



## Transportation, Traffic & Parking Department

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### 2008 Annual Report



City of New Haven  
John DeStefano, Jr.  
Mayor

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***Transportation, Traffic and Parking Department***

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[www.cityofnewhaven.com/streetsmarts](http://www.cityofnewhaven.com/streetsmarts)

## Mission

The City of New Haven's Transportation, Traffic and Parking Department combines elements of traffic safety / engineering, parking management, community development and urban planning. Our mission is to deliver a safe and efficient traffic control system and to better integrate sustainable transportation which supports our quality of life and economic standing.

The region's transportation infrastructure - consisting of highways, railroads, port, airport and public transit systems - is unique for a mid-size city. In a time of rising fuel prices, increasing traffic congestion and global climate change, the depth of the transit and non-motorized system becomes even more vital to our overall environmental performance and economic growth.

The department is therefore committed to a bigger and more integrated system that connects housing to jobs and people to their community. The department is organized in four groups: Traffic Control, Parking Operations, Safety Guards and Transportation Planning.



*Department crews enhance the system through new programs, state-of-good repair projects and emergency response efforts.*

## Staff Directory

### Administration

Michael Piscitelli, AICP	Director	(203) 946-8067
Jim Travers	Deputy Director, Administration	(203) 946-8077
Susan Gibson	Administrative Assistant II	(203) 946-8078
Margaret Marchitto	Administrative Assistant II	(203) 946-8068
Ann Acevedo	Safety Guard Supervisor	(203) 946-8075

### Traffic Control

Bijan Notghi	Traffic Project Engineer	(203) 946-8069
Bruce Fischer	Traffic Operating Engineer	(203) 946-8073

*Signs / Markings Crew* (203) 946-8079

William Williamson, Jr.  
Kevin Rose  
Keith Myrick  
Danny Cruz

*Signal Crew* (203) 946-8080

John Blando  
Carlos Jimenez  
Carol Shorey  
Felix Madera

*Meter Crew* (203) 946-8081

Mark Sobolewski  
Michael Goodhue  
Laquane Gormany  
James L. Moss, Jr.

### Parking Management

Cynthia Ballard	Word Processing Secretary	(203) 946-8076
Velisha Cloud	Parking Enforcement Supervisor	(203) 946-6777
Tonya Covington	Parking Desk (acting)	(203) 946-8075

#### *Parking Enforcement Officers*

David White  
Maureen Burns  
John Rispoli  
Michael Granucci  
Juanteenia McLauren  
Cheryl Horner  
Frank Ruiz  
Fayan Robinson-Sims  
Joseph Amarone  
Mezan King

## Organization and Work Summary

### *Traffic Control*

This Traffic Control group is responsible for sign / signal improvement and maintenance programs, pavement markings, regulation of activities within the public right-of-way; bus shelter maintenance / construction; construction staging and new development reviews.

The Traffic Control group also provides staff support to the New Haven Traffic Authority and interacts on a daily basis with the Connecticut Department of Transportation, the State Traffic Commission and the South Central Regional Council of Governments on various partnerships and inter-agency transportation issues.

In 2008, the Traffic Control group worked with members of the Board of Aldermen, interested citizens and other city departments to –

- Complete the Sherman Avenue bike lane.
- Review various applications to the State Traffic Commission, including the traffic control enhancements at Yale New Haven Hospital, Yale University's new Biology Building and various college renovations, and the new parking structure in Science Park.
- Make 767 separate inspections / repairs to traffic signals (up 14% from 2007).
- Repair 241 traffic control units and 196 progression enhancements.
- Repair 33 traffic controls as a result of "knock-downs".
- Assist with the River Street, Lexington Avenue and Long Wharf Drive traffic calming programs.
- Assist CDOT with new traffic signals on Woodward Avenue.
- Complete construction of Phase IV (Beaver Hills / Westville) of the citywide traffic signal upgrade program (23 signals).
- Initiated construction of the Phase III, Contract II (14 intersections) in East Rock / Cedar Hill.
- Initiate construction of Phase IV, Contract B (20 intersections) in the Westville neighborhood.
- Continued concept and design work associated with the Gateway Community College and the mixed use development at 360 State Street.
- Assist with traffic control during the Labor Day Road Race.
- Design the Yale Cancer Center signalization project (13 signals).
- Install 444 street / pole banners.
- Remove sneakers at 35 locations.
- Set the temporary speed indicators at 12 locations.
- Install new parking meters on Chapel, Orange and at Union Station.



*The Traffic Control Crew worked with Yale University to normalize the Yale University Shuttle System.*

### **Parking Operations**

The department's Parking Operations group is responsible for the management and enhancement of the on-street parking programs, including parking meters, vouchers, smart cards and meter bag system management and design / management of residential parking zones. In addition, the division is responsible for the enforcement of on-street parking regulations (parking tags) and the review of contested parking tags. In 2008 the group -

- Issued 153,546 parking tickets and assisted with the collection of \$4.8 million in revenue from parking tags, representing a decline in the total number of tickets issued of 1.7% and an increase in the receivable due to the City of 9.4% year-over-year.
- Installed signage for the Greenwood Residential Parking Zone.
- Amended the parking regulations in the Whitney Avenue, Edgehill Road, St. Ronan Street and Huntington Street area to allow for two-hour parking and unrestricted residential parking.
- Established short-term parking on Chapel Street, between Church Street and Orange Street.
- Expanded the number of on-street parking meters at Union Station, providing much-needed capacity for commuters and visitors.
- Launched a re-designed "City Card" and voucher program.



**THE New Haven**  
City Card

**GOT ONE?  
GET ONE!**

Take the hassle out of parking and get great savings too!

Pick up a City Card today and check out [NewHavenCard.net/save](http://NewHavenCard.net/save) for a list of mechants giving away free stuff when you use your card to pay.




Come in, get your City Card today and check out [www.NewHavenCard.net](http://www.NewHavenCard.net) for great savings at lots of great locations!

*Parcsmart worked closely with Market New Haven and City staff to develop a new marketing campaign for the City Card. City Cards accounted for 8% of all meter transactions in FY2008, up from 4% in FY2007.*



### ***Transportation Planning***

The department works closely with City Plan and Economic Development on major transportation initiatives including road/highway improvements, airport enhancements, bike / pedestrian initiatives and transit programs.

The department provides staff support to the New Haven Port Authority and the department head serves on the New Haven Parking Authority's Board of Directors (ex-officio), and is also a resident director of the Greater New Haven Transit District and the Tweed New Haven Airport Authority.

In 2008, the department-

- Assisted the SCRCOG to complete the Streetcar Feasibility Study, which identified various concepts to reintroduce streetcar transit.
- Assisted the Economic Development Department, City Plan and the Economic Development Corporation of New Haven to prepare an economic impact analysis of the various development projects within walking distance of Union Station.
- Assisted SCRCOG to complete the Transit Implementation Study, which looks at various ways to make CTTransit routing more efficient. Recommendations include new "hub" stops outside of Downtown New Haven and circulating route options.
- Proposed Cross Town West and Downtown Circulators bus routes.
- Assisted Economic Development, Engineering and SCRCOG on the implementation of the Route 34 East Corridor Study and related plans for Route 34 West, the Medical District and Union Station.
- Assisted Tri-State Transportation Campaign and the Urban Design League with a visit by former Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist to discuss the conversion of Route 34 East to an urban boulevard.
- Continued to work with the CDOT on implementation of the Transit Oriented Development plan for Union Station.

### ***Safety Guard Division***

The City's Safety Guards provide traffic control assistance at many city schools during the morning and afternoon periods. In addition, Safety Guards provide assistance with traffic safety and traffic calming as well as special events as needed. In 2008 the group -

- Conducted on-site review and recommendations to improve pedestrian safety at John Daniels School.
- Provided safety guard coverage at the Wooster Square Farmer's Market and the Street Smarts kick-off event.
- Provided coverage to high-volume days at Union Station, such as the Thanksgiving holiday and Election Day at major polling locations.



## Street Smarts Campaign

With the dedication of many community partners, the City of New Haven launched the “Street Smarts” traffic safety campaign in October, 2008. The campaign is one of three major city initiatives intended to improve traffic safety in New Haven through community outreach / education, physical improvements to roadways and cooperative enforcement efforts with the New Haven Police Department. Street Smarts is reaching motorists, cyclists and pedestrians, calling for attentiveness at all times; patience with others; and a willingness to share the road with all users.

The campaign responds to a nationwide concern over the number and severity of traffic accidents. In the United States, a pedestrian is killed every seven minutes and another 85,000 are injured every year. These are our neighbors and friends, not just statistics. Here, New Haven mourns the loss of Mila Rainof, an amazingly talented student at Yale University, and Gabrielle Lee, an engaging 11-year-old school child. Both Mila and Gabrielle lost their lives in tragic crashes in 2008, as did many others.



*The Street Smarts Kick-off was held on October 19 at Edgewood Park. Committee leaders from Yale New Haven Hospital and the Yale Medical School provided bike helmets to children and bike safety tips.*

In just a few months, the community galvanized through the New Haven Safe Streets Coalition of residents, civic leaders, city officials and organizations. Their advocacy has accelerated the pace of change with tangible programs sponsored by Elm City Cycling, Yale University, the Yale Medical School's Traffic Safety Committee, the City of New Haven and the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

For cyclists, pedestrian and motorists, the Street Smarts message is clear: safe streets take Street Smarts. Street Smarts go beyond simply obeying the traffic regulations or driving below the speed limit. Street Smarts call for your attentiveness at all times; your patience with others; and your willingness to share the road.

With that in mind, the Department and the Steering Committee prepared a number of hand-out materials, Smart Driver pledge forms, tax bill and city calendar messages. There is an active web presence to the program for ongoing continuity of programs.

Following a well-attended kick-off event in Edgewood Park, the Street Smarts team has reached out to many community organizations and businesses and reached over 800,000 people through media impressions.

Over 800 people have signed the Smart Driver pledge. The Smart Driver pledge – which was originally conceived by Alderwoman Erin Sturgis Pascale – is based on the nationally recognized Pace Car effort to restore civility on neighborhood streets.

Among the 20 events held to date, the department has presented to many groups and organizations-

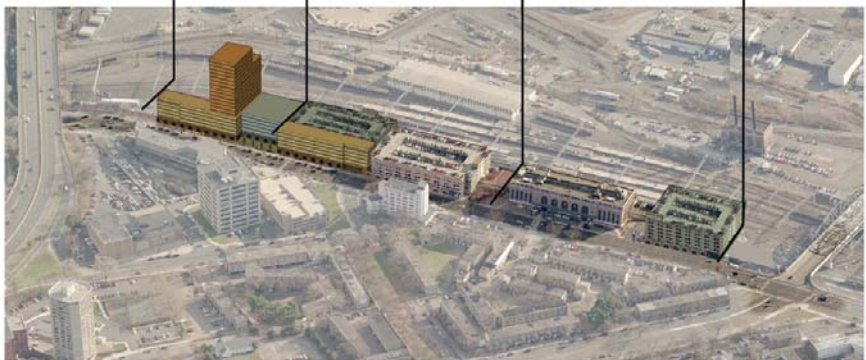

October 19	Kick-off event at Edgewood Park
October 19	Upper State Street festival
October 23	NHPD District Managers
October 27	Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce
October 29	Mayor's Democracy School
October 29	Mayor's Halloween Day Parade
November 4	Yale University Safety Committee
November 5	American Planning Association, NY Metro Chapter
November 15	Yale – Princeton Football Game
November 20	Dixwell Community Management Team
November 26	Greater New Haven Transit Bus Drivers
December 4	New Haven Green Christmas Tree Lighting
December 9	Beaver Hill SW Neighborhood Association
December 10	CT Transit Bus Drivers

## Transportation Initiatives

The department continues to work on a number of multi-year projects intended to improve the transportation system, environmental performance and overall quality of life in New Haven. These projects are cooperative efforts among the many city department / agencies involved in the transportation process as well as the partner agencies, New Haven Parking Authority, Tweed New Haven Airport Authority and Greater New Haven Transit Authority.

### ***Union Station Transit Oriented Development***

In response to continuing demand for additional commuter parking at Union Station, the City, New Haven Parking Authority and CDOT initiated a study of transit-oriented development opportunities at Union Station. The study forms the basis of a revised site plan, which proposes two commuter garages, remerchandising of Union Station and long-term development of new mixed use space at the northerly side of the site, along Union Avenue.

Phase 3:	Phase 2:	Phase 1:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New development garage 500 spaces</li> <li>• New retail 20,000sf</li> <li>• New office 90,000sf</li> <li>• New loft apartments 138 units</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New North Garage 530 spaces</li> <li>• Develop retail frontage at existing garage 14,000sf</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New South Garage 667 spaces</li> <li>• Pedestrian Bridge to Union Station</li> <li>• Multi-modal connections at grade</li> <li>• Expand mixed use development of Union Station 50,000sf</li> </ul>
		
		

***The City continues to work with the Connecticut Department of Transportation to implement a three-phase improvement at Union Station.***

### ***Bike New Haven***

The department's new mission reflects a deeper commitment to cycling in New Haven both to improve the safety of cyclists and also to promote cycling for commuting and vehicle miles traveled reductions. In 2008, the department is pleased to report the completion of the Sherman Avenue Bike Lane in the West River Neighborhood; placed new "free bike parking" stickers on all city meters and initiated the Downtown Bike / Pedestrian Gap Analysis Project.

The Downtown Bike / Ped program is supported by the South Central Regional Council of Governments and is intended to identify critical weaknesses in an otherwise strong foundation of bicycle and pedestrian access within the central business district. The department conducted a "point-in-time" study of bicycle parking and pedestrian movement at many Downtown locations, which quantified the substantial volume of non-motorized movement at key intersections.



### ***Union Station Interconnect***

The City of New Haven, in partnership with the New Haven Parking Authority, successfully received a \$145,000 grant to develop the Union Station Bicycle Interconnect project. This project, which includes bicycle safety improvements, dedicated bike access routes and bike storage facilities, is intended to expand bicycle access to Union Station, the intermodal center of Connecticut passenger rail service.

The project plan includes two central elements:

- Development of 4.6 miles of on-street dedicated and shared (sharrow) bike lanes, connecting to Union Station to Downtown, the Hill and East Rock neighborhoods; and
- Installation of 100 new bicycle parking spaces.

The scope of work is an unprecedented investment in bike-to-train access in Connecticut, representing a true commitment to non-motorized access to transit. Further, the new facility connects with the Farmington Canal Greenway, thereby creating safe bicycling passage between Cheshire to Union Station.

### ***Complete Streets***

In keeping with the overall City commitment to a safe and civil traffic program, the Board of Aldermen approved landmark Complete Streets legislation in 2008. The legislation promotes the safety and convenience of all users of the transportation system using a Complete Streets hierarchy of users, which begins with pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users.

These users shall be accommodated and balanced in all types of transportation and development projects and through all phases of a project so that the vulnerable – children, elderly, and persons with disabilities – can travel safely within the public right of way.

Likewise, the City made several roadway improvements in 2008 which promote a Complete Streets environment. These include -

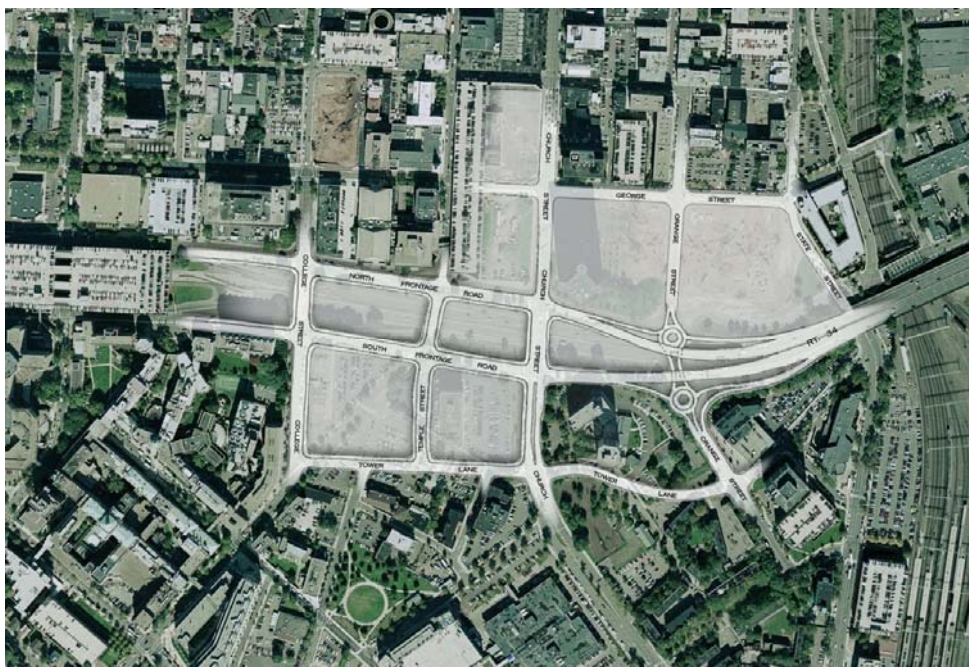
- Installation of traffic calming on Long Wharf Drive and River Street.
- Completion of the Lexington Avenue speed hump project.
- Installation of temporary speed humps on Tour and Perkins.
- Initiation of a study of complete streets in the Hill neighborhood.
- Installation of five “in-road” pedestrian signs at five trial locations (see image to right).



### ***Route 34 East / Downtown Crossing***

The department, together with the Office of the Mayor, Economic Development and City Plan, are working to implement a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reconnect neighborhoods and provide new economic development opportunities through conversion of Route 34 East to a community-scale urban boulevard.

To accomplish this goal, the City has introduced a comprehensive program of land use, transportation and environmental enhancements designed to encourage a more sustainable and transit oriented land use pattern.



***Route 34 East – conceptual infill development pattern.***

As part of the reconstruction, over 13 acres of land will be made available for new development which will merge the medical district, Union Station and Downtown into a more seamless neighborhood. In turn, the entire area will become more transit and pedestrian oriented as the automotive-related impediments are removed.

The City recently was awarded a \$5 million federal transportation grant to refine the concept plan, initiate design and environmental review of this signature project. In 2008, the City released an RFQ for a project designer and looks forward to environmental review and preliminary design work in the coming year.

### ***Cross Town West Bus Route & Downtown Circulators***

The department has led an effort to introduce the City's first new major bus route connecting City Point with Dixwell Avenue in Hamden. If approved and initiated the new Cross Town West will have an immediate impact on service delivery as connections to existing routes can be achieved without a Downtown transfer.

In response to the shut-down of the Trolley Program, the department worked with CDOT, SCRCOG and the Greater New Haven Transit District to develop alternative public bus service in the Downtown, Medical District and Union Station triangle. With assistance from Transystems, a proposed two-route option was developed and is now under consideration.

### ***Comprehensive Signal Upgrade Program***

The department continues to upgrade its traffic signals through the implementation of a five-phase capital investment program. This program is largely funded by the State of Connecticut and includes full reconstruction of signals in Westville, Beaver Hills, Edgewood, Downtown, East Rock, Fair Haven and Mill River. In 2008, designs were completed on three main projects: [1] Yale New Haven Hospital (12 signalized intersections); [2] "Phase IV", Westville / Edgewood (21 signals); and [3] "Phase III Fair Haven / Cedar Hill (14 signals). In addition, the department continues to work with Gateway Community College to initiate design at 9 intersections in the central business districts.



***New signals are equipped with video detection and pedestrian enhancements.***



In 2008, the signal system also experienced a major technical failure at 103 of the 270 signals. At these signals, Transcore system failed and the department's signal crew made emergency repairs at each location. Subsequently, the department and consultant VHB identified the problem with the controller / communication functions and prepared a scope of work for approximately \$3.0 million, which will return the system to normal operation. The project was submitted to the SCRCOG and New Haven Board of Aldermen for funding consideration.

### ***Tweed New Haven Regional Airport***

Tweed New Haven Airport is one of just two Class I facilities in Connecticut, providing both scheduled commercial and general aviation services. Tweed ranks 11<sup>th</sup> among all New England regional airports for total scheduled boardings. US Airways is currently the primary commercial service provider at the Airport. US Airways has five scheduled weekday flights as well as weekend service to its Philadelphia hub. In 2008, 33,995 passengers enplaned and 34,467 deplaned at Tweed. There were 47,035 total movements (landings or takeoffs) in 2008.



***The Tweed New Haven Airport Authority successfully completed Phase I of the \$24 million Runway Safety Area project. Phase 1 includes construction of the south safety area and tide gate improvements at Morris Creek. Phase 2 of the project begins in the first quarter, 2009.***

For many years, the City and Tweed New Haven Airport Authority have worked to enhance commercial service and position Tweed as a small regional airport with service from several commercial carriers. These efforts took a major step forward in 2008 as Tweed initiated work on the early phases of the Airport Master Plan. This core infrastructure project includes new Runway Safety Area South (complete) and Runway Safety Area North (to begin in 2009) as well as improvements to Taxiway B (2009); and obstruction removal (ongoing).

Implementation of the Master Plan has long been challenged by the Town of East Haven, resulting in a landmark federal lawsuit, *Tweed New Haven Airport Authority v. Town of East Haven, et. al. 3:08-cv-597 (JCH)*, in which the Federal Court affirmed Tweed's right to construct the Federal Aviation Administration's required safety areas.

Given the high profile nature of the litigation and Tweed's efforts with the community, the Authority released "Time is Now", a cooperative way forward enabling Tweed to provide high quality commercial air service in a responsible manner. "Time is Now" proposes new commercial service to 3-4 hub cities and a series of neighborhood investments in sound attenuation, traffic calming and a ring park.

In addition, Tweed proposes release of a previously-authorized \$5.0 million state bond and \$1.5 million in state operating support which will reduce the burden of airport operations on New Haven taxpayers.

#### ***New Haven Port Authority***

The department continues to provide staff support to the New Haven Port Authority, which serves to enhance the economic competitiveness of the greater New Haven region and all of Connecticut through waterborne transportation.

In 2008, the Port Authority welcomed its first Executive Director, Judi Sheiffele who worked extensively with CDOT and the port terminals to re-establish the Waterfront Street Railroad to the pier at New Haven Terminal. Additional work is planned, which will allow for fully-integrated rail access to for all of the deepwater terminals.

In addition, the Port Authority gained aldermanic authorization for auto export activities (should the market improve) and again pitched the Transportation Strategy Board for pilot funding to initiate a feeder barge service between New Haven and the Port of New York and New Jersey.

## Department Work Program

In 2009, the department continues to work on the above-mentioned transportation initiatives and state-of-good repair sign, pavement marking and signal projects. In addition, the projects below are department priorities for the year:

### ***Citywide Priorities***

- Initiate conceptual plan and design for Route 34 East conversion.
- Prepare New Haven Transportation Plan.
- Implement the “Time is Now” program at Tweed New Haven Airport.
- Prepare strategic economic plan for the Port of New Haven.
- Move economic stimulus program to bid specification level.
- Reach second million “Streets Smarts” impressions.
- Reach second thousand “Smart Drivers”; incl. 3 CEOs.

### ***Planning Studies***

- Complete Union Station / Tweed Wayfinding Study.
- Complete Hill Complete Streets Study.
- Complete Downtown Bike / Ped Gap Analysis.
- Complete Streetcar Feasibility Phase II.
- Complete the State Street / Lot N & O Concept Plan.

### ***Bike New Haven***

- Complete Union Station Interconnect project.
- Install 30 new bike racks.
- Renovate Hall of Records garage for municipal Bike Station.
- Continue to develop interest in a bike sharing program.
- Complete “west side” access bike lane / sharrow program.

### ***Traffic Enhancements***

- Begin installation of 12 new traffic signals at YNHH / Medical School.
- Complete installation of three new signals at Grand Ave. / State St.
- Complete MBA signal.
- Complete Hooker School signal.
- Complete design for Transcore controller upgrades at 103 signals.
- Initiate Contract III, Phase II signal program (14 signals).
- Initiate Contract IV, Phase B signal program (21 signals).
- Initiate design of Gateway / two-way streets program (9 signals).
- Initiate Contract III, Phase III signal program (20 signals).
- Initiate construction of new signals with Yale Prospect Agreement.
- Finalize E2 Tie Down Plan.

### ***Safety Guard Program***

- Provide safety guard assistance at 10 locations.
- Provide safety guards with in-road signs.

***Transit***

- Prepare grant application to GNHTD for Downtown bus shelters.
- Gain CDOT approval of new Cross Town West bus service.
- Gain CDOT approval for new Downtown circulators.
- Gain CDOT approval for Union Station TOD program.
- Gain ZipCar approval for vehicles at Union Station.

***Parking & Meter Program Enhancements***

- Install new meters on State Street / George Street.
- Launch new parking pay station program on Prospect Street.
- Improve City Card payment rate to 15%.
- New or alter RPZ - Front, Daggett, Orange, Cottage & Howard.
- Implement NHPD Parking Plan.
- Implement N/O Lot Changes Following RFP.

***Complete Streets***

- Complete new Complete Streets design standard manual.
- Establish rolling schedule for “speed trailer” education.
- Complete design of Crescent / Munson intersection.
- Initiate full design of West Park Avenue / Elm Street.
- Install new crosswalk at Daniels School.
- Continue on-going state-of-good repair pavement marking program.
- Install 25 – 50 in-road pedestrian signs.
- Continue state-of-good repair sign program.

## Indicators

System Facts	2008
Parking Tickets Issued *	153,546
Number of City Owned Traffic Signals	300
Maintenance Inspections & Repairs	767
Number of State-Owned Traffic Signals	30
Est. Number of Traffic Control Signs	100,000
Maintenance and Repairs to Traffic Control Signs	2,435
Emergency No Parking Postings	1,786
Mark Up Projects	148
Total Number of Bike Racks	15
Miles of Bike Lanes	4
New in 2008	1
Total Number of Bus Shelters	104

\* includes NHPD and other ticket writers

Financial Indicators	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Department Revenues			
General Revenue	\$32,307	\$13,779	\$41,938
Meter Bag Revenue	\$686,659	\$912,477	\$849,609
Coins	\$1,481,035	\$2,148,640	\$2,358,613
Smart Cards	\$8,899	\$117,450	\$228,613
Vouchers	\$299,935	\$351,491	\$238,683
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,508,835</b>	<b>\$3,543,837</b>	<b>\$3,717,456</b>

