

# **Transportation**

## **Goal:**

**Luray will develop and sustain a convenient, safe, and efficient motorized and non-motorized transportation system which integrates various modes of transportation including vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, and where possible, alternative forms of shared or public transportation.**

Transportation is one of the most important services provided by government. It connects citizens with their jobs, schools, and other community activities and is critical to the economic vitality of an area. Transportation should be a major consideration when deciding where and how new development should occur. Any new development or redevelopment projects should take into account how the new development will be “connected” to other existing land uses and adjacent properties.

Luray’s transportation facilities generally consist of three types of facilities: roads (local streets and highways), non-vehicular facilities (The Greenway, sidewalks, and bicycle paths), and other transit systems (park and ride lots, semi-public transportation, and the Luray Caverns Airport). When considering changes in land use, the “connectivity” of residential, commercial, recreational, and even institutional or semi-public uses should be carefully reviewed for adequacy.

Providing transportation alternatives (i.e. - more than one choice of the three transportation facilities listed above) will alleviate potential traffic burdens and promote a thriving, vibrant, and healthy town. Increased transportation choice contributes to the economic vitality of the Town and can support tourism efforts – two key economic objectives.

The Town of Luray is uniquely positioned along Route 211 as key hub of economic, cultural, recreational, and residential needs. Transportation is the thread that ties all of these elements together. The Town should strive to be an active partner with Page County, the Northern Shenandoah Planning District Commission, and the Virginia Department of Transportation to provide leadership on understanding our regional transportation planning needs and evaluating solutions for the future. The goal for the transportation element is supported by four objectives that work together to ensure responsible transportation planning for the Town.

## Objectives

**Objective 1:** Develop and expand the Town’s transportation system in a manner that places priority on safety, multimodal forms of transportation, pedestrian access, and quality design.

**Strategies:** a. Develop a Town-wide pedestrian and bicycle access plan.

b. Identify likely locations for additional pedestrian access and/or crosswalks to aid and facilitate pedestrian movement.



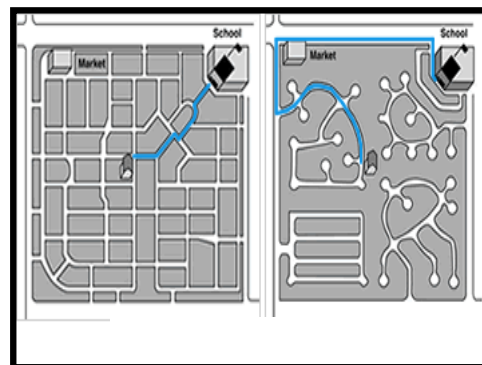
Traffic calming measures can be a simple and effective way to slow traffic

c. Institute “traffic calming” measures in new residential developments; where appropriate consider retrofitting existing residential developments with traffic calming measures.

d. Consider adding traffic circles for new roads to create a focal point in new developments.

e. Work with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to review proposed roadway designs that may differ from VDOT’s adopted design guidelines.

f. Encourage new developments be connected to all adjacent streets and roadways as a means to disperse vehicular traffic. Discourage the overuse of dead-end streets and cul-de-sacs.



An example of a well-connected road system and a poorly connected road system.

g. Promote and protect the Luray Caverns Airport as a vital option within our regional air transportation system; while balancing the inevitability of growth and development.

h. Give special design consideration to “gateway” areas of the Town. Gateways should have heavy landscaping and be aesthetically inviting

**Objective 2:** Assure adequate roadway level of service standards for all roadways within the Town, to the maximum extent within the Town’s control.

- Strategies:**
- a. Coordinate efforts with VDOT so that existing streets will be well-maintained.
  - b. Require traffic impact studies be prepared for all developments and redevelopment applications submitted to the Town.
  - c. Ensure all new development maintain a Level of Service of C (see Appendix C) for each intersection approach at time of development’s build out.
  - d. Preserve rights-of-way in the development review process for future transportation expansions/improvements.
  - e. Enlist assistance from developers to establish (or upgrade) road connections to serve new development proposals.

**Objective 3:** Actively seek to increase and promote public and shared transportation options throughout the Town and region.

- a. Partner with Page County and local nonprofit organizations to maintain that special populations (individuals with disabilities, seniors) have access to public transportation.
- b. Encourage the use of shared parking lots throughout Downtown Luray.
- c. Continue to promote ride-sharing through public information sources and consider adding another commuter lot on the south side of Town.
- d. Add a park and ride lot south of Town.

**Objective 4:** Coordinate with Page County, the Northern Shenandoah Planning District Commission, and Virginia Department of Transportation so that the desired future growth patterns in the Future Land Use Plan may be adequately supported.

- Strategies:**
- a. Conduct transportation planning assessments with Page County to determine and prioritize short term (5 years), intermediate term (10 years) and long term (20 years) transportation needs for unincorporated areas adjacent to the Town.

b. Work with Page County to ensure that new developments in future growth areas adhere to desired road design principles and adequately fund improvement to nearby streets and roadways.

c. Work with Page County and VDOT to ensure that long-range transportation plans are placed in State funding cycles.

**Objective 5:** Create a ranking system for identifying and prioritizing future transportation needs.

**Strategies:** a. Prioritize the planned four (4) future roadway connections (see page 45) and work with VDOT to assign a ranking to each of the four to give the guidance to the priority of funding sources.

b. Prioritize the seven (7) Traffic Areas in Need of Improvement (see page 46 ) and work with VDOT to assign a ranking to each of the seven to give the guidance to the priority of funding sources.

c. Work with Page County to identify a specific corridor at the tax map parcel level for a Southeast Connector Corridor so that when these parcels are rezoned or developed that the future right-of-way be set aside for future public use. Consider allowing density based on gross acreage for such parcels, so that a dedication of right-of-way does not penalize the land owner/developer.