

# TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

## Drivers Licenses and Motor Vehicle Registrations

In 2021, there were 1,174,826 active New Hampshire driver's licenses. This was a 10.8 percent increase from 2020 but was in line with the annual number of active driver's licenses prior to the pandemic. For most demographic groups, there was a decrease in the number of licenses in 2020 but a return to pre-pandemic levels in 2021. There was a larger increase in the number of licenses for drivers aged 65 and over, with an increase of 65,481 licenses or 25.9 percent. Since 2017, the number of licensed drivers aged 65 or older has risen 41.8 percent.

Licensing for drivers aged 19 and younger has slowly declined, with an 18.5 percent decrease since 2017. From 2019 to 2020, there was an 8.8 percent decrease in the number of licenses, followed by a 6.3 percent increase in 2021. Since the pandemic limited the availability of both driver's education courses and appointments for licensing at the Division of Motor Vehicles, this pattern is to be expected.

From 2017 to 2021, the number of automobiles registered in the state decreased by 47,240. However, the total number of motor vehicle registrations increased by 98,832, or 7.5 percent. Most of this increase was attributed to registrations of trucks and motorcycles, which rose by 19.2 percent and 7.9 percent, respectively, during this period. Bus registrations declined 15.6 percent over the last five years, with a decrease in registrations of public school buses and state, county, and municipal bus registrations accounting for most of that decline.

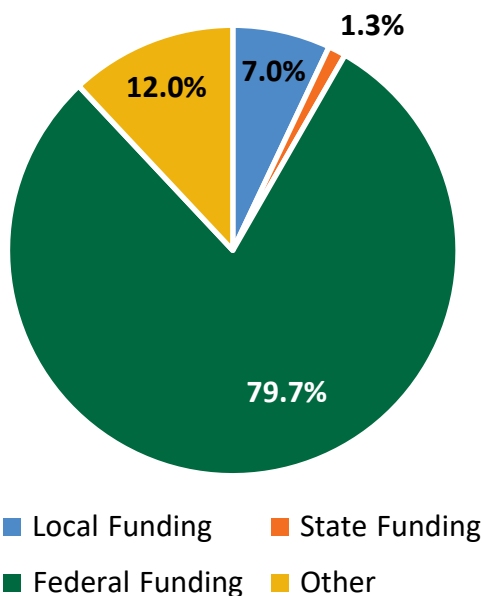
## Public Transportation

In New Hampshire, there are five agencies supporting transportation in urbanized areas, with additional access to more rural and suburban areas in their regions, and five agencies that specifically target rural communities. There are several community agencies that also offer transportation as part of their support services, and receive grant funding for transportation services.<sup>1</sup> Most of these transportation agencies are operated by private, non-profit transportation agencies.

In 2021, New Hampshire ranked 48th among the 50 states for total public transportation funding, which included state, local, and federal funding. State funding for public transportation made up 1.3 percent of total funding for public transportation in New Hampshire.<sup>2</sup> The state Constitution prohibits use of gas tax revenue for non-highway expenses and there is no dedicated funding stream for public transportation, therefore most public transportation agencies are funded through federal grants, fare revenue, and other partnerships.

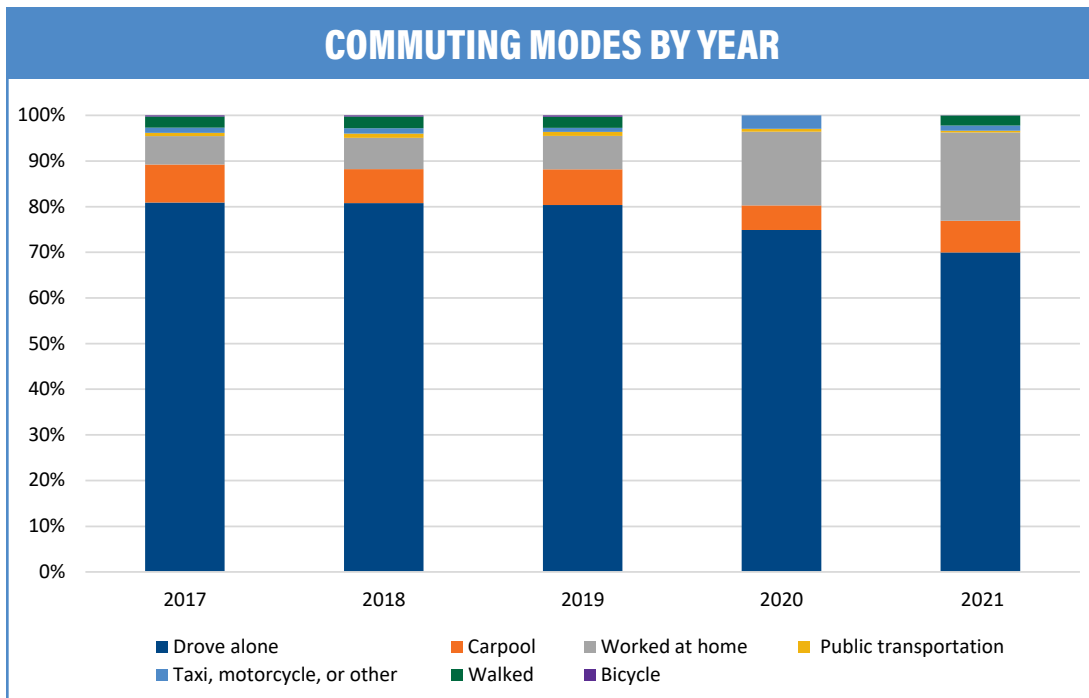
New Hampshire's Department of Transportation also began preliminary research and design to explore the expansion of the Massachusetts Bay

### FUNDING FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BY SOURCE



Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration

<sup>1</sup> New Hampshire Department of Transportation. 2021. 2021 Public Transportation in NH. [https://www.nh.gov/dot/org/aerorailtransit/railandtransit/documents/2021\\_public\\_transport\\_nh.pdf](https://www.nh.gov/dot/org/aerorailtransit/railandtransit/documents/2021_public_transport_nh.pdf)  
<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, National Transit Database. 2021. 2021 Funding Sources.



Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Transit Authority Commuter Rail into Manchester. The project would extend the railway an additional 30 miles to connect Manchester to Lowell and aim to include four passenger stations, a layover facility, upgraded rail bridges, and rail service frequency comparable to the existing Lowell line.<sup>3</sup>

### Commuting Modes

In 2021, the most popular method of commuting for New Hampshire residents continued to be driving alone, at 69.9 percent of commuters. The proportion of commuters driving alone has steadily declined since 2017, when 80.9 percent drove alone. The second most common method of commuting has switched from carpooling to working from home, since opportunities for remote work have expanded. Since 2017, carpooling has dropped from 8.3 percent of commuters to 6.9 percent and working from home has risen from 6.2 percent to 19.3 percent of commuters. The percentage of commuters taking public transportation and biking to work decreased over the last five years as well,

whereas the share of commuters walking or taking a taxi, motorcycle, or other mode of transportation has stayed about the same.<sup>4</sup>

### Airport Traffic and Development

In 2021, passenger traffic at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport (MHT) began to recover from the sharp decline in 2020, increasing by 55.1 percent. Reducing pandemic-related travel restrictions, as well as the numerous investments aimed at improving passenger experience, encouraged passengers to resume their travels in 2021. Through a branding partnership with Fidelity Investments, MHT opened a business center in September 2021, which offers numerous private and small group workstations.<sup>5</sup> Additionally, the airport announced selection of LAZ Parking to manage parking and ground transportation services, beginning in mid-2022. Services will include valet parking, shuttle services, a parking guidance system, an improved FASTPASS and rewards program, among other services, to make parking more convenient.<sup>6</sup>

3 New Hampshire Department of Transportation. 2021. The Nashua-Manchester Passenger Rail (Capital Corridor) Project. <https://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/nashuamanchester40818/documents/40818-fct-08062021.pdf>

4 US Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics. 2022. State Transportation Statistics: Commute Mode.

5 Manchester-Boston Regional Airport. 2022. Fidelity Investments and Manchester-Boston Regional Airport Announce Partnership for Airport Business Center. <https://www.flymanchester.com/news/fidelity-investments-and-manchester-boston-regional-airport-announce-partnership-for-airport-business-center/>

6 Manchester-Boston Regional Airport. 2022. LAZ Selected by Manchester-Boston Regional Airport to Provide Parking & Ground Transportation Services. <https://www.flymanchester.com/news/laz-selected-by-manchester-boston-regional-airport-to-provide-parking-ground-transportation-services/>

There was also an increase in the availability of flights for passengers. The introduction of Spirit Airlines and the resumption of service from United Airlines increased access to nonstop flights to popular destinations, including connections for international flights. Additionally, Spirit introduced MHT’s first nonstop flight to South Carolina, with daily flights to Myrtle Beach. Several airlines announced their plans to upgrade to larger aircrafts and add additional routes to high-demand destinations in 2022.

There was a small decrease in the amount of cargo passing through MHT in 2021, down 2.3 percent from 2020. However, this was still higher than previous years’ cargo shipments at 103,445 tons. To accommodate for the growth in their cargo services, MHT has been involved with the development of several cargo facilities nearby. The airport partnered with Realterm to establish a 65,000 square-foot multi-tenant cargo warehouse, nearly doubling their cargo storage capacity, and partnered with Amazon Air to launch a daily cargo service in 2022.<sup>7</sup>

## Electric Vehicles

New Hampshire has seen an increase in elective vehicles (EVs) on the roads. The number of EVs registered in New Hampshire increased from 2,690 in 2020 to 4,000 in 2021.<sup>8</sup> This was 0.87 percent of all vehicles registered in the state that year.

In 2021, New Hampshire increased access to EV charging ports throughout the state. There were 164 public ports with a total of 351 charging outlets,<sup>9</sup> a 20.6 percent increase in the number of public charging outlets from the year before. Despite this improvement, the state still has significantly fewer public charging ports compared to neighboring states like Vermont and Maine, even though there are a higher number of EVs registered in New Hampshire.

Many New Hampshire school districts became interested in electric school buses as opportunities for funding became available. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law authorized the Environmental Protection Agency to offer rebates to school districts to replace older buses with clean and zero-emission school buses, including the costs of installing charging infrastructure.<sup>10</sup> Over twenty New Hampshire school districts applied for this program, and two were chosen from their lottery system to receive rebates for four and three electric school buses, respectively.<sup>11</sup>

The program aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, as well as attempt to balance loads on electric grids using vehicle-to-grid (V2G) technology as it continues to develop.<sup>12</sup> There are several pilot programs being run by school bus manufacturers, energy providers, as well as some states exploring V2G implementation. However, it will likely be several years before V2G technology is viable for widespread use, due to high start-up costs and limited data available on its efficiency,<sup>13</sup> but V2G remains a promising new technology as EVs continue to develop.

– Casey Carter

### STATION AND OUTLET COUNTS BY STATE

STATE	STATIONS	CHARGING OUTLETS
Connecticut	533	1,430
Maine	295	629
Massachusetts	2,175	4,871
<b>New Hampshire</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>351</b>
Rhode Island	255	628
Vermont	328	871

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Alternative Fuels Data Center

7 Manchester-Boston Regional Airport. 2022. Amazon Begins Daily Cargo Service at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport. <https://www.flymanchester.com/news/amazon-begins-daily-cargo-service-at-manchester-boston-regional-airport/>

8 United States Department of Energy, Alternative Fuels Data Center. 2022. Electric Vehicle Registrations by State. <https://afdc.energy.gov/data/10962>

9 United States Department of Energy, Alternative Fuels Data Center. 2023. Alternative Fueling Station Counts by State. <https://afdc.energy.gov/stations/states>

10 This was not exclusive to electric school buses; the program also included alternative fuel vehicles like Propane buses and Compressed Natural Gas buses.

11 United States Environmental Protection Agency. 2023. School Bus Rebates: Clean School Bus Program. <https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/school-bus-rebates-clean-school-bus-program>

12 V2G technologies use bidirectional batteries, where energy goes in and out, that can store surplus energy and return it to the grid during peak usage times.

13 Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation. 2018. Electric School Bus Pilot Project Evaluation. [https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/04/30/Mass%20DOER%20EV%20school%20bus%20pilot%20final%20report\\_.pdf](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/04/30/Mass%20DOER%20EV%20school%20bus%20pilot%20final%20report_.pdf)

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC - ANNUAL TOTALS	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Average Annual Daily Traffic					
I-93 at Mass. State Line (Salem)	107,320	109,466	110,780	93,498	109,291
Annual percent change	0.6%	2.0%	1.2%	-15.6%	16.9%
I-95 at Mass. State Line (Seabrook)	97,907	98,783	100,908	80,619	95,378
Annual percent change	1.9%	0.9%	2.2%	-20.1%	18.3%

Source: New Hampshire Department of Transportation, ELMi analysis. Last Update 10/26/2022

LICENSES ISSUED & REGISTRATIONS	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Motor-Vehicle Registrations					
All Motor Vehicles	1,319,117	1,346,318	1,363,379	1,357,535	1,417,949
Automobiles	505,381	506,959	489,224	460,825	458,141
Buses	2,871	3,045	3,096	3,080	2,423
Trucks	732,067	757,353	791,892	814,942	872,359
Motorcycles	78,798	78,962	79,167	78,688	85,026
Licensed Drivers					
Male	553,759	587,031	604,347	528,941	594,386
Female	549,865	574,634	590,864	531,440	580,440
Age 19 and under	45,748	38,413	38,485	35,093	37,292
Age 65 and over	224,681	272,831	292,748	253,097	318,578

Source: Federal Highway Administration, Policy and Governmental Affairs, Office of Highway Policy Information. Last Update 2/28/2023

AIRCRAFT TRAVEL	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Manchester-Boston Regional Airport					
Total Passengers, Domestic and International Carriers	1,925,950	1,803,778	1,698,109	618,517	959,490
Annual Percent Change	-2.2%	-6.3%	-5.9%	-63.6%	55.1%
Enplanements	962,621	902,788	847,899	306,907	479,526
Annual Percent Change	-2.2%	-6.2%	-6.1%	-63.8%	56.2%
Deplanements	963,329	900,990	850,210	313,610	479,964
Annual Percent Change	-2.2%	-6.5%	-5.6%	-63.1%	53.0%
Air Cargo, Domestic and International Carriers (Tons) <sup>a</sup>	85,504	92,903	96,890	105,897	103,445
Annual Percent Change	-0.7%	8.7%	4.3%	9.3%	-2.3%

<sup>a</sup> Does not include air mail

Source: Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, ELMi analysis. Last Update 10/26/2022

PORTSMOUTH HARBOR FREIGHT TRAFFIC	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total (thousands of short tons)	2,353	2,627	2,869	2,631	2,737
Annual percent change	-15.6%	11.6%	9.2%	-8.3%	4.0%
Domestic	365	386	689	444	205
Annual percent change	-23.2%	5.7%	78.5%	-35.6%	-53.8%
Foreign Imports	1,959	2,241	2,179	2,187	2,532
Annual percent change	-15.1%	14.4%	-2.8%	0.4%	15.8%
Foreign Exports	29	1	0	33	9
Annual percent change	344.1%	-96.6%	-100.0%	n/a	-72.7%
<i>Source: US Army Corp of Engineers - Navigational Data Center, ELMI analysis. Last Update 10/26/2022</i>					
Prepared by: New Hampshire Employment Security, Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau					
www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi   (603) 228-4124					