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*Backgrounder*

**TRANSPORTATION – LOCATION/ACCESSIBILITY ADVANTAGES**

Whether by plane, train or automobile, getting to Hartford is easy. Located half way between New York City and Boston, Hartford offers exceptional infrastructure and easy access. Major transportation options include major interstates in either direction, Amtrak service to downtown Hartford, and the second-largest airport in New England.

Hartford is developing a transportation system that offers more and better travel choices and continues to emphasize the development of a good regional transit system as an alternative to the automobile. These developments are designed to put Hartford in the forefront of the best places to live, work, visit and play. The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is the metropolitan planning organization that helps coordinate transportation planning in the region.

**Airports**

The Hartford region is serviced by two airports: Bradley International Airport and Brainard Airport.

**Bradley International Airport**

[www.bradleyairport.com](http://www.bradleyairport.com)

Located in Windsor Locks, Bradley International Airport (BDL) is fast, easy and convenient. It is one of the nation's fastest-growing airports, and the second largest in New England. As part of Bradley's \$200-million Terminal Improvement Project to expand and modernize the airport, the newly completed central terminal opened to passengers in 2003. The 260,000-square-foot terminal and concourse feature 12 aircraft gate positions, state-of-the-art security and communication systems, expanded ticketing windows and passenger amenities that include new stores and restaurants.

BDL offers daily non-stop flights to 36 domestic destinations, including 16 to Chicago and Washington-Baltimore. The airport services the following regional airlines: Air Canada Jazz, American Eagle, Continental Express, United Express and US Airways Express. The airport services the following major airlines: America West, American Airlines, Continental Airlines, Delta, Northwest Airlines, Skyway Airlines, Song, Southwest Airlines, United Airlines and US Airways. BDL is also the New England distribution hub for UPS and the regional center for Federal Express. Cargo security at the airport ranks in the top five nationally, and customs services are available 24/7.

### **Brainard Airport**

[www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?A=1380&Q=260082](http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?A=1380&Q=260082)

Located just south of downtown, Brainard Airport provides corporate and private service.

### **Highway Infrastructure**

Hartford is served by major interstates in either direction: I-91 travels north-south from New Haven to Vermont, and I-84, which runs east-west linking the region to Massachusetts in the northeast and to Waterbury, Danbury and New York State in the southwest. Other highways in the region include I-384, I-291, Route 2, Route 5, Route 9 and Route 15. The state routes radiate from Hartford and East Hartford to the suburbs, and provide primary access in and out of the core of the region.

### **Union Station: Amtrak & Greyhound/Peter Pan**

[www.hartfordtransit.org/unionstation](http://www.hartfordtransit.org/unionstation)

Union Station is the main transportation hub in Hartford, housing both Amtrak and intercity bus service.

Hartford is located along Amtrak's Northeast Corridor route, connecting Boston to Washington, D.C. With a station stop at New York's Penn Station, riders have access to trains covering the entire country.

Currently there is not a commuter rail option for the Hartford region. However, studies have been conducted on the feasibility of building a commuter rail with continuous service between New Haven, Hartford and Springfield. The service also will provide connections to Bradley International Airport and northeast corridor services through New Haven.

Greyhound, Peter Pan Bus and Bonanza Bus all operate out of Union Station, linking riders across the country.

### **Mass Transit**

[www.cttransit.com](http://www.cttransit.com)

CTTransit is the state-owned bus service, serving 23 municipalities in the Hartford region. CTTransit Hartford operates over 30 local and 12 express bus routes, many seven days a week. Twelve towns have local service, which includes frequent stops and more flexible routes. Seventeen towns are served by express bus service, which often uses park-and-ride lot origin points, and generally carries passengers non-stop into Hartford. Most of the region's bus routes originate and end in Hartford. Recent route expansions provide service to major employment areas such as Bradley International Airport.

In addition to bus routes, current transit options for regional residents include Easy Street vanpools or other carpool options.

CRCOG developed a 10-year plan to improve the current bus transit.

Recommendations include:

- New "rapid transit" services on fixed guideways. Transit vehicles will not run on local streets in general traffic, but rather will travel on their own separate right-of-

- way, free from traffic congestion. The four proposed bus ways would provide quick access to Hartford from Manchester, New Britain, Rocky Hill and Bloomfield.
- A Downtown Circulator will make it easier for people to move between activity centers in Hartford, and will make for easier connections to the new bus way and commuter rail stations.
- Improvements will be made to local bus service within Hartford and major employment centers. Enhancements include more hours of service; more express routes; more timed transfer centers; and increased use of alternative-fuel vehicles.
- Timed Transfer Centers will provide the opportunity to travel more places throughout the region with greater convenience by creating a multi-hub bus system.

### **Bikeways**

There has been a noticeable trend in the past decade to create multi-use trails to accommodate pedestrians and bicycles. Pedestrian ways have improved access to transit, recreational facilities, and other community and private facilities. The Hartford region has two major regional trails plus several local trails that enhance the livable nature of the area:

- **The Farmington Canal Greenway**  
This path extends north-south, and is part of a proposed regional bikeway planned from Suffield to Farmington. Future plans will extend the path north to Northampton, Massachusetts, and south to New Haven.
- **The Charter Oak Greenway**  
This greenway runs east-west, and is part of a proposed interstate bikeway. Once completed, the bike path will extend from Hartford to East Hartford, continuing through Manchester, Bolton and Andover. Eventually, the trail will extend through eastern Connecticut to Providence, Rhode Island.

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