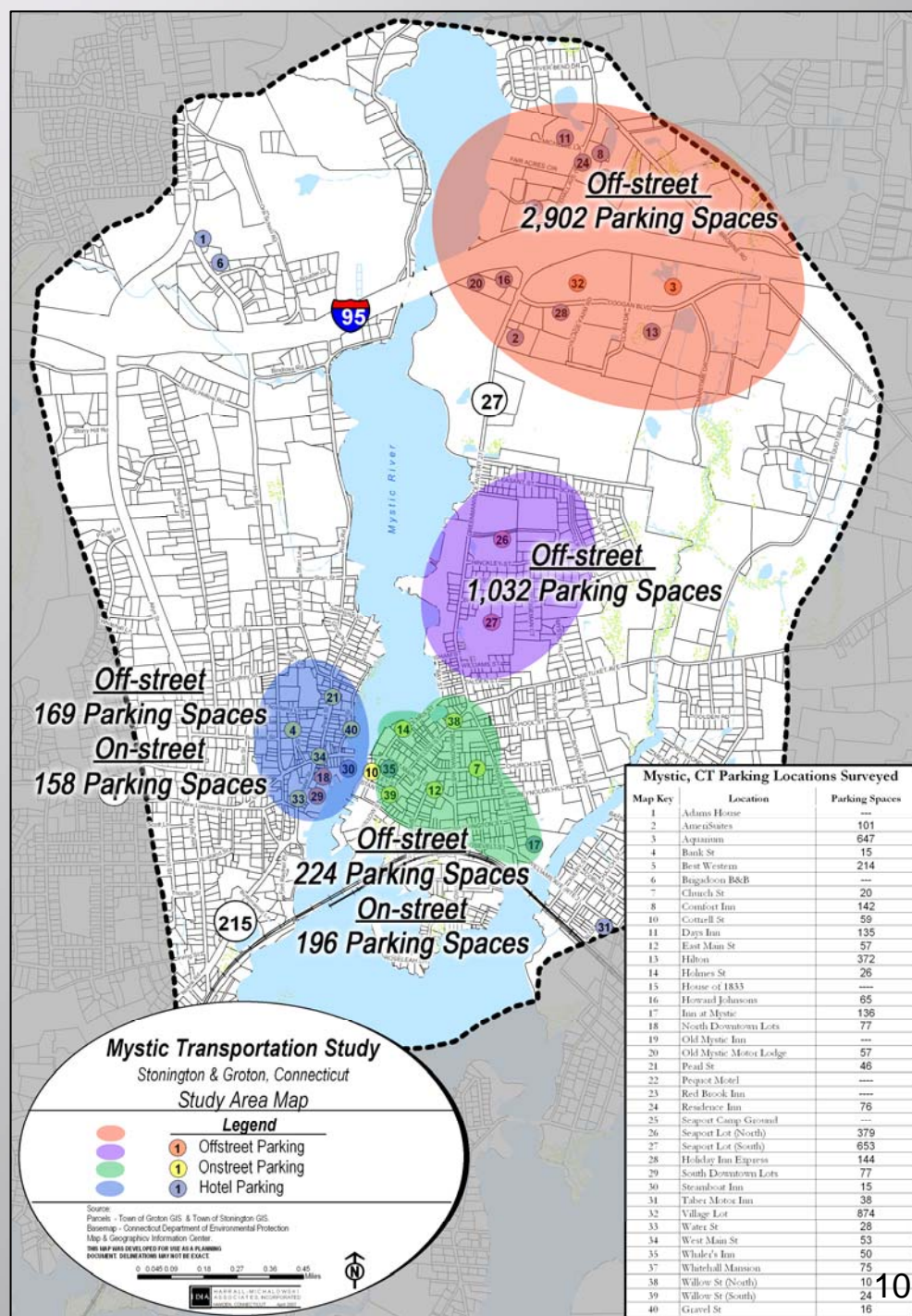
Parking Inventory



Map Key	Location	Parking Spaces
1	Adams House	---
2	AmeriSuites	101
3	Aquarium	647
4	Bank St	15
5	Best Western	214
6	Brigadoon B&B	---
7	Church St	20
8	Comfort Inn	142
10	Cottrell St	59
11	Days Inn	135
12	East Main St	57
13	Hilton	372
14	Holmes St	26
15	House of 1833	----
16	Howard Johnsons	65
17	Inn at Mystic	136
18	North Downtown Lots	77
19	Old Mystic Inn	---
20	Old Mystic Motor Lodge	57
21	Pearl St	46
22	Pequot Motel	----
23	Red Brook Inn	----
24	Residence Inn	76
25	Seaport Camp Ground	---
26	Seaport Lot (North)	379
27	Seaport Lot (South)	653
28	Holiday Inn Express	144
29	South Downtown Lots	77
30	Steamboat Inn	15
31	Taber Motor Inn	38
32	Village Lot	874
33	Water St	28
34	West Main St	53
35	Whaler's Inn	50
37	Whitehall Mansion	75
38	Willow St (North)	10
39	Willow St (South)	24
40	Gravel St	16
TOTAL		4,681

Parking at Activity Areas

- Interchange: 2,902 Spaces
- Mystic Seaport North and South Lots: 1,032 Spaces
- Downtown Mystic Stonington Side: 224 off-street & 196 on-street
- Downtown Mystic Groton Side: 169 off-street & 158 on-street



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Hotel Parking Utilization

- 1,480 hotel parking spaces
- 1,120 hotel rooms
- 1,002 vehicles parked in hotel lots @ 7:00 AM
- Parking space utilization rate of 68%
- Ratio of parked vehicles to hotel rooms = 0.89
- Adequate Parking for Hotels

Survey undertaken Saturday, August 23, 2003

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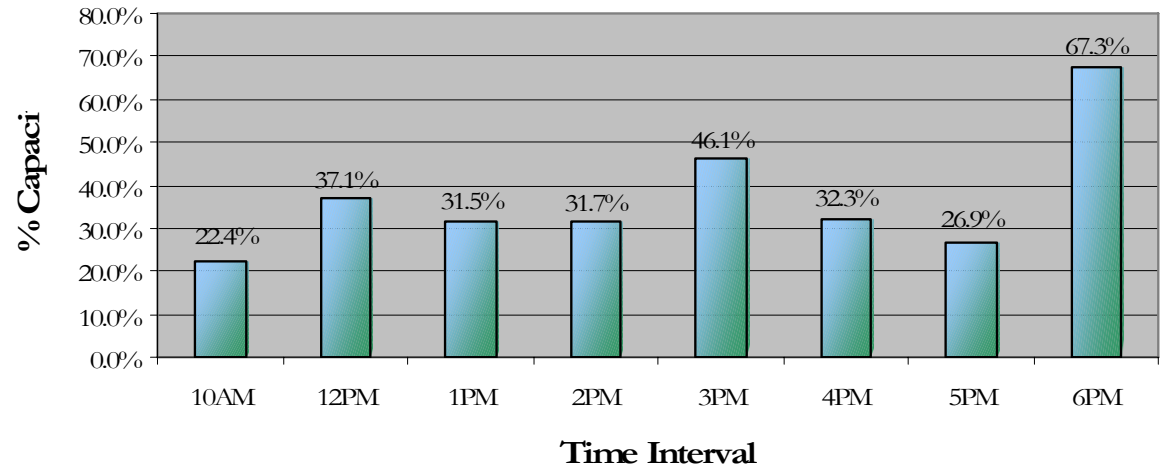
Parking Capacity

Parking Utilization

Olde Mistick Village & Mystic Aquarium

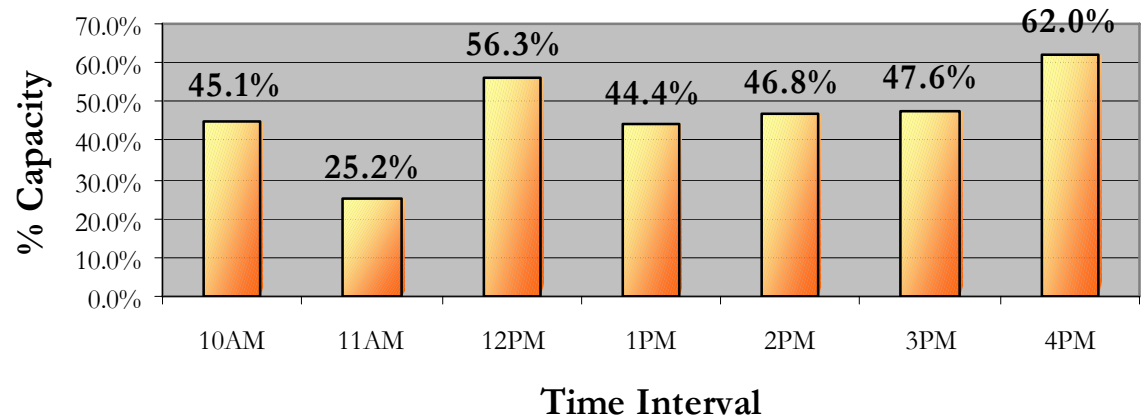
Olde Mistick Village Parking - 8/23/03

Total Spaces = 874



Mystic Aquarium Parking, 8/23/03

Total Spaces = 647

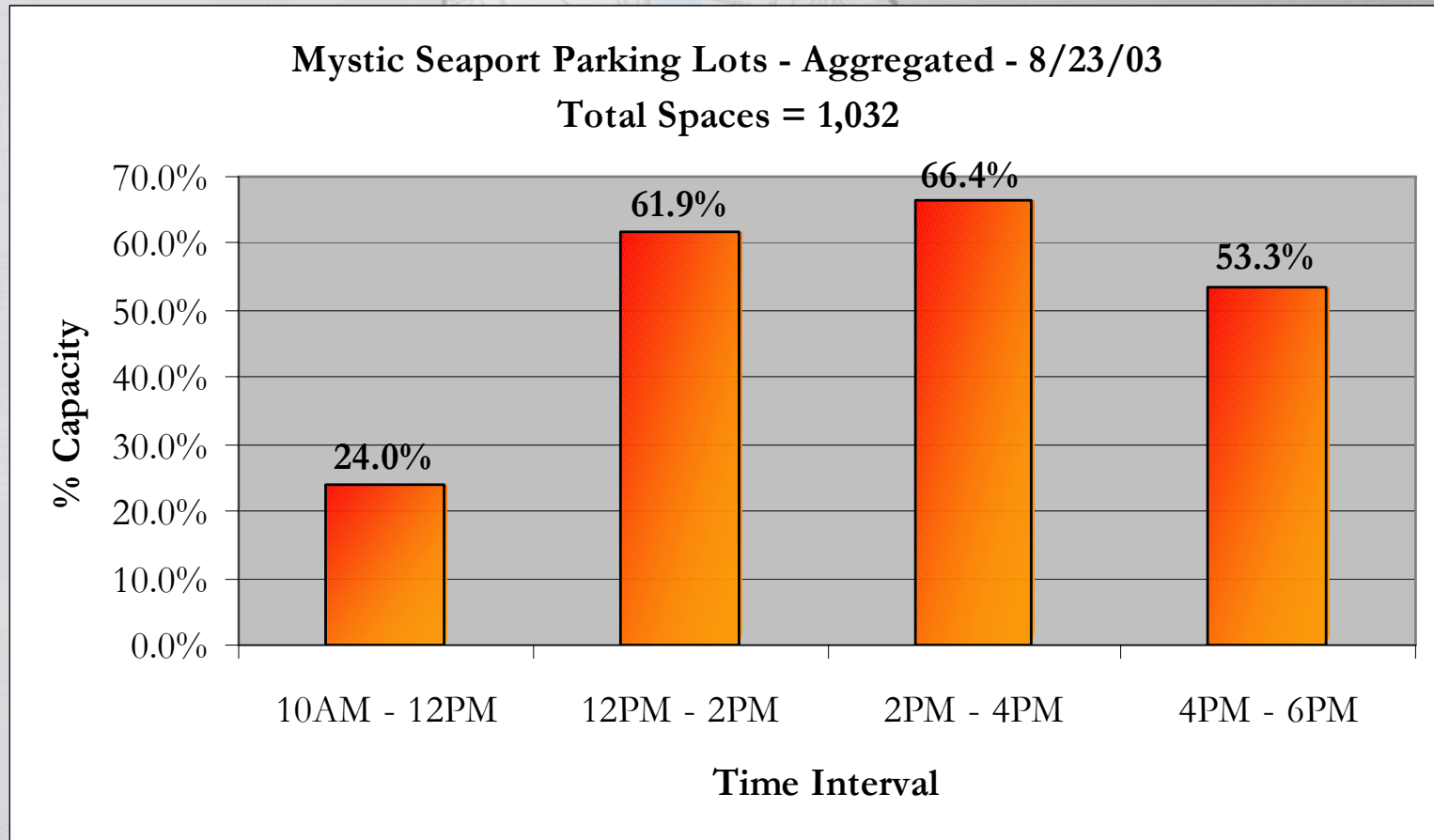


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Parking Utilization - Mystic Seaport



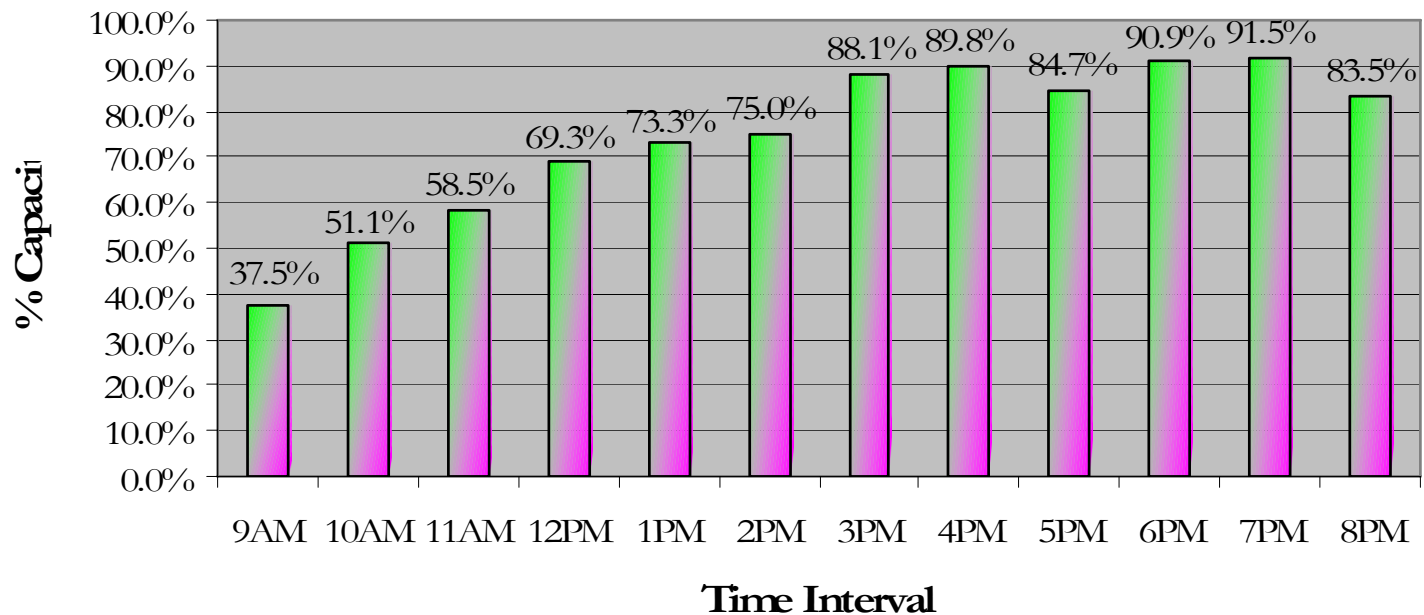
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Parking Utilization - Downtown Mystic (Stonington)

Downtown Mystic (Stonington) On-Street Parking - 8/23/03

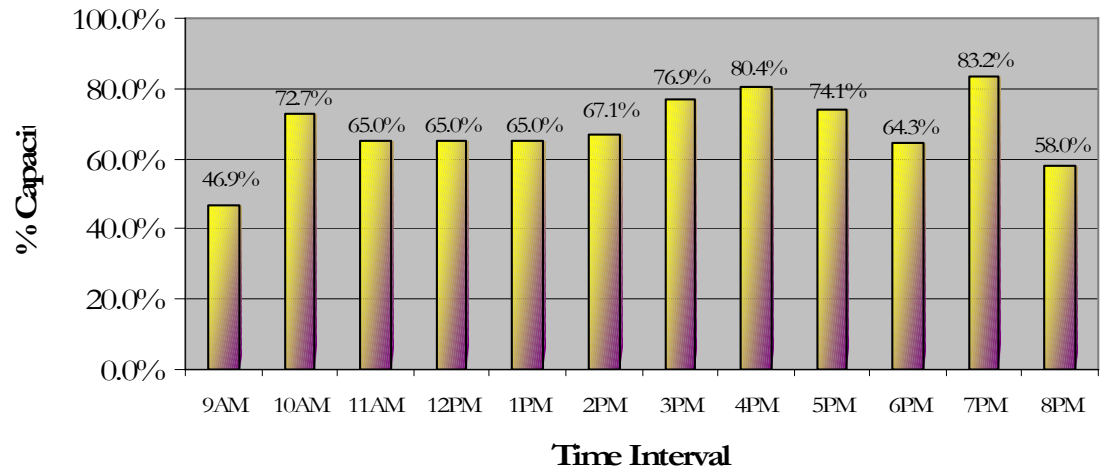
Total Spaces: 196 spaces



Parking Utilization Downtown Mystic (Groton)

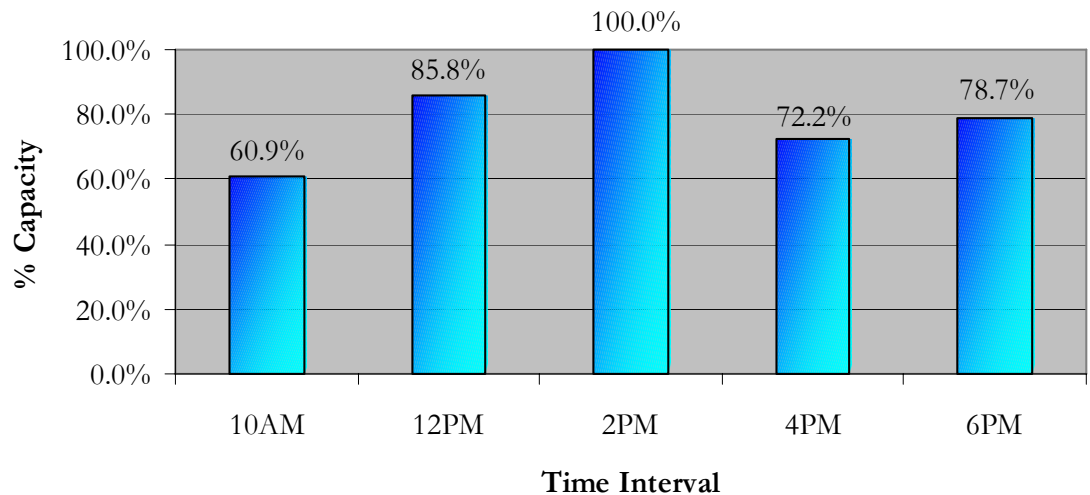
Downtown Mystic (Groton) On-Street Parking - 8/23/03

Total Spaces: 158 spaces



Downtown Mystic (Groton) Off-Street Parking - 8/23/03

Total Spaces = 169

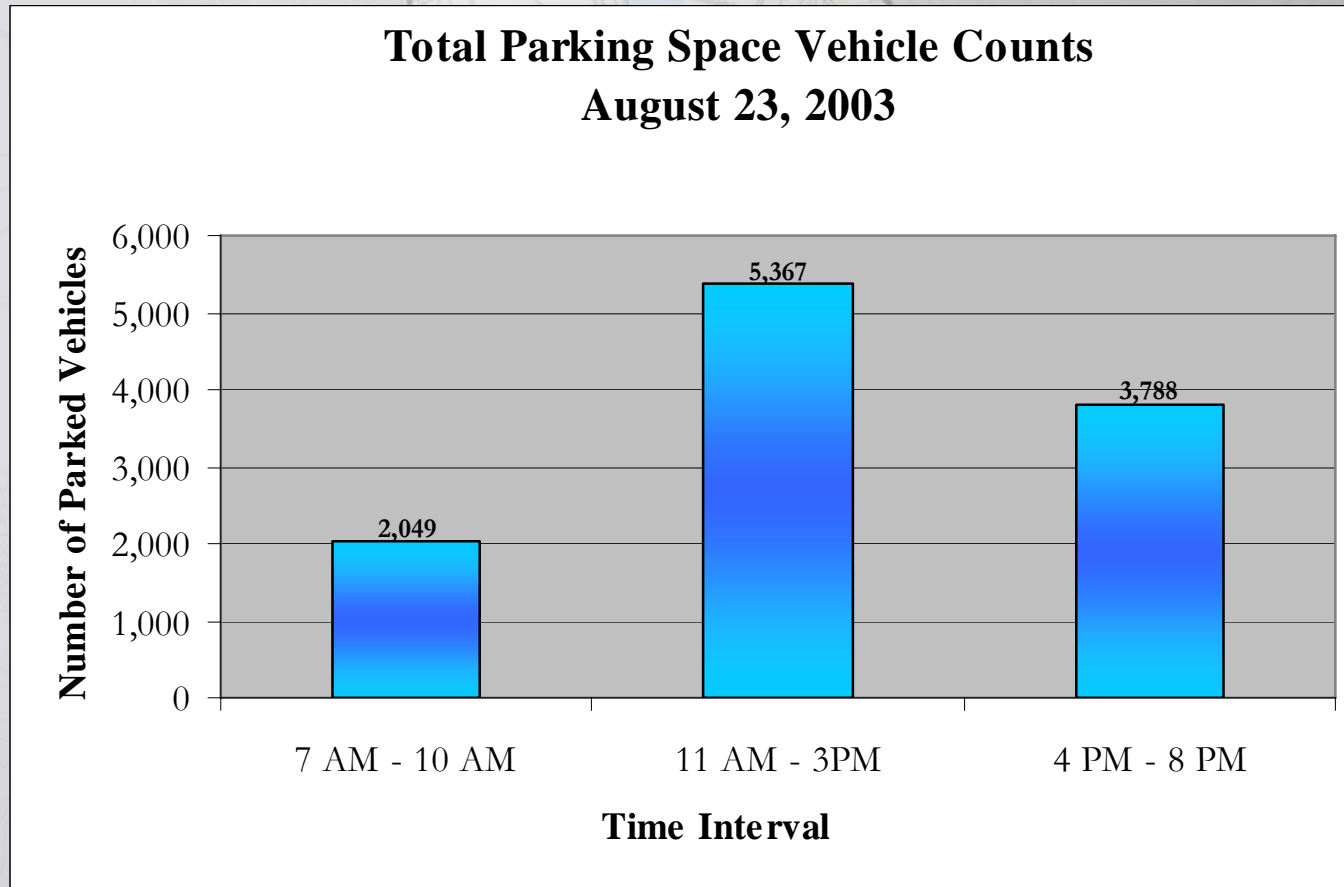


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Parking Utilization at All Locations



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A map of the towns of Stonington and Groton, Connecticut, showing the Thames River and surrounding roads. The map is overlaid with a large, semi-transparent text box containing the title. The map includes labels for Interstate 95, Route 1, and Route 215. The title 'Vehicular Movement Between Attraction Areas' is centered over the map.

Vehicular Movement Between Attraction Areas

Vehicular Movement Between Attraction Areas-Methodology

- Data collected on Saturday, August 23, 2003 for Downtown Mystic (Stonington & Groton) Parking and Parking Lots for Olde Mistick Village, Mystic Aquarium and Mystic Seaport
- Data was sorted to find license plate numbers which appeared multiple times
- License plate numbers were then categorized by their movement patterns (parking area to parking area) and their time component (time movement began and ended)

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Inter-Activity Area “Parking Location to Parking Location” Movement Combinations

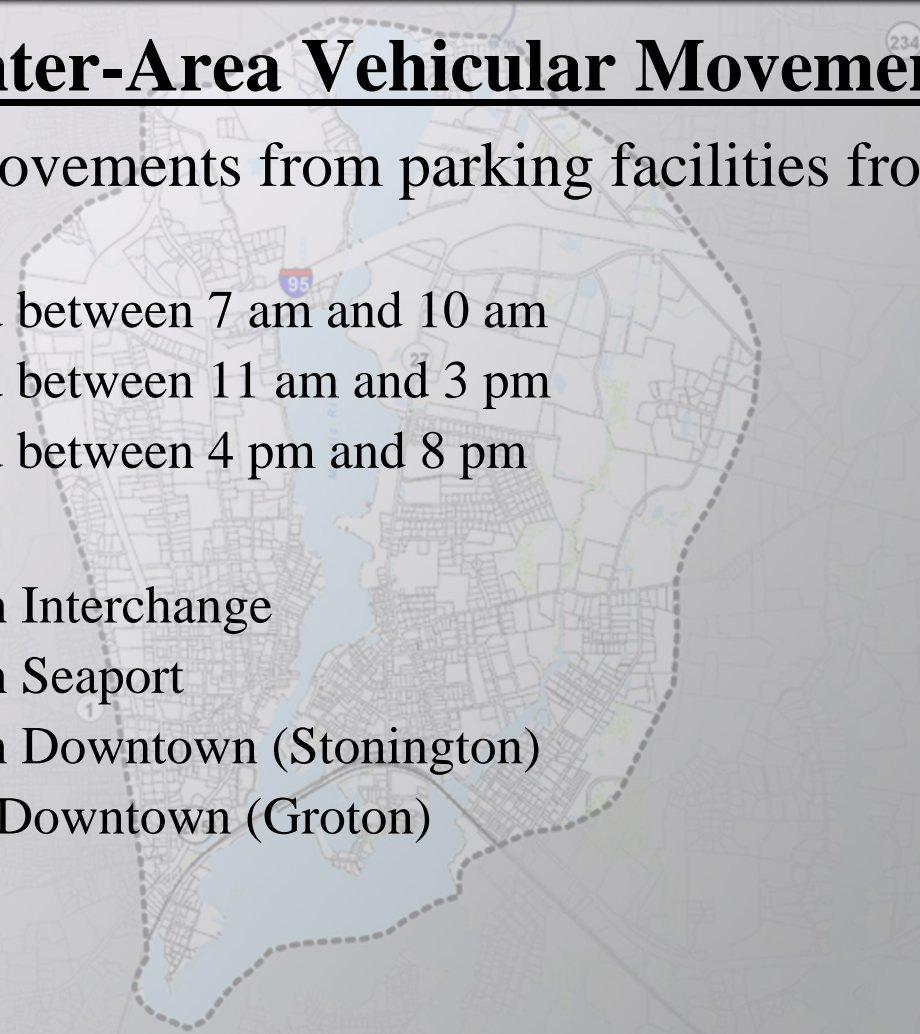
- Exit 90 Interchange Area to Mystic Seaport Lots
- Interchange Area to Downtown Mystic-Stonington Side
- Interchange Area to Downtown Mystic-Groton Side
- Mystic Seaport Lots to Downtown Mystic-Stonington Side
- Mystic Seaport Lots to Downtown Mystic-Groton Side
- Downtown Mystic-Stonington Side to Downtown Mystic-Groton

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Total Inter-Area Vehicular Movements

- 623 vehicular movements from parking facilities from one Activity Area to another
 - 10.4% occurred between 7 am and 10 am
 - 42.9% occurred between 11 am and 3 pm
 - 46.7% occurred between 4 pm and 8 pm
- Point of Origins
 - 52.8% Began in Interchange
 - 27.6% Began in Seaport
 - 10.7% Began in Downtown (Stonington)
 - 8.9% Began in Downtown (Groton)

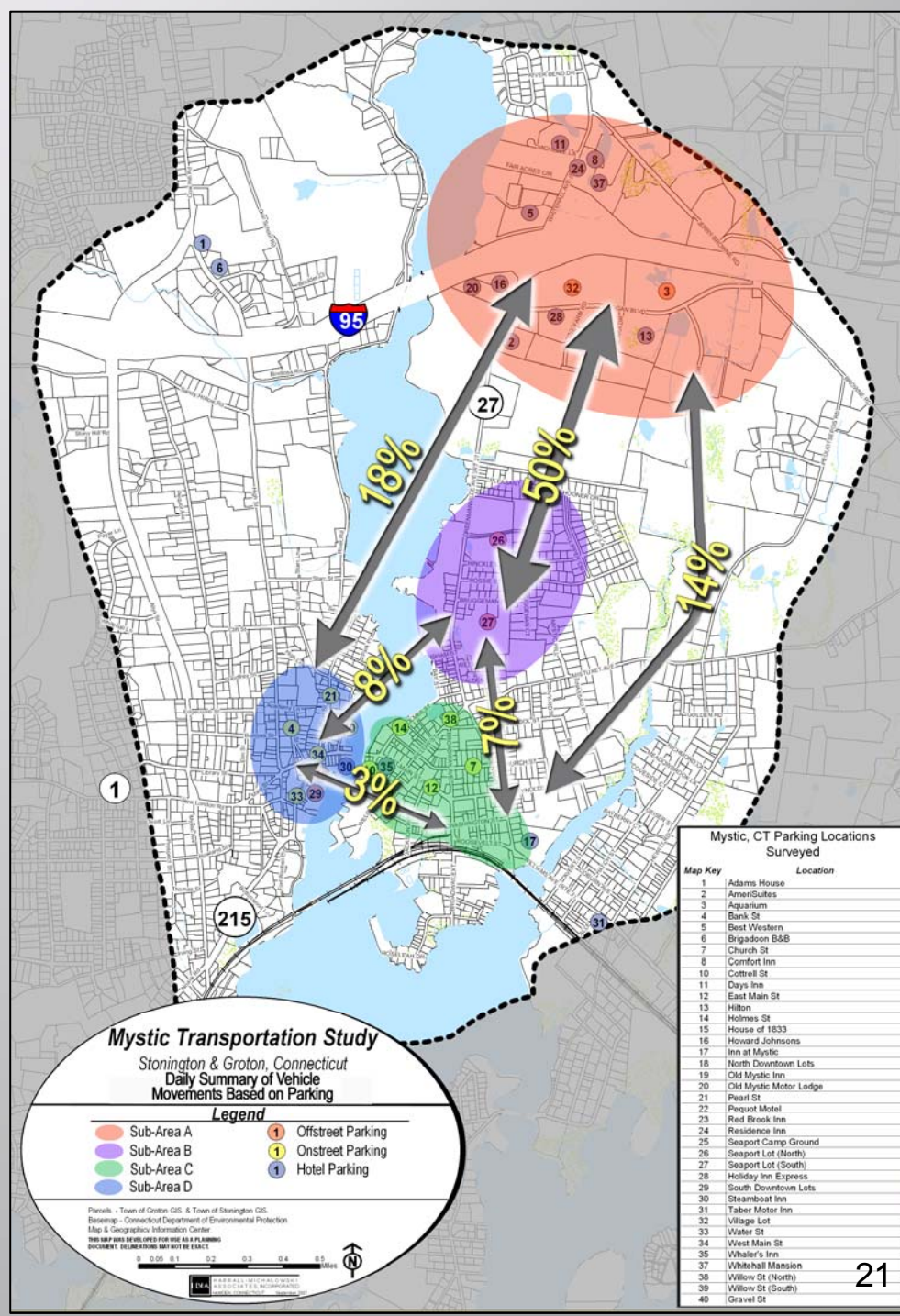


Daily Vehicle Movement Combinations By Activity Area

TABLE 3

Vehicular Movements within Sub-Areas

Sub-Area Combination	Movements	% of Total
Interchange - Seaport/	311	49.9%
Interchange -Downtown (G)	114	18.3%
Interchange-Downtown (S)	90	14.4%
Seaport-Downtown (G)	47	7.5%
Seaport-Downtown (S)	44	7.1%
Downtown (S)-Downtown (G)	17	2.7%
TOTAL	623	100.0%



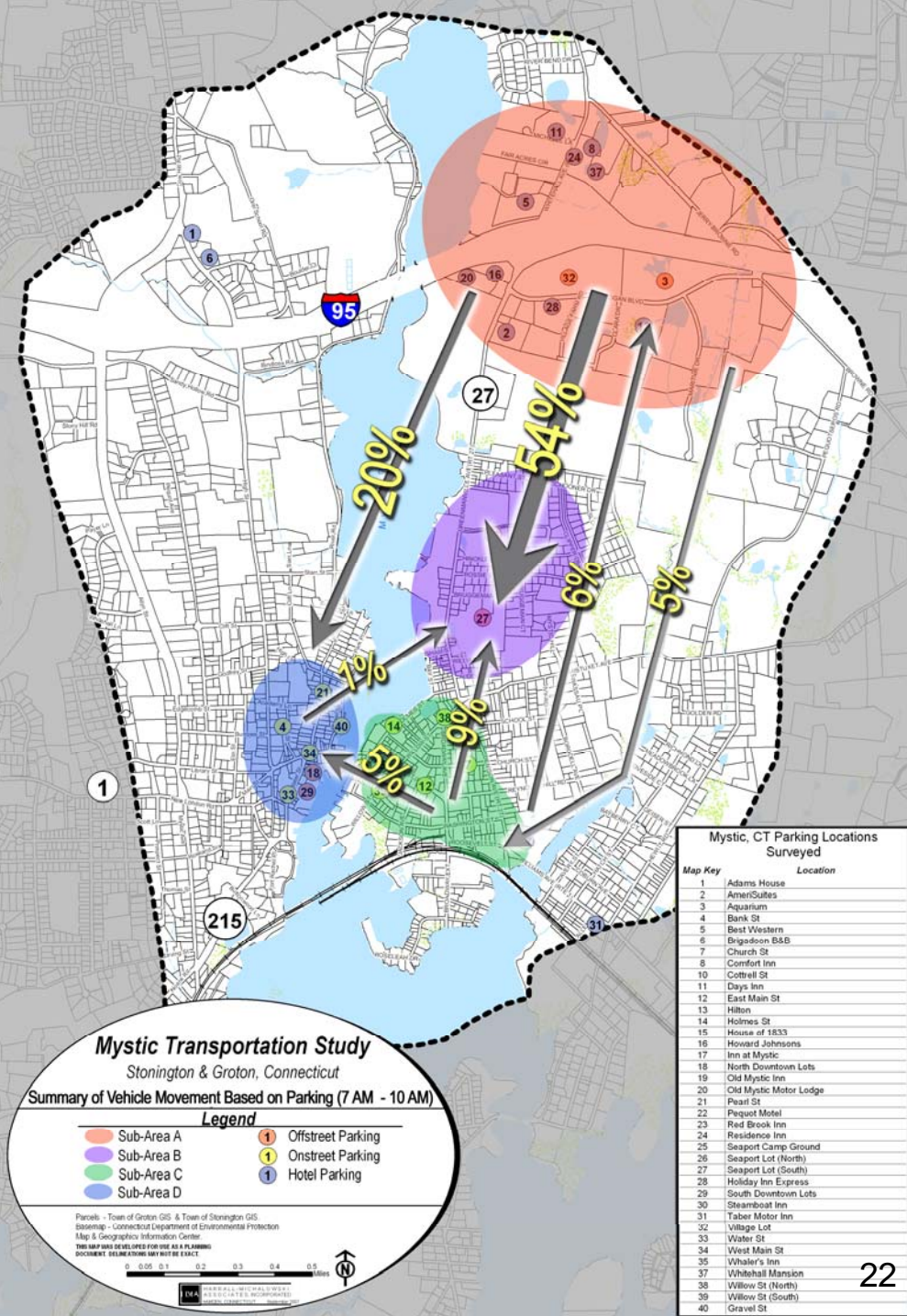
Inter-Area Vehicular Movements by Time Period

Time Period 1 – 7:00am-10:00am

TABLE 4

Vehicular Movements, 7:00am-10:00am

Sub-Area Movement	Movements	% of Total
Interchange-Seaport	35	53.8%
Interchange-Downtown (G)	13	20.0%
Downtown (S)-Seaport	6	9.2%
Downtown (S)-Interchange	4	6.2%
Interchange-Downtown (S)	3	4.6%
Downtown (S)-Downtown (G)	3	4.6%
Downtown (G)-Seaport	1	1.5%
Seaport-Interchange	0	0.0%
Seaport-Downtown (S)	0	0.0%
Seaport-Downtown (G)	0	0.0%
Downtown (G)-Interchange	0	0.0%
Downtown (G)-Downtown (S)	0	0.0%
TOTAL	65	100.0%



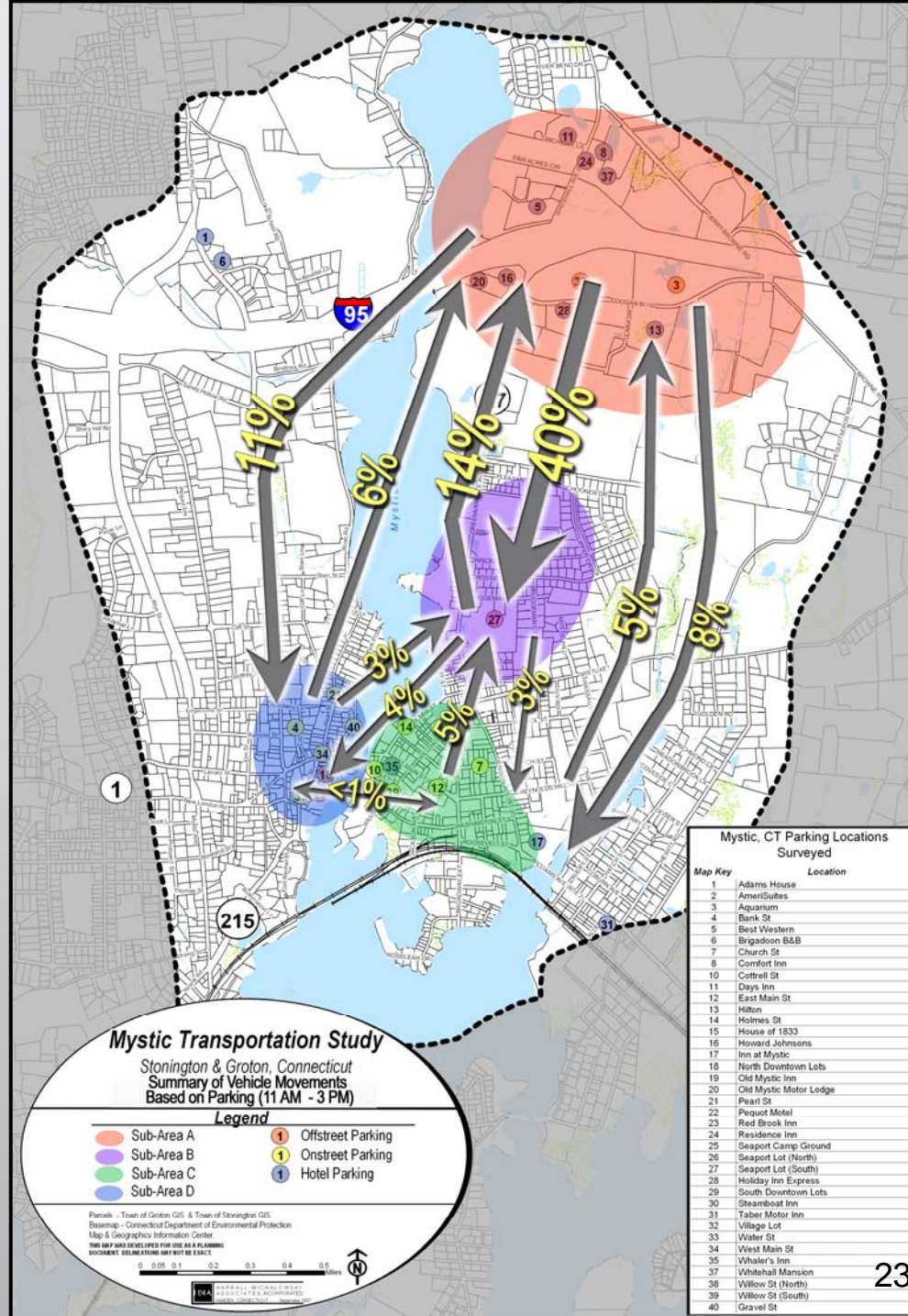
Inter-Area Vehicular Movements by Time Period

Time Period 2 – 11:00am-3:00pm

TABLE 5

Vehicular Movements, 11:00am-3:00pm

Sub-Area Movement	Movements	% of Total
Interchange-Seaport	107	40.1%
Seaport-Interchange	38	14.2%
Interchange-Downtown (G)	30	11.2%
Interchange-Downtown (S)	20	7.5%
Downtown (G)-Interchange	15	5.6%
Downtown (S)-Interchange	14	5.2%
Downtown (S)-Seaport	12	4.5%
Seaport-Downtown (G)	11	4.1%
Downtown (G)-Seaport	8	3.0%
Seaport-Downtown (S)	7	2.6%
Downtown (S)-Downtown (G)	4	1.5%
Downtown (G)-Downtown (S)	1	0.4%
TOTAL	267	100.0%



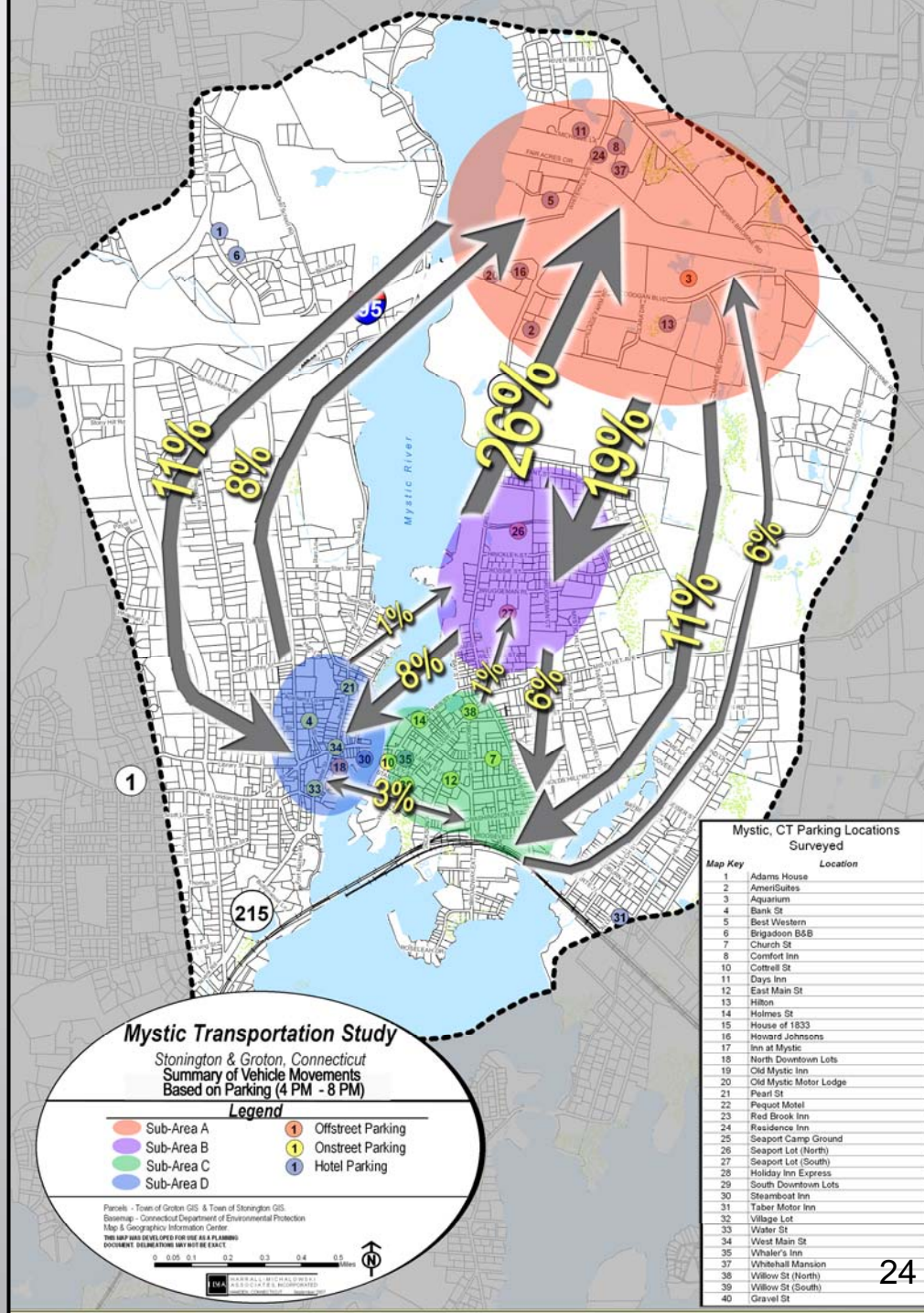
Inter-Area Vehicular Movements by Time Period

Time Period 3 – 4:00pm-8:00pm

TABLE 6

Vehicular Movements, 4:00pm-8:00pm

Sub-Area Movement	Movements	% of Total
Seaport-Interchange	76	26.1%
Interchange-Seaport	55	18.9%
Interchange-Downtown (S)	33	11.3%
Interchange-Downtown (G)	33	11.3%
Seaport-Downtown (G)	24	8.2%
Downtown (G)-Interchange	23	7.9%
Seaport-Downtown (S)	16	5.5%
Downtown (S)-Interchange	16	5.5%
Downtown (S)-Downtown (G)	5	1.7%
Downtown (G)-Downtown (S)	4	1.4%
Downtown (S)-Seaport	3	1.0%
Downtown (G)-Seaport	3	1.0%
TOTAL	291	100.0%



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Summary of Inter-Area Vehicle Movements

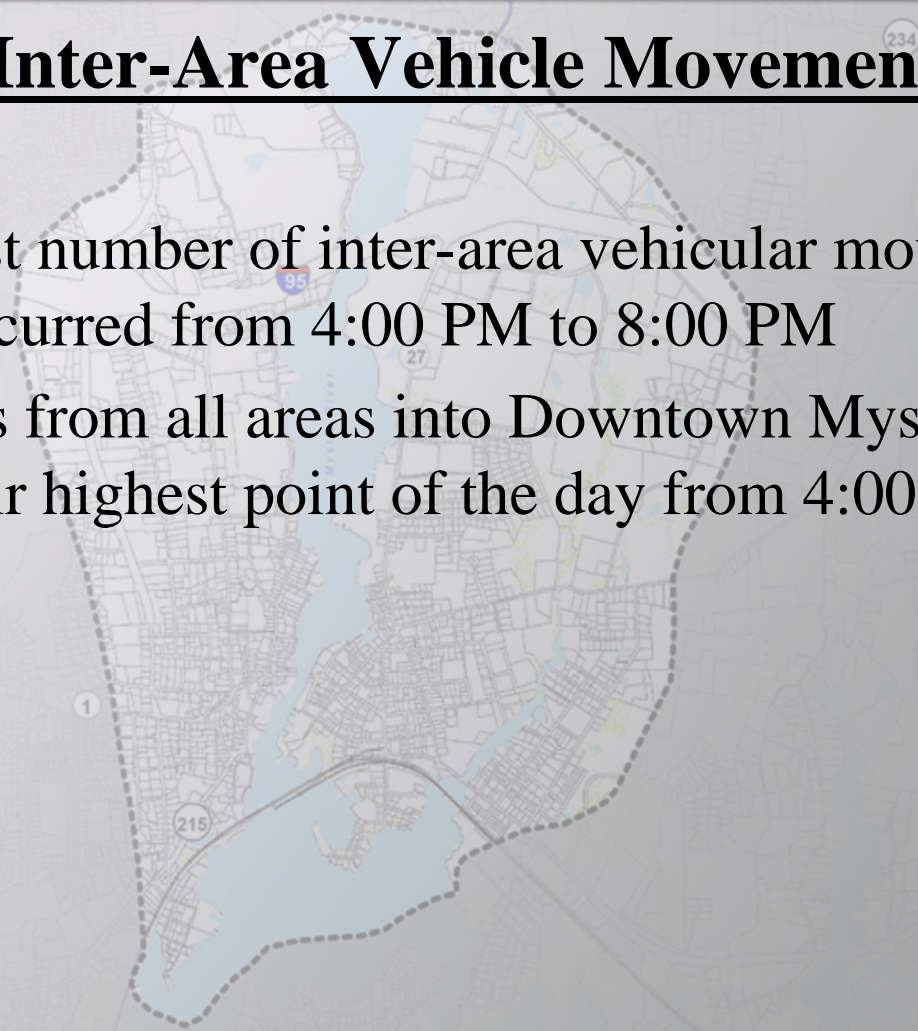
- Only 10.4% of all vehicle movements from one parking activity area to another occurred during the hours of 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM.
 - Movements from Interchange Area to Mystic Seaport dominated this time period at 53.8%.
- Nearly 43% of the total inter-area vehicular movements occurred between 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM.
 - Movements from Interchange Area to Mystic Seaport dominated this time period at 40.1%.
 - Movements from Interchange Area to both the Stonington and Groton sides Downtown Mystic began to have a greater presence (18.7%).
 - Movement from the Seaport lots to the Village and Aquarium Lot was the third highest at 14.2%.

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Summary of Inter-Area Vehicle Movements cont'd

- The greatest number of inter-area vehicular movements (46.6%) occurred from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM
- Movements from all areas into Downtown Mystic also were at their highest point of the day from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM



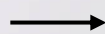
Vehicle Load*

Analysis

- 9 AM – 4,235 Vehicles (30%)
- 1 PM – 5,229 Vehicles (38%)
- 6 PM – 4,302 Vehicles (32%)

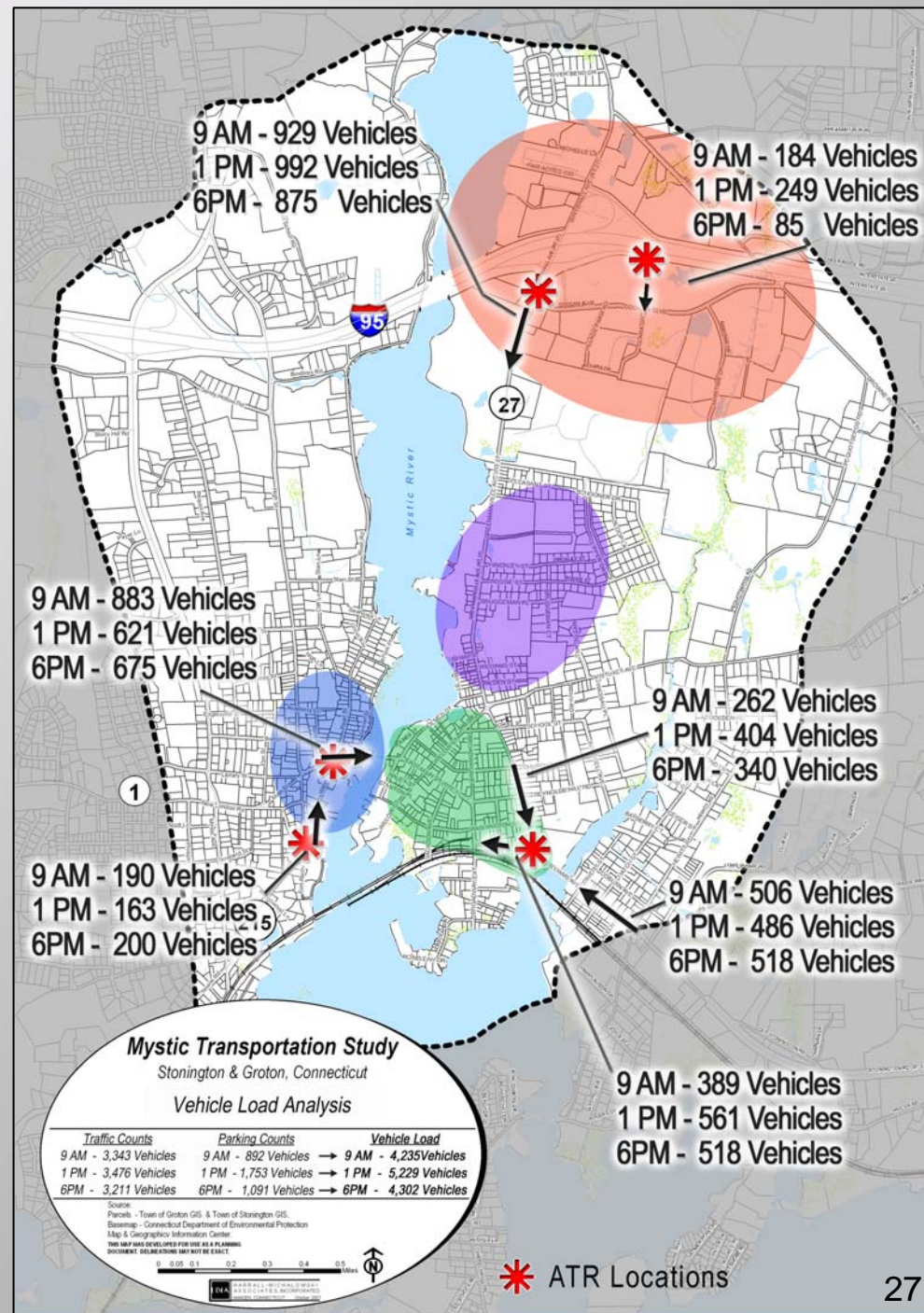


ATR Locations



Vehicle Movement Direction

Note: Traffic Count + Parking = Vehicle Load



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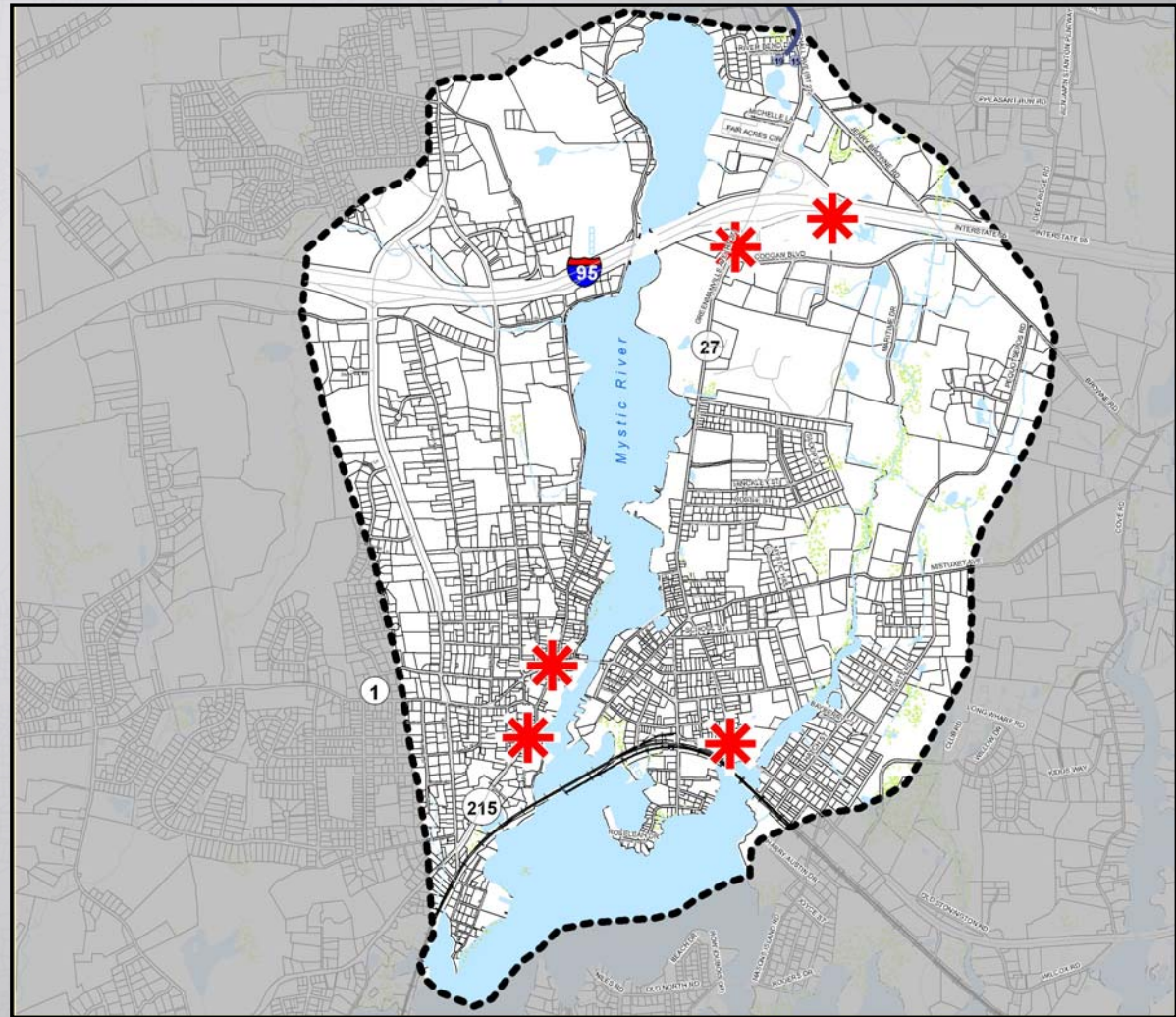


Traffic Counts

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Traffic Counter Locations



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Traffic Count Methodology ²³⁴

- Automatic Traffic Recorder (ATR) was conducted from 12:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Saturday August 23, 2003 by Accurate Counts, Inc.
- Locations surveyed:
 - **Mystic**
 - Clara Drive (adjacent to Aquarium) South of I-95 Northbound On-ramp
 - Route 27 (Greenmanville Road) South of I-95 Northbound ramps
 - **Groton/Mystic**
 - Route 215 South of Water Street
 - Route 1 East of Route 215
 - Route 1 West of Route 215
 - **Stonington/Mystic**
 - Route 1 (Roosevelt Street) West of Route 27 (Denison Avenue)
 - Route 27 (Denison Avenue) North of Route 1
 - Route 1 (Williams Avenue) East of Route 27 (Denison Avenue)

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Daily Peak Traffic Volumes

Daily Peak Traffic Volumes at ATR Locations

Location	Peak Time	Volume
Route 27 South of I-95 EB Ramp	4:45 PM	2,101
Route 1 East of Route 27	12:45 PM	1,153
Route 1 West of Route 27	12:45 PM	1,062
Route 1 East of Route 215	5:45 PM	1,006
Route 27 North of Route 1	1:45 PM	748
Route 1 West of Route 215	3:45 PM	606
Route 215 South of Water Street	6:45 PM	407
Clara Drive South of I-95 EB on-Ramp	2:45 PM	316

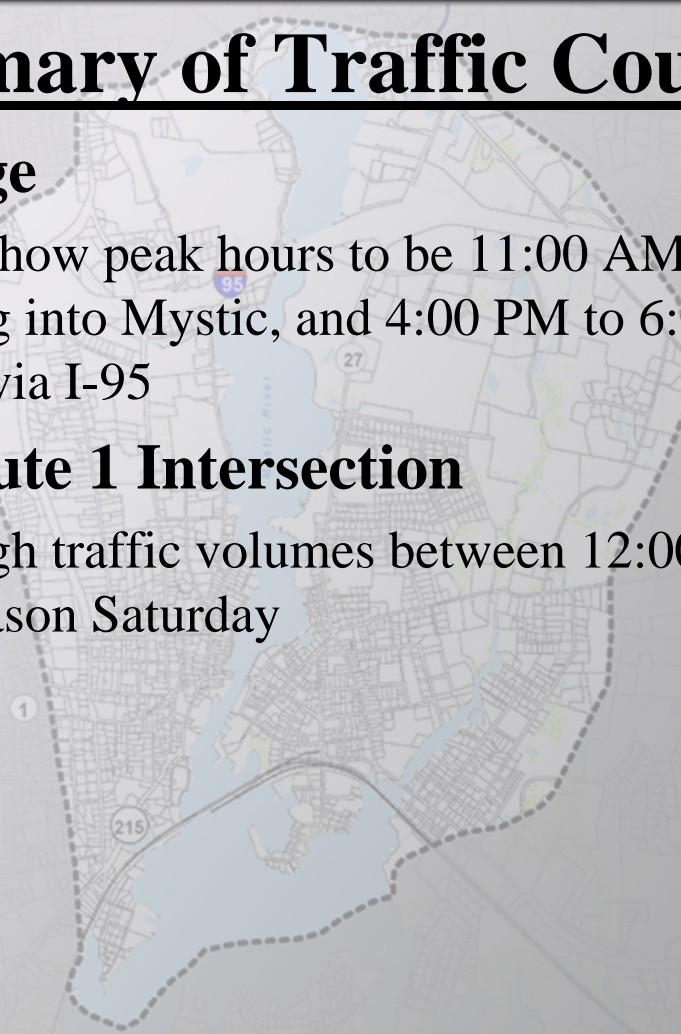
Source: Bi-directional ATR from August 23, 2003.

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Summary of Traffic Counts

- **I-95 Interchange**
 - Traffic counts show peak hours to be 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM for vehicles coming into Mystic, and 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM for vehicles exiting Mystic via I-95
- **Route 27 & Route 1 Intersection**
 - Consistently high traffic volumes between 12:00 PM and 6:00 PM on typical peak season Saturday



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I-95 Interchange Access Issues

- **Automatic Traffic Recorder (ATR) conducted on August 23, 2003**
 - Traffic counts show peak hours to be 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM for vehicles coming into Mystic, and 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM for vehicles exiting Mystic via I-95
- **Traffic counts, regional transportation study and visual assessments indicate intermittent congestion at the I-95 interchange**

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Route 1/Route 27 Intersection Issues

- **Automatic Traffic Recorder (ATR) conducted on August 23, 2003**
 - Consistently high traffic volumes between 12:00 PM and 6:00 PM on typical peak season Saturday
- **SCCOG's "Regional Transportation Plan FY 2007-2035" indicates a V/C (roadway "volume-to-capacity" ratio) of between 0.8 and 0.99 on Route 1 at the Route 27 intersection**
 - "...capacity of the roadway is only marginally adequate to manage the traffic at all times and flows are beginning to breakdown"
- **Drawbridge over Mystic River on Route 1 can cause significant traffic delays when opened**
 - Opens once per hour for 5-10 minutes between hours of 7:40 AM to 7:40 PM
- **Traffic counts, regional transportation study and visual assessments indicate intermittent congestion at the Route 1/Route 27 intersection**

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Mass Transit in Mystic

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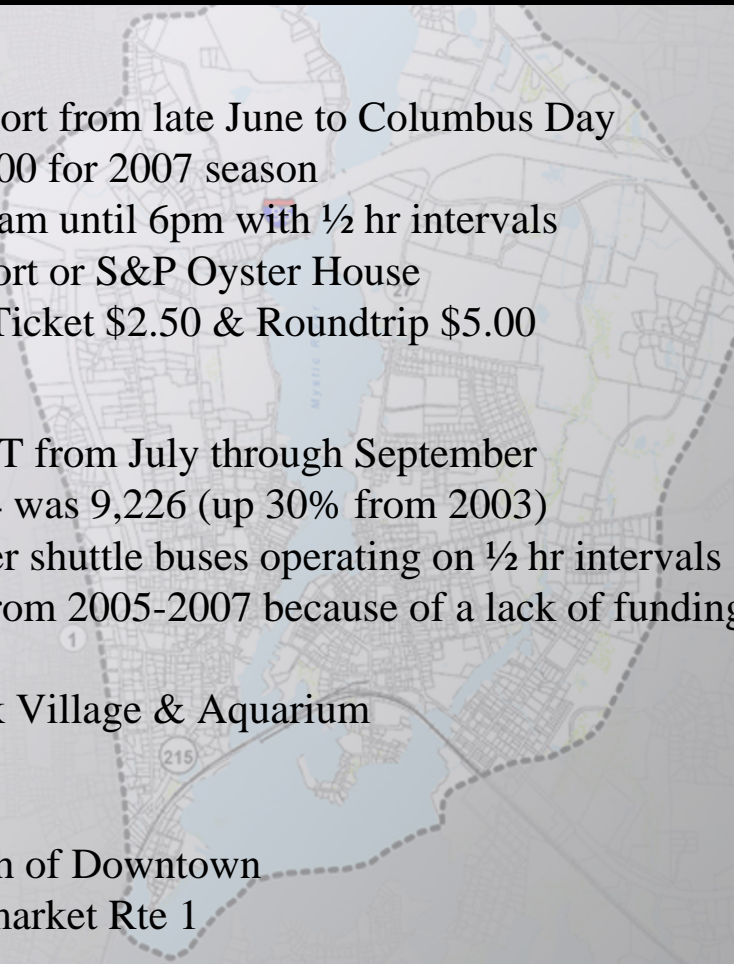
Existing Water Taxi & Former Shuttle Bus

- **Water Taxi**

- Operated by Seaport from late June to Columbus Day
- Ridership of 14,000 for 2007 season
- Operates from 11am until 6pm with ½ hr intervals
- Boarding at Seaport or S&P Oyster House
- Fares: One Way Ticket \$2.50 & Roundtrip \$5.00

- **Shuttle Bus**

- Operated by SEAT from July through September
- Ridership in 2004 was 9,226 (up 30% from 2003)
- Two, 12 passenger shuttle buses operating on ½ hr intervals
- Did not operate from 2005-2007 because of a lack of funding
- **Shuttle Stops:**
 - Olde Mistick Village & Aquarium
 - Seaport
 - Downtown
 - Marina South of Downtown
 - A&P Supermarket Rte 1



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Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, & Threats (SWOT)

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SWOT Analysis

• **Strengths**

- Popular Tourist Attraction
 - Aquarium – 850,000 annual visitors
 - Seaport – 350,000 annual visitors
- Location
 - Water / Coast / Beaches
 - I-95 / US 1 / NE Corridor
 - Proximity to Casinos
- Physical Attractions
 - Historic maritime character

• **Opportunities**

- Potential expansion of Aquarium / Seaport / Casinos
- Cost of travel – people staying regional for vacations
- Increasing interest in historic areas / walkable downtowns & neighborhoods

• **Weaknesses**

- Regional Traffic Congestion
 - Summer Peak on I-95, Rt. 1 & 27
- Lack of funded mass transit options
- Congestion in Downtown Mystic
- Lack of coordinated parking / marketing / planning efforts

• **Threats**

- Inability to obtain funding for identified transportation improvements
- Failure to coordinate an integrated regional transportation system
- Downturn in economy affecting discretionary spending

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A map of the towns of Stonington and Groton, Connecticut, showing the Mystic River and surrounding roads. The map is overlaid with a large, bold title. Road shields for 95, 27, 234, 1, and 215 are visible. The title is centered over the map.

Traffic Management Recommendations

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Traffic Management Recommendations

- **Goal: Improve efficiency of vehicle movements through utilization of other modes of transportation**
 - Enhancements to pedestrian and non-vehicular transit linkages (bike lanes, sidewalk improvements, wayfinding, etc.)
 - Shuttle bus connecting Mystic tourist attractions and destinations
 - Expanded water taxi/water shuttle service
 - Transit center with associated parking in I-95 Interchange Area
- **Improvements to the Route 1/Route 27 intersection**
 - Identified in SCCOG's 2007-2035 Regional Transportation Plan
 - Access management control to reduce and consolidate curb cuts.
- **Strive to achieve improvements to reduce vehicle congestion while maintaining pedestrian accessibility throughout the downtown.**
- **Improve directional signage throughout the Mystic region.**

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Pedestrian and Non-Vehicular Enhancements

A map of the towns of Stonington and Groton, Connecticut, showing the coastline, major roads, and water bodies. The map is overlaid with a dashed line indicating the study area. The title "Pedestrian and Non-Vehicular Enhancements" is centered over the map.

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Pedestrian and Non-Vehicular Access Issues

- **Problem:** Current pedestrian and non-vehicular transit connections and options are limited
 - Downtown Mystic: Narrow sidewalks and maintenance issues make walking in certain areas unappealing
 - Lack of sidewalk connectivity along Coogan Blvd
 - Pedestrian linkages between tourist attractions are weak
 - Difficult to expand existing rights-of-way to construct dedicated bike lanes or pedestrian trails
 - **Recommendation:**
 - Mystic is compact enough that the area could be “walkable” in its entirety if certain measures were implemented



Lack of Sidewalk Connectivity Along Coogan Blvd



Lack of Linkages Between Attractions

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Parking Convenience and Coordination Issues

- **Problem:** Current parking assets are generally convenient, but overall coordination of these assets is lacking
 - On an individual location/attraction basis, off-street parking appears to be both adequate and conveniently located except for Downtown Mystic
 - The supply of on-street parking in the Downtown Mystic area is both constrained and heavily utilized
 - However, on-street parking in Downtown Mystic is very convenient, provided that a parking space can be found during peak hours
 - Inefficiencies in the location of off-street parking are clear
 - Almost 62% of the parking spaces surveyed in the study area are located in the Interchange Area
 - Ample excess parking in this area, while Downtown parking is constrained
- **Recommendation:**
 - Need for area-wide parking coordination and transit to connect disparate parking facilities

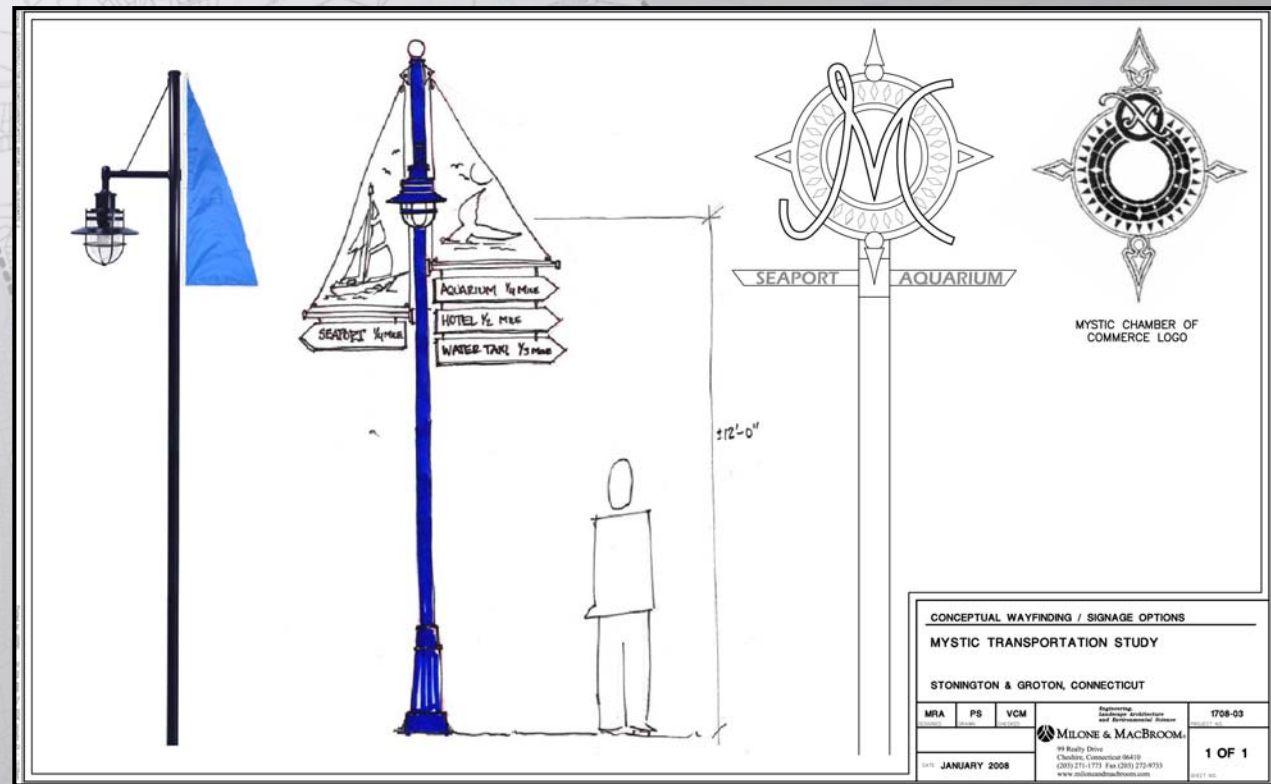
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Wayfinding and Directional Signage Issues

- **Problem:** Current wayfinding and directional signage is inadequate and confusing

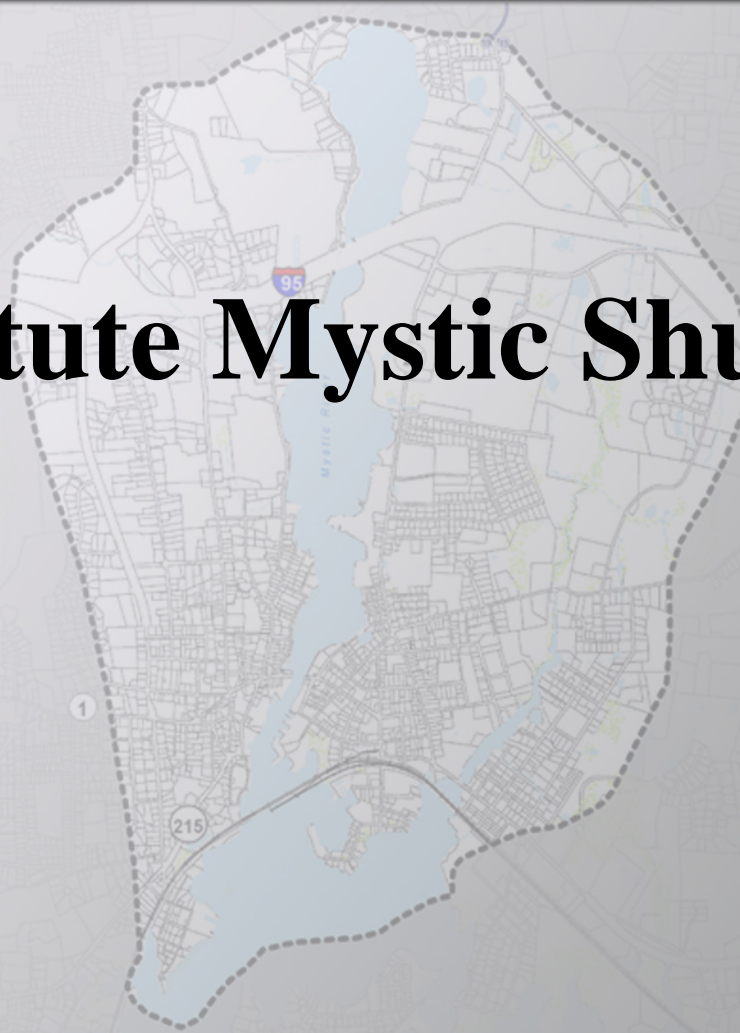
Wayfinding & Directional Signage Recommendations



Mystic Multi-Modal Transportation Study Towns of Stonington & Groton, CT

*February
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Reinstitute Mystic Shuttle Bus



Mystic Multi-Modal Transportation Study

Towns of Stonington & Groton, CT

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Recommendation:

Reinstitute Mystic Shuttle Bus Service

- **Operate from Memorial Day to Columbus Day**
- **Four, 20 to 24 seat shuttle buses**
- **15 to 20 minute headways**
- **Provide shelters with signage at each shuttle bus stop**
- **Stops:**
 - **Regional Transit Center**
 - **Olde Mistick Village**
 - **Mystic Aquarium**
 - **Mystic Seaport**
 - **Route 1/Willow St – Downtown Mystic (Stonington)**
 - **Water Street/West Main Street intersection – Downtown Mystic (Groton)**
 - **Stonington Train Station**
 - **Hotels on-demand mornings & evenings**

Mystic Multi-Modal Transportation Study Towns of Stonington & Groton, CT

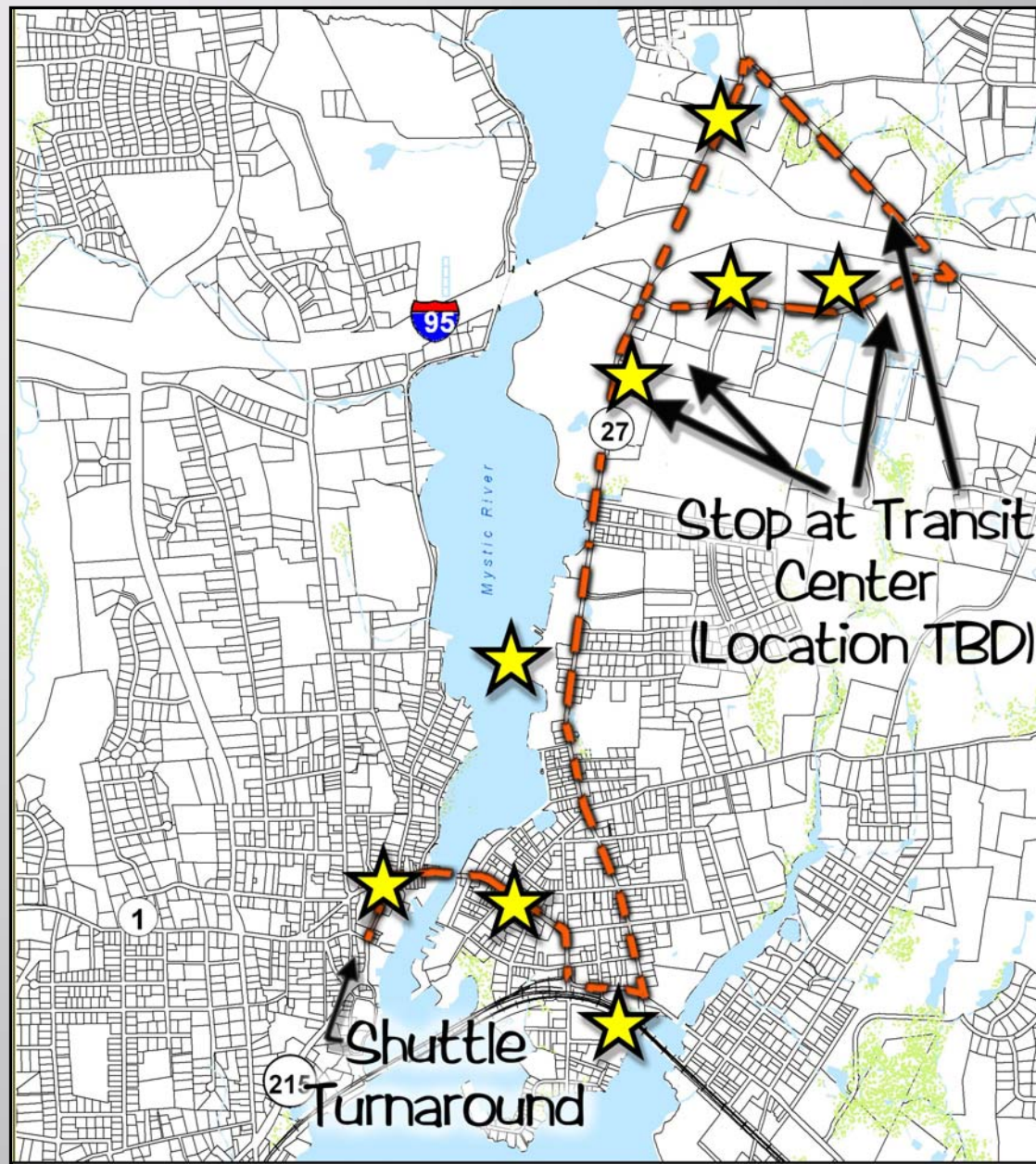
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Recommendation:

Reinstitute Mystic Shuttle Bus Service

- **Operational Funding Source**
 - Create a two-town Mystic Village Special Service District (SSD)
 - Use revenue from small tax assessment to fund shuttle bus operations
- **Shuttle bus service is essential to functioning of a regional transit center**
- **SCCOG's "Intermodal Connections Study Southeast" –**
"...Circulation within Mystic would be provided by an enhanced
Mystic Shuttle incorporated into the system and connected to other
routes at a new 'superstop' shelter facility near I-95 at exit 90."
 - **Major Transit stops, those located to serve primary destinations, would be located in Downtown Mystic (2 stops), Mystic Seaport (2 stops), and the Mystic hotel cluster**
 - **Because of its importance in providing service to many key attractions, this route would become part of the regional tourist transit system and would be coordinated with the seasonal operations of the attractions.**

Proposed Shuttle Bus Route & Stops



Proposed
Shuttle Bus
Stops & Route

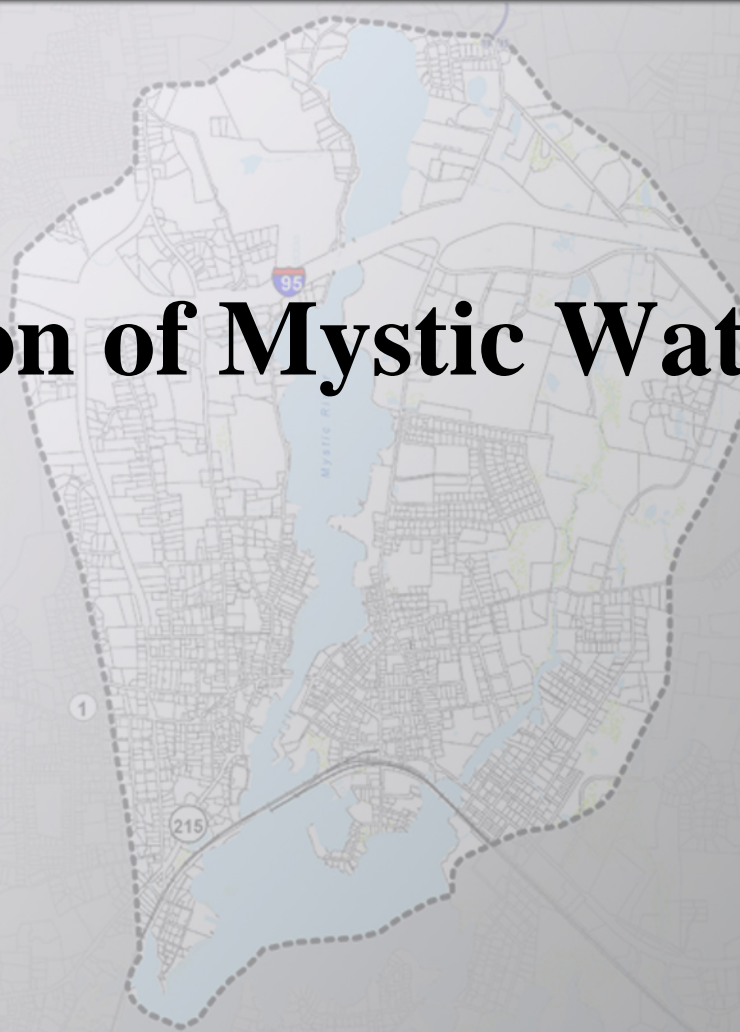


Shuttle Stops

Mystic Multi-Modal Transportation Study Towns of Stonington & Groton, CT

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Expansion of Mystic Water Shuttle



Mystic Multi-Modal Transportation Study Towns of Stonington & Groton, CT

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Recommendation:

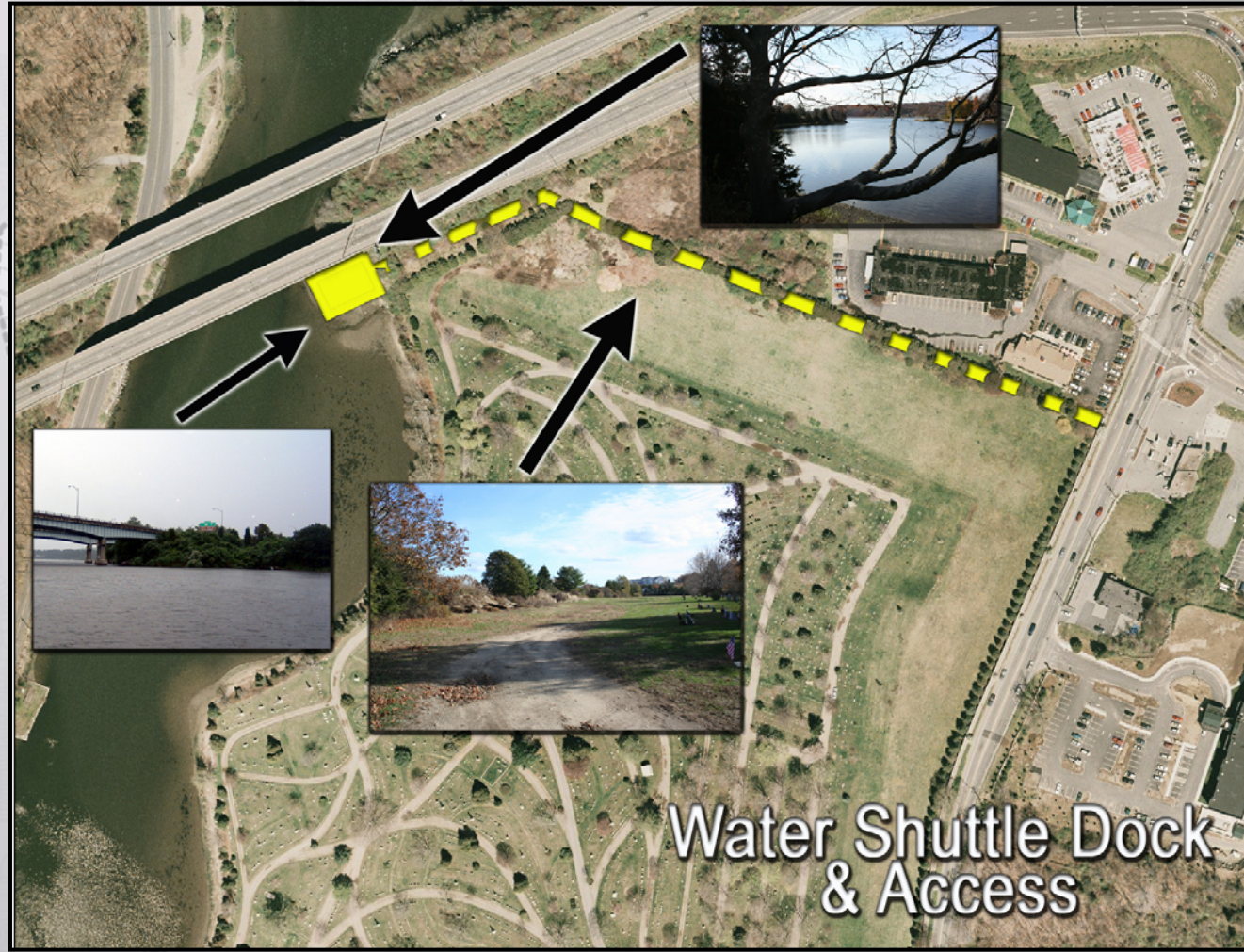
Expand Mystic Seaport Water Shuttle Service

- **Construct a new water shuttle pier in the Interchange area to provide water shuttle service to connect hotels, Olde Mistick Village, Mystic Aquarium and new Regional Transit Center**
 - Seek Transportation Improvement funding from the State of Connecticut for construction
- **Operate from Memorial Day to Columbus Day**
- **Purchase of additional launch vessels**
 - Purchase with grant money
 - Operational funding provided through previously proposed two-town Mystic Village Special Service District (SSD)
- **15 to 20 minute headways**
- **Four Stops:**
 - Interchange area
 - Mystic Seaport
 - Behind S&P Oyster Company Restaurant – Downtown (Stonington)
 - Off Gravel Street - Downtown (Groton)

Mystic Multi-Modal Transportation Study Towns of Stonington & Groton, CT

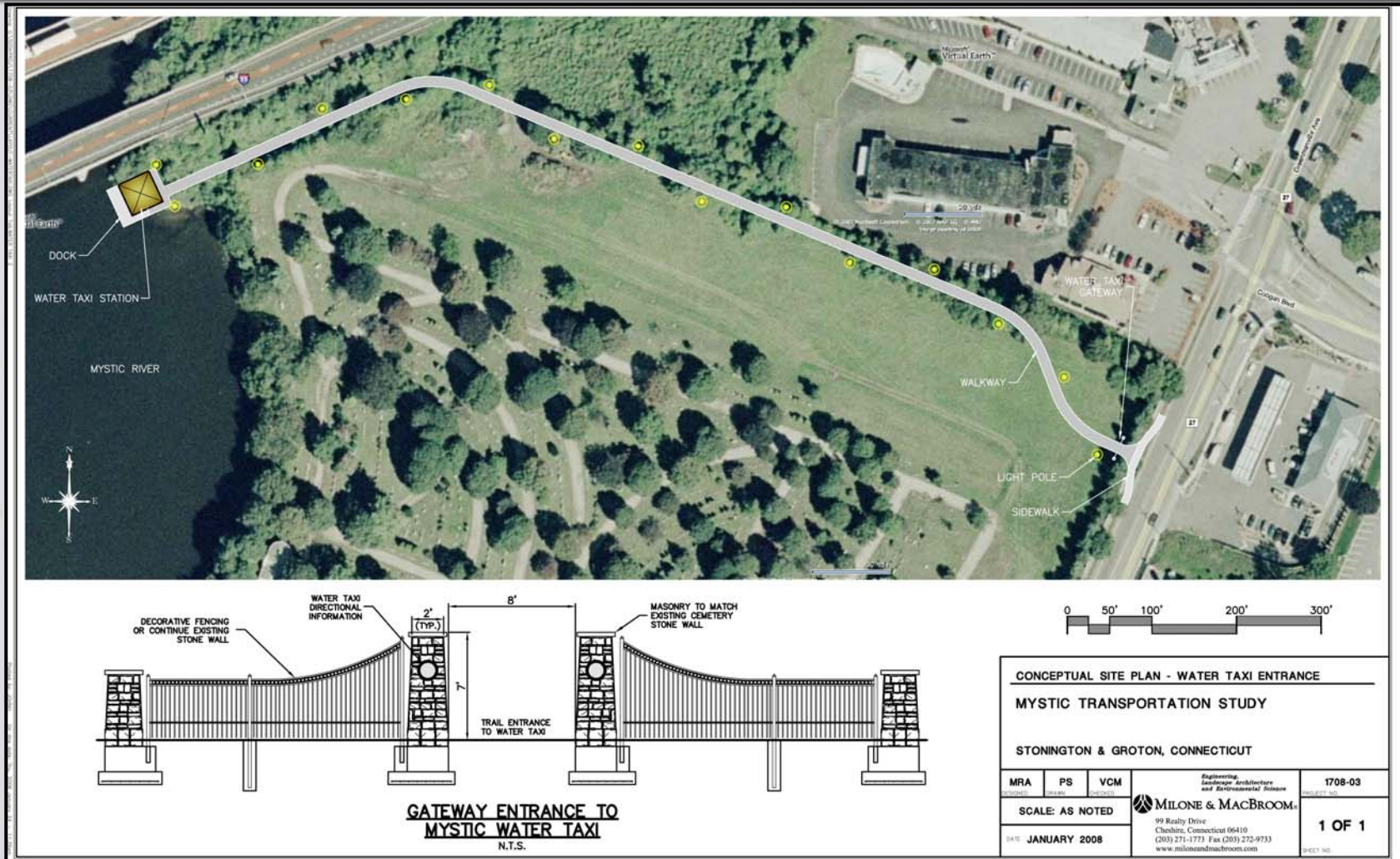
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Proposed Location of Water Shuttle Dock for Interchange Area



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Proposed Water Shuttle Route & Stops



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Recommendation:

Create Transit Center Near I-95/Route 27 Interchange

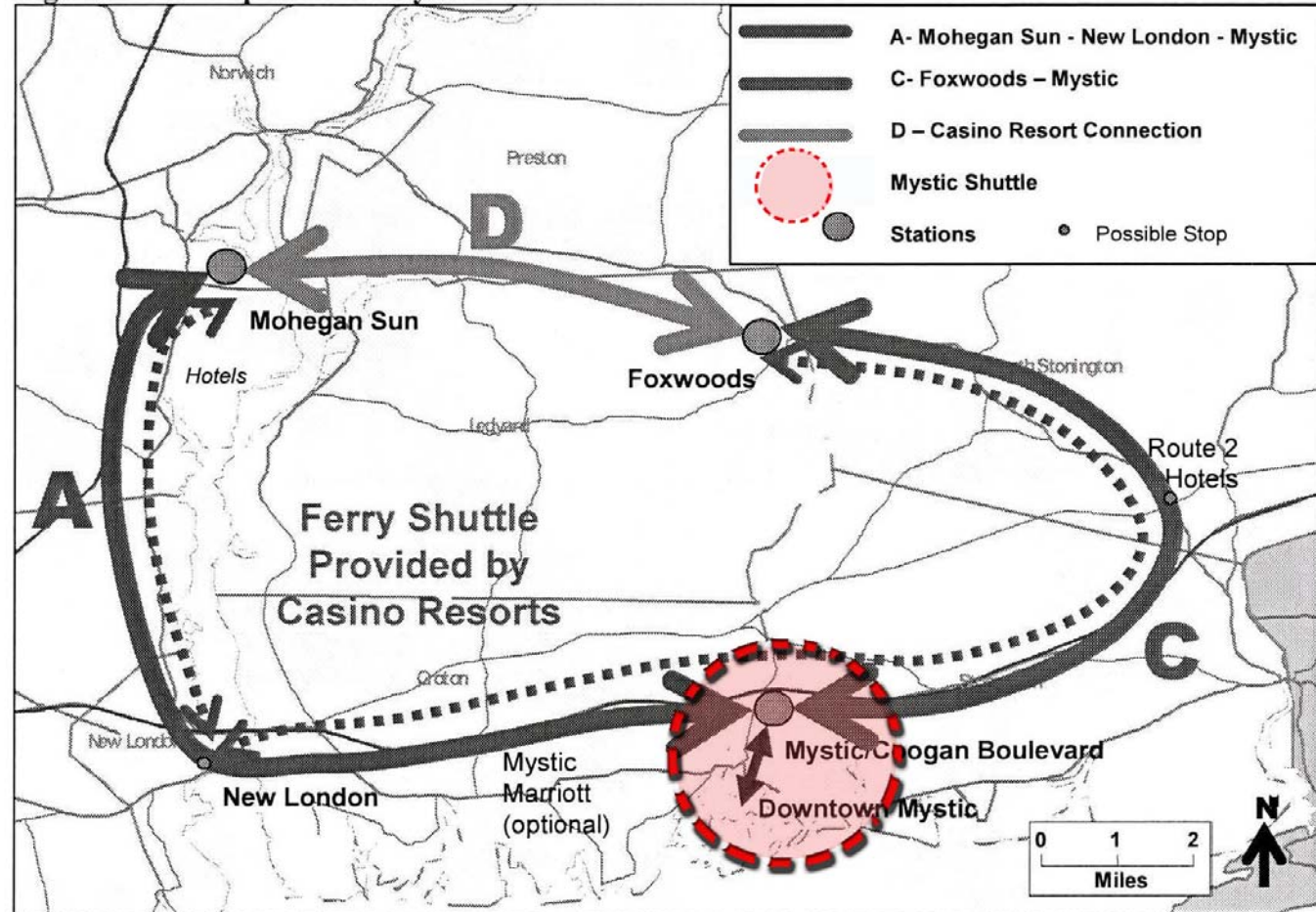
- **Purpose:** To provide a centralized facility near the I-95 interchange that would enable visitors to Mystic to park their vehicle for the day and take a shuttle bus, water taxi, bicycle or walk to visit Mystic's various attractions
- **SCCOG's "Intermodal Connections Study Southeast" – "...a key element of the system is construction of a 'superstop' shelter facility on Coogan Blvd in Mystic, near Old Mistick Village and the Mystic Aquarium, to serve boarding and transferring passengers."**
- **SCCOG's "Intermodal Connections Study Southeast" – "...The proposed service is a bus-based transit system linking attractions, hotels and intermodal transfer terminals in the southeastern Connecticut (Mystic Places) region."**

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Proposed Regional Bus Transit System Links To Transit Center

Figure 6.9-1: Proposed Pilot System Routes



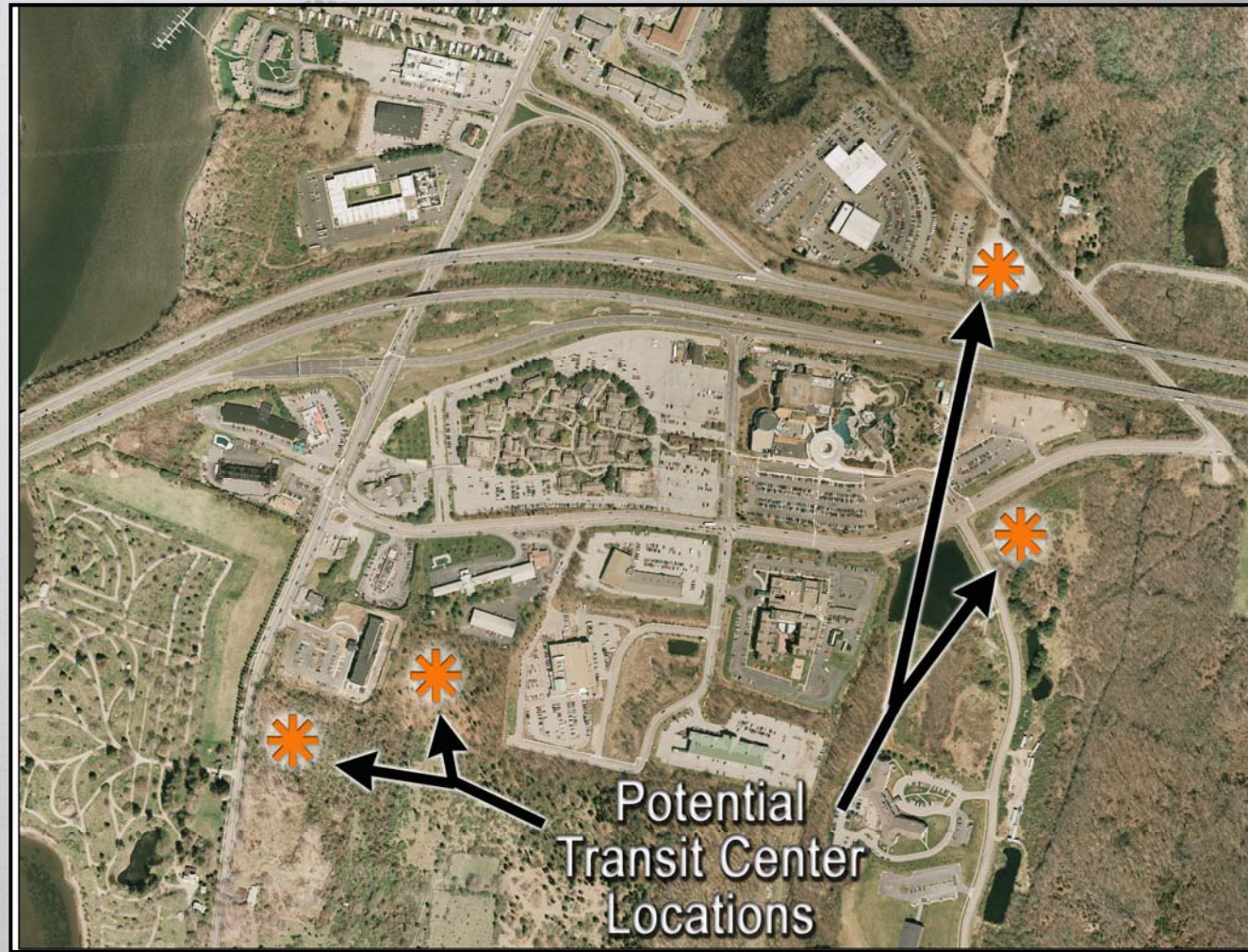
Mystic Multi-Modal Transportation Study

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Possible Locations of Transit Center

- Aquarium overflow parking at Coogan Blvd & Maritime Dr.
- Parcel behind Holiday Inn Express
- Coogan Property off Rte 27
- Town-owned property on Jerry Browne Road



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Create Transit Center Near I-95/Route 27 Interchange

- **Extracts from Newport, RI tourist web site:**
 - **“Park your car at the hotel or inn where you will be staying, and use it as little as possible. Most of Newport is a "walking city".**
 - **Park your car at the Gateway Visitor Information Center or any other available public parking garage. Public lots give you more flexibility for tour options, shopping, or whatever leisure activity you choose to pursue.**
 - **There are many ways to explore Newport, RI that do not require the use of your automobile. Consider these options:**
 - **Walking tour of historic districts**
 - **Consider renting bicycles**
 - **Use the free shuttle when it's in use**
 - **Check to see if your hotel has a courtesy van.**
 - **Take a scenic harbor cruise.....”**
- ***WHY CAN'T MYSTIC BE A WALKING DESTINATION?***

Mystic Multi-Modal Transportation Study Towns of Stonington & Groton, CT

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Summary of Deficiencies within Mystic Transportation System

- Intermittent congestion at I-95/Route 27 interchange and at Route 1/Route 27 intersection
- Lack of overall coordination of off-street parking assets
- Lack of regional parking facilities/centralized parking area
- Lack of shuttle bus service to connect tourist destinations and the Downtown
- No encouragement of non-vehicular transportation opportunities (bike and pedestrian connections)
- Poor signage and wayfinding elements
- Constrained parking supply in the Downtown during peak hours
- Issues of sidewalk maintenance and accessibility

Mystic Multi-Modal Transportation Study Towns of Stonington & Groton, CT

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Summary of Recommended Transportation Improvements

- **Create Transit Center Near I-95/Route 27 Interchange**
- **Reinstitute Mystic Shuttle Bus Service**
- **Expand Mystic Seaport Water Shuttle Service**
- **Improve directional signage throughout the Mystic region.**
- **Enhancements to pedestrian and non-vehicular transit linkages (bike lanes, sidewalk improvements, wayfinding, etc.)**
- **Improvements to the Route 1/Route 27 intersection**
- **Improvements to sidewalk maintenance and accessibility**