



**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Division of Highway Design**

MEETING MINUTES

Project No.: 151-331
 Project Name: Reconstruction of Interstate 84/CT Route 8 Interchange (the Project)
 Date of Meeting: July 25, 2022 10:30 AM – 11:41 AM
 Location of Meeting: Zoom Teleconference
 Subject of Meeting: New Mix Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting No. 4A

Attendees:

PAC Members	
Name	Organization
Arthur Denze Sr.	Waterbury Neighborhood Council
Betty Bajek	Greater Waterbury Transit District
Clifford Brammer III	City of Waterbury Planning Department
Dana Elm	Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC)
David Simpson	City of Waterbury Department of Public Works
Joseph McGrath	Waterbury Economic Development
Joseph Violette	Waterbury Regional Chamber
Julia Rogers	Housatonic Valley Association
Ken Stanco	Office of the Mayor
Kevin Taylor	Waterbury Bridge to Success
Maria Vaccarelli	CTtransit Waterbury
Mark Nielsen	Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG)
Martin Begnal	Friends of Riverside Cemetery
Martin Spring	Waterville Community Club
Ralph Carpinella	All Saints/Todos los Santos Parish
Richard Donovan	NVCOG
Robert Nerney	City of Waterbury Planning Department
Sergeant Nadine Amatruda	Waterbury Police Department
Stephanie Valickis	Saint Mary’s Hospital
Tomas Olivo Valentin	Working Cities Challenge
Tommy Hyde	Waterbury Development Corporation

Project Team	
Name	Organization
Nilesh Patel	Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT)
Michael Calabrese	CTDOT
Jonathan Dean	CTDOT
Joe Belrose	CTDOT
Kevin Fleming	CTDOT
Kevin Carifa	CTDOT
Carlo Leone	CTDOT
Consultant Team	
Jacob Argiro	HNTB
David Schweitzer	HNTB
Christopher Fagan	HNTB
Naomi Hodges	HNTB
Anna Mariotti	HNTB

Distribution: All Attendees

1. Meeting Purpose

The New Mix Project Team (Project Team) provided an opportunity for PAC members to ask the Project Team questions regarding the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study's (the Study) Universe of Alternatives and introduced the preliminary results of the Study's Level 1 screening. The Project Team requested for PAC members to provide input with regard to the preliminary results by August 29th.

2. New Mix PEL Study Project Advisory Committee Meeting Presentation

A. Project Advisory Committee Meeting No. 4A Summary

- a. A review of the PEL Study PAC Milestone 3 was provided.
- b. Presentation of the Level 1 Screening Preliminary Results to the PAC.
 - i. Of the 23 Total Conceptual Alternatives studied, thirteen (13) conceptual alternatives are proposed to be dismissed at Level 1 as they either failed to address the transportation need or are fatally flawed. Nine (9) conceptual alternatives are proposed to pass the Level 1 Screening as they appear to address the transportation need and are not fatally flawed. One (1) (No-Build Alternative) failed to meet the Level 1 criteria but must be retained for future evaluations.
 - ii. Conceptual Alternatives that pass the Level 1 screening are called Initial Alternatives to be further evaluated in Level 2 screening.
- c. General questions and discussion.

B. Questions and Comments on the Presentation and New Mix

The following questions and comments were received during the PAC Meeting No. 4A presentation.

- Mark Nielsen from NVCOG stated that he appreciated the information and details of assessing the pass/fail alternatives. To Mr. Nielsen, it sounded as if the complete reconstruction of the Mixmaster was proposed to be dismissed from future consideration. Naomi Hodges of HNTB clarified that while the I-84 Reconstruction In-Place alternative is proposed to be dismissed, there are advancing alternatives that propose to reconstruct the entire interchange. The advancing alternatives explore different alignments of I-84 where it would not be built on the same alignment as existing. Mr. Nielsen went on to ask what the I-84 Reconstruction In-Place would consist of. Ms. Hodges replied that it would propose to unstack the structures on the existing alignment; however, it was dismissed due to infeasibility as it could not be constructed without major traffic interruptions. Mr. Nielsen stated that he was of the opinion that the reconstruction of the interchange would entail the unstacking of the structures, despite potentially being an expensive approach. David Schweitzer of HNTB stated that many of the advancing alternatives propose a new alignment of I-

84 south of the existing interchange. By building new structures on a new alignment, the existing mainlines could remain open to the traveling public during construction, thereby creating a feasible construction approach. Ms. Hodges added that at the Level 1 analysis of cost, solely examined the feasibility of funds to be made available. As the study progresses, additional details as they pertain to cost will be available. The Level 3 screening being the most detailed level of analysis during the PEL Study.

- Dana Elm of Naugatuck Valley Community College asked if it was possible that no alternatives would pass the Level 3 analysis. Ms. Hodges stated that the Project Team does not anticipate that being the case. A Range of Reasonable Alternatives is proposed to be identified at the completion of the PEL Study. The number of alternatives which will pass Level 3 screening is unknown at this point in time.
- Martin Spring from the Waterville Community Club expressed concerns about the speeding of vehicles and tractor trailers through areas of congestion and construction work zones along I-84 and Route 8. Mr. Spring also expressed difficulty exiting from and merging onto the highway as drivers oftentimes cutoff other drivers. He is concerned for CTDOT workers who are located on the interchange. Ms. Hodges replied that work zone safety is a consideration in subsequent levels of the PEL Study screening as part of the Feasibility/ Constructability analysis. Options to minimize construction impacts and identifying mitigation opportunities such as increased signage will be identified and evaluated as the PEL Study progresses. CTDOT is always looking at ways to improve work zone and general safety. Mr. Spring expressed appreciation for what CTDOT is doing to enhance safety. Mr. Schweitzer added that safety is an important factor for reducing as many left-hand entrances and exits as possible.
- Nilesh Patel from CTDOT stated that the Project Team will be attending certain community events through the Fall to perform additional outreach on the New Mix. Mr. Patel asked for PAC member recommendations of any additional upcoming events that may be beneficial for the Project Team to attend and to contact the Project Team with suggestions.

The Project Team thanked PAC members for their attendance and contributions throughout the meeting. Any comments or questions on the New Mix may be sent to Ms. Hodges at nhodges@hntb.com.

Meeting adjourned at 11:41 am.