

1.21 Transportation

Transportation facilities in Watershed Management Area 3 are shown on Plate 1.21.1. As one of the less developed portions of the Passaic Watershed, WMA 3 has few major highways. Route 287/87 (the New York Thruway) is the only major interstate in the region. Routes 23, 202, 59 and 17 are other major roads in WMA 3. The Metro-North railroad line runs through WMA 3 and is used primarily by commuters to New York City. There are small private airports in Greenwood Lake and Lincoln Park.

Tables 1.21.1 and 1.21.2 show United States Census data from 1990 regarding type and length of commute in Watershed Management Area 3.

Table 1.21.1
Commuting Patterns – WMA 3

By number of persons

	Drive Alone	Carpool	Public Transit	Work at Home
New Jersey	100,917	11,655	4,441	2,886
New York	23,641	3,572	2,613	937
Total	124,558	15,227	7,054	3,823
% of Total	82.7%	10.1%	4.7%	2.5%

Table 1.21.2
Commute Length – WMA3

By number of persons

	Less than 15 minutes	15 - 29 min	30 - 44 min	Over 44 minutes
New Jersey	29,464	34,967	27,959	27,794
New York	8,385	7,977	5,290	9,232
Total	37,849	42,944	33,249	37,026
% of Total	25.1%	28.4%	22.0%	24.5%

As indicated above, more than 80% of the commuters drive alone in their automobile, and nearly half of the commuters have a commute of more than 30 minutes. Improvements in public transportation would reduce the number of cars commuting and reduce the associated environmental effects and congestion. However, improvements in public transportation may also make the area more attractive to additional people and result in additional pressures for development. Historic trends indicate that development tends to follow improved transportation, whether improved highways, rail service, or other public transportation. Improved public transportation to serve potentially growing areas is a controversial issue.