

Chapter Six: Transportation

Access is a key determinant of growth because it facilitates the flow of goods and people to the community. The Village of Cottage Grove is well connected to the region, with an interchange at Interstate 94, the primary connection between the Madison and Milwaukee metro areas and USH 12. The Village is also connected to the region by an extensive network of County highways and local roads, and an outstanding regional trail network.

A. Existing Transportation Network

The Village of Cottage Grove is well connected to the region through the existing roadway network, with Interstate 94 located on the north side of the Village and USH 12/18 and Interstate 39/90 are located just to the south. Access to these primary arterials is via CTH N, which is the north-south arterial road through the planning area. CTH BB is the main east-west collector road serving the Village, providing direct access to the central urban area of Dane County. This section describes the existing conditions of transportation facilities in the Village.

Roadways

All the local, county, state and federal transportation routes within Dane County are classified under the “Roadway Functional Classifications.” These routes were identified and mapped by the Madison Area MPO in 2007. The following are the main functional classifications:

Principal arterial streets are the most heavily used streets in and around a community and are intended to serve inter-community traffic.

Interstate 94 is the one principal arterial within the Cottage Grove. In 2006, traffic counts at the Interstate 94 and Highway N interchange were 14,200. Highway 12 is another principal arterial serving the area and providing a direct connection to Madison. WisDOT regulates driveway and new street access to these highways. As a general guideline, any new development adjoining these roads should minimize new access points to these roadways, since their primary transportation role is to facilitate the movement of traffic safely and efficiently with as little delay as possible.

Minor arterials provide mainly intra-community service for trips of moderate length, with more emphasis on driveway access than principal arterials. In the Cottage Grove area, minor arterials include CTH N and CTH BB (west of CTH N). Traffic counts on CTH N were 10,000 in 2005.

Collector streets are designed to function as through streets connecting residential neighborhoods and major traffic generators to arterial streets and regional highways. Collector streets should be designed to provide safe, direct and efficient access. In Cottage Grove, collectors include: Gaston Road, Vilas Road, CTH TT (portion west of the Interstate), and the portion of CTH BB east of CTH N. Those stretches that are considered rural collectors include the portion of CTH TT east of the Interstate and Coffeytown Road.

Local streets are neighborhood streets that provide access to individual homes and businesses, but do not serve as carriers of through traffic. In newer neighborhoods, local streets are often curvilinear in order to discourage through traffic and provide more privacy to residents.



Looking west along Interstate 94

Airports

The Village is served by the Dane County Regional Airport, which is located approximately 10 miles to the northwest in Madison. General Mitchell International Airport is located about 70 miles to the east in Milwaukee. Blackhawk Airfield, located along Kennedy Road in Cottage Grove, is open for public use and offers general aviation services.

Passenger and Freight Rail

The Village is served by the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company, which operates a rail corridor between Madison and Cottage Grove. The rail line is used for on-demand service only. Among the products moved on the rail line are fertilizer and lumber. Local customers include the Cottage Grove Cooperative and the Hydrite Company. More than half of the rail line customers are located in Madison.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

Most of the older local streets in Cottage Grove do not have sidewalks to accommodate pedestrian movement. The main concern for pedestrian safety focuses on intersections with heavy traffic, such as Main Street and Cottage Grove Road. Newer developments in the community are providing sidewalks.

The Glacial Drumlin State Trailhead is located in the southeast portion of the Village along the abandoned section of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad line east of CTH N. The state trail continues east to the Village of Deerfield before exiting the County and then continues east through Jefferson County to Waukesha. As the Village of Cottage Grove expands, planned development should accommodate, or at least not impede, safe bicycle and pedestrian travel as an integral part of the community's growth.

Public Transportation and Para-Transit

Transportation services for those without access to, or those that choose not to use their auto for certain trips, is an important element in the Village's overall transportation system, and a mobility need that will continue to grow. In that light it is important that the Village work with existing and potential users as well as existing and potential service providers to expand the Village's overall transportation system.

Although there is currently no regularly scheduled bus service (such as that provided by Madison Metro) in the Village or any of its surrounding towns, a fair number of groups do provide valuable transportation service. Following are some of those services coordinated through the Dane County Department of Human Services:

- Rural Senior Group Transportation Program
- Specialized Transportation Services (STS) for Adults with Disabilities
- Retired Senior Volunteer Driver Escort Program (RSVP)
- Various other private transportation services

Water and Truck Transportation

The Village's arterials and collectors facilitate truck traffic through the Village. Interstate 94 is identified as the major trucking route serving Cottage Grove. There are no water transportation services within the Village.