

Shown in Figure 23: Proposed conceptual illustration of a "Gateway to Nantucket" leaving Straight Wharf and traveling into the downtown area. Similar to the Steamship Wharf, this is the first impression that many visitors to the island will see and their last image as they leave. Note the new Nantucket Visitors' Information Building and gateway structure. Locating of a satellite visitors' center here will provide an immediate destination for new island visitors to plan for transportation, activities, tours, lodging, etc. and avoid the "wandering pedestrian dilemma" that oftentimes leads to congestion and dangerous situations due to the extreme interaction of vehicles and pedestrians in this area. Widened sidewalks along the south side of Straight Wharf roadway will provide a safer and more manageable route for pedestrians traveling to and from the ferry dock.

## **RECOMMENDED LONG-RANGE IMPROVEMENTS**

These items, also grouped by general subject, build on the improvement philosophy discussed in the short-term improvements and are suggested for further evaluation in terms of practicality, feasibility, impacts on stakeholders and property owners, and political acceptability.

### **Traffic and Circulation**

1. Study possible closure of a portion of Main Street, between Union Street and Orange Street, and Federal Street, between Main Street and Cambridge Street, to create a pedestrian only environment.
2. Review circulation patterns after implementation of short-term recommendations for parking, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities to note new patterns and consider further improvements.
3. Designate preferred routes for all traffic (not just trucks) from ferry terminals to the north, south, southwest, and south (inbound and outbound) and identify them with road

signs and maps. The purpose of this is to separate and disperse traffic with no origin or destination downtown as much as possible.

4. Improve education of truck drivers concerning the existing truck route.
5. Establish park and ride lots at the edges of downtown and provide circulator bus service specifically to the Steamship terminal, or both ferry terminals, and possibly the Nantucket Memorial Airport.
6. Encourage taxi operators and tour operators to work collectively concerning dispatching and share pickup and drop-off spaces. Consider relocating some spaces to improve circulation or increase general parking.
7. Examine whether improvements are possible in scheduling freight deliveries at off-peak times.

### **Parking**

1. Evaluate how the substantial addition to downtown parking supply represented by the proposed development of National Grid's Candle Street property can effectively complement existing parking facilities, and establish parking regulations/fees accordingly.
2. Consider extending parking regulations into the evening.
3. Designate some on-street parking spaces for use by carpools.

### **Public Transportation**

1. Continue to expand service and reduce headways as market development and opportunities allow.
2. Provide more shelters and benches at designated stops.
3. Provide circulator service from park and ride lots.

### **Bicycle Facilities**

1. Investigate provision of an off-street location for moped and bike training.
2. Produce educational pamphlets for infrequent riders about "rules of the road."
3. Evaluate downtown bicycle operations after short-term improvements are implemented.

### **Pedestrian Facilities**

1. Evaluate downtown pedestrian circulation after short-term improvements are implemented and identify any gaps in pedestrian facilities.
2. Strengthen pedestrian path between ferry terminals. It should be well marked and possibly covered.
3. Complete the process of making downtown crosswalks handicapped accessible.
4. Consider appropriate sidewalk features (such as benches and landscaping) to discourage jaywalking and channel pedestrians to appropriate crossings.

### **Ferry Service and Intermodal Connections**

1. Work with the Steamship Authority to encourage synergy between the planned redevelopment of the ferry terminal and other downtown improvements.
2. Review pickup and drop-off operations at the Hy-Line terminal after short-term recommendations are implemented.
3. Designate with signs path to NRTA bus stops.

### **Wayfinding and Gateways**

1. Monitor public experience, collect feedback and suggestions, and expand upon recommendations in the short-term program.