Connecting Olde Mistick Village, Mystic Downtown, Mystic Aquarium, and Mystic Seaport

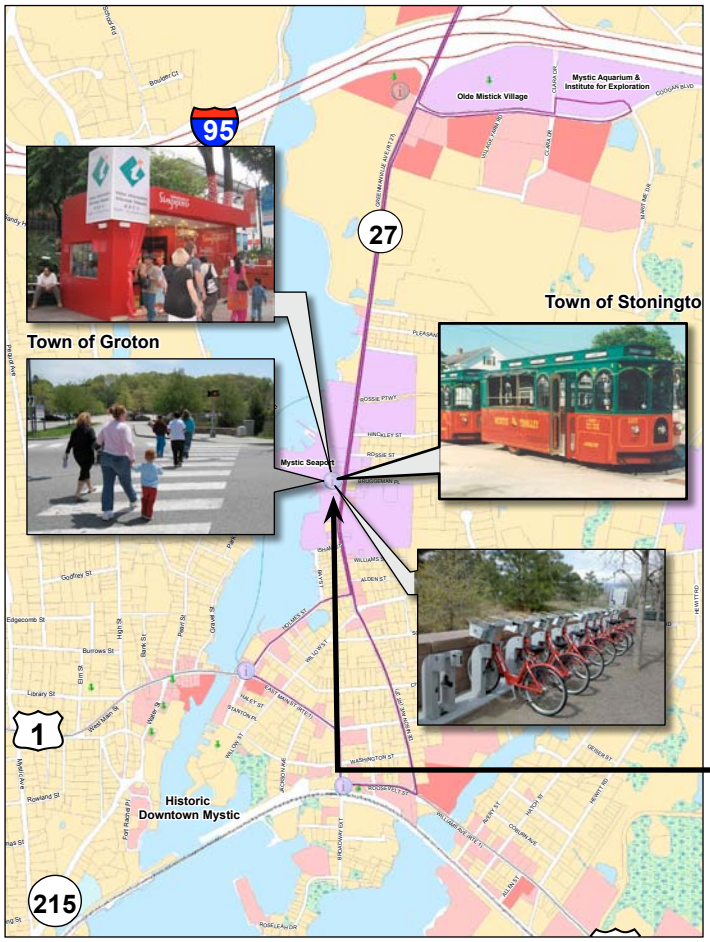
# Mystic Mobility Study

June 2010

## New Mobility Hubs and the Mystic Experience

Visitors to the Mystic area may soon be greeted with a "21st century" transportation innovation that is aimed at making travel around the Mystic region more pleasant, sustainable, practical and fun. Imagine driving into Mystic for the first time. After parking your car, you can walk, bike, take a trolley shuttle, water taxi or maybe even an auto rickshaw to all the area's attractions – reflecting an overall approach to the transportation network that promotes a better experience for tourists, and a more livable community for residents.

All of this can be achieved through a combination of transportation innovations currently under study by the Towns of Stonington and Groton along with the Mystic Seaport Museum as part of the Mystic Mobility Study.




**"At its most basic level, a New Mobility Hub network is simply a grid of places in a community where transportation modes and services physically connect. In more technologically advanced communities this is all brought together by a telecommunications framework that offers real-time information on arrival and departure times and availability (either through kiosks at hubs or through mobile phones or PDA's)...for the user, hub networks connect an integrated set of services, products, technologies door-to-door, addressing the last mile challenge and the connectivity gap throughout the trip."**

- S. Zielinski in *Connecting (and Transforming) the Future of Transportation*, a brief and practical primer for Implementing Door-to-Door Transportation Systems in Communities and Regions, University of Michigan)

In addition to the ongoing streetscape projects, these include new wayfinding techniques and signage, implementation of a trolley shuttle system, improved pedestrian and bike pathways and improved traffic flows to reduce congestion.

Perhaps most exciting, and one that is an 'emerging' innovation, is the conceptual layout of up to four new "Mobility Hubs" -- connecting points in the area's transportation grid that can help travelers seamlessly connect from one point to another, from one transportation mode to another, with the complete trip in mind.

Mobility Hubs were first developed in North America by international transportation planner Susan Zielinski, who heads the University of Michigan's Sustainable Mobil-

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*New Mobility Hub amenities for Mystic could include Bike Share, pedestrian pathway connections, a Mystic shuttle service stop and waiting area, an information kiosk, internet travel information and connections for lodging and tourist attraction info. The hubs would be strategically located in the study area, which extends from Exit 90 on I-95 to downtown Mystic including both Groton and Stonington.*

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## Connecting the dots....

ity and Accessibility Research and Transformation or SMART program. Her work on sustainable transportation and Mobility Hubs is now being considered in a number of cities. The Mystic area would be the first such application in the Northeast.

For local residents and visitors to Mystic, this could mean an easier way to get around, connecting bike share to transit shuttle to pedestrian pathways, or vehicles to parking and directions to destinations. The key is to provide "connecting rather than competing interests."

## Bringing it all together

One of the initial goals of the Mystic Mobility Study was to develop a transportation center that would bring all of the various travel modes together. In reality, there are multiple connecting points in the Mystic area, and the study's project management team along with key stakeholders determined that a more appropriate alternative to one major transportation center would be a network of several smaller "hubs," scalable in size to the immediate surroundings, from a small information kiosk to somewhat larger facilities equipped with interactive displays with real-time travel information. Mobility Hubs are an ideal solution to accomplish this.

These hubs would support the implementation of a Mystic Trolley shuttle system that would operate through the core Mystic area, connecting major hotels, tourist destinations, other transportation modes (e.g. the Mystic train station, bike share locations, key parking areas). The hubs would also combine signage and wayfinding tools, trip planning, and multi-modal travel options.

"At your fingertips" wayfinding techniques could also be delivered through cell phones or PDAs as well as simple public information kiosks, designed to be architecturally compatible with the surrounding neighborhood.

As the Mystic Mobility Study progresses, this approach will be fully explored, including preparation of a conceptual design for each hub and determination of the best locations throughout the Mystic area.

The goal of the study is to encourage development of multi-modal transportation solutions throughout Mystic that are cost effective, attractive and responsive to the needs of both tourists and residents, and that can be implemented in the near-term future.

Example of a bike share facility

## Get Involved!

Current and potential users of the transportation system in the Mystic area are critical participants in this study. There are a variety of opportunities for the public to participate and provide input to the study team.

**Attend Public Meeting #1:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Date:** | Wednesday, June 9, 2010 |
| **Time:** | 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM |
| **Place:** | Hoxie Fire House<br>34 Broadway Avenue<br>Mystic, CT 06355 |

**Visit www.mysticmobility.org to share your views!**

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