

# Improving the Mixmaster



## Community Q&A

As part of the New Mix project, the Connecticut Department of Transportation asked people about their experiences with the Mixmaster, the I-84/Route 8 interchange, thoughts on its community impact, and ideas for its future. Here is what we heard from the Waterbury community. What do you think?

Share your thoughts with us at [newmixwaterbury.com](http://newmixwaterbury.com)

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### WE ASKED

Do you feel there is a need for I-84/Route 8 transportation improvements? If so, what are the problems?

### YOU ANSWERED

Yes. Needs more lanes, breakdown lanes, and to eliminate left-hand exits.

Yes, provide three lanes to Straits Tpke. and beyond, utilizing the existing double decker highway design.

Yes. Traffic flow, bad road surfaces, reckless drivers.

Yes, there are various changes that need to be made to accommodate the amount of traffic that is being seen in the Mixmaster.

Yes. The Mixmaster should be unstacked and the number of continuous through lanes should be increased to three in each direction.

The constant upkeep.

I-84 should be a three lane minimum from Danbury to Waterbury.

Yes, improvements are needed. Both as a Waterbury resident and the Director of Public Works, traffic does not flow smoothly through the entire area.

Hopefully the biggest problem is that the traffic going through the city has no way to go through it without merging and dealing with cross traffic from left and right exits and entrances. A through lane might be warranted.

Yes-overcrowding.

No, but it's been over a year since the Route 8 northbound exit to 84 has been open, it should have been opened already.

No left exits!

Traffic jams, difficulty with some exits, but traffic volume is most important.

Traffic jams.

Continued

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## Community Q&A



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Do you feel there is a need for I-84/Route 8 transportation improvements? If so, what are the problems?

Yes. Please improve on-ramps to I-84 from both Route 8 N and S so that people are not crossing over three lanes to exit immediately, particularly at exit 18 (I-84 W) & exit 22 (I-84E). Also, fix the entrance at exit 17 to I-84 W, turning from W. Main St.!

Less lane merges (more lanes throughout), less curved and wider on/off ramps, clear signage, and sufficient breakdown lanes.

It seems to be satisfactory now. Why are we presently going through all the maintenance now if the changes are coming?

Yes. Ramp density is too high, left entrances/exits are dangerous, and there's sharp curvature on some ramps. Also, the highway is a barrier in the community.

Aging Mixmaster needs removal, emergency lane access, and traffic control.

The problems are the steep grade going in both directions, but especially the eastbound, downhill with two sharp right then left curves. Also, on/off ramps where traffic is entering and exiting the highway in the same spot causing collisions and delays.

No. Just finish the current project.

Yes, the need to cross multiple lanes of traffic from an on-ramp to an off-ramp. Happens even with signs to the contrary, and general congestion.

Yes, too much congestion.

Yes, the drains need to be fixed on the upper deck so you don't get large amounts on cars driving on the lower deck.

It is difficult getting onto Rt. 8 in same areas via I-84.

Traffic congestion. Too many on and off ramps.

Yes. Roadways too narrow, poor condition, too many entrance and exit ramps, excessive speeding and lane changes.

Too many cars and too many close exits and entrances in a very close span.

Yes!! Old, failing cement and steel.

Yes, very narrow lanes. The entrances and exits very dangerous.

Yes. The exit to Danbury westbound is set up in such a way that I always feel like I am going to have an accident.

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Community Q&A



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## WE ASKED

Do you know of any historical sites, family cemeteries, or archaeological sites in the PEL Study Area?

## YOU ANSWERED

The downtown area of Waterbury has a number of historical buildings.

Yes, Chase Park, Riverside Cemetery and more.

Riverside Cemetery along Riverside St.

Riverside Cemetery, Chase Park.

Catacombs at Lourdes.

Riverside Cemetery, Riverside St.

Yes, over by Highland Ave.

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## WE ASKED

Do you know of any environmental constraints, such as endangered species, hazardous waste sites, existing or former landfills, or parks and public lands in the PEL Study Area?

## YOU ANSWERED

None that I'm aware of. It would help if we knew the boundaries of the PEL area.

Don't know of any, but I would not be surprised to find one from old factories and facilities.

Well, down the street there is a site that has hazardous materials next to Route 8 that has been all wrapped up for years, nothing has happened to it, it's just been sitting there.

Chase Park, Riverside Cemetery.

River culvert below downtown.

The area in question is very congested with factories, retail, parks and housing and the Naugatuck River running along and under 1-84 and Route 8.

### 4

#### WE ASKED

**Do you have a suggestion for an improvement to the I-84/Route 8 Interchange that would better serve the needs of the community?**

#### YOU ANSWERED

Eliminate crossing the highway to exit.

Rebuild in place and keep the double-decker highway.

The bridge should be opened, or have lights installed because people get nervous when they drive into the Mixmaster when it's dark. Adjustments need to be made on the eastbound ramp from Route 8 south to prevent crossing three lanes of traffic to exits 20 or 21.

Exit and entrances should have deceleration and acceleration lanes that are dedicated. Dropped lanes should be eliminated.

An express bypass for through traffic that does not have to enter and exit the highway.

Yes, open the Route 8 exit to 84 toward Hartford instead of wasting my time and gas to go up then back every day to get to 84.

Easier on-ramps that are clearly marked.

Create entrance overpasses to the exits and entrances mentioned in question #1.

Transit and multi-modal users should be able to utilize this as well.

Accommodations for local trips through the Mixmaster that currently conflict with through traffic.

Exits further apart with longer access lanes.

The grade needs to be more gradual, and it needs to be straightened at the bottom of the Mixmaster in front of the hospital.

Remove all left exits and entries onto either highway.

Rebuild it. They did it to the Tappan Zee Bridge.

Make getting on Route 8 from I-84 more streamlined, there are too many lanes to cross!

Build an interchange that goes around the city or build a tunnel.

Widen and straighten, eliminate many entrance and exit ramps, enforce speeding laws.

Wider roadways, longer entrance ramps, lower speeds, side-by-side lanes.

# Improving the Mixmaster

Community Q&A



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## WE ASKED

**Do you feel that improvements to the I-84/Route 8 Interchange will have any impacts (beneficial or adverse) on your property and/or community (e.g., economic, environmental, social, etc.)?**

## YOU ANSWERED

No. Nothing that has been done up to this point has improved the outlook for Waterbury so why should improvements to the highways do it?

Adverse—laying the highway down, side by side will take too many taxable properties off the tax rolls and further destroy viable neighborhoods.

Hopefully, by upgrading the interchange, it will allow for better traffic flow and in turn positively improve traffic flow for commuters, events, businesses, etc.

I believe any improvements on I84 will make my property and town a more desirable place to live.

My personal property will not be affected. The city of Waterbury would see substantial benefits, particularly in the economic area as the city is making major strides to clean up brownfields and promote development of the sites.

I believe the most logical thing would be to create a bypass around the city.

The bridge should have been redone. I see a lot of rebar and concrete falling off everywhere; patching it in is not going to help out with the structure of the bridge. Walsh had been taking way to long on this project.

Beneficial for environment and economic growth. The antiquated interchange is not helpful for business.

I live in the Country Club area. Very concerned modifications to the Mixmaster will degrade the quality of life at the Country Club Road and Orono Road intersection. Fixing the Brooklyn area in exchange for damaging Town Plot, Country Club is not good.

Hopefully social and emotional. I will only drive at certain times of the day because I'm too nervous.

No. Except cost.

Improved travel time through city.

The benefits are free-flowing traffic without awkward grade changes, tight corners, and incoming and outgoing traffic on the on and off ramps.

Continued

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## Community Q&A



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Do you feel that improvements to the I-84/Route 8 Interchange will have any impacts (beneficial or adverse) on your property and/or community (e.g., economic, environmental, social, etc.)?

Yes, improvements to traffic flow and safety will benefit the community. Less congestion and fewer accidents will prevent delays.

It makes this central CT region more desirable for commuting, reduces traffic accident and construction-related slowdowns during commuter times, and makes it easier to get in and out of Waterbury itself.

Yes. It will alter Waterbury. Hopefully for the better.

Yes, it will impact my businesses which are located around the I84/Route 8 Interchange, but without details of the improvements cannot say if it will be beneficial or adverse.

Living in Town Plot, I feel cut off from other parts of the city unless I use the Mixmaster, which makes me feel like I am risking my life. Use of city roads is circuitous, the roads are in poor condition, drivers speed on city streets, it makes driving unsafe.

Will help improve the flow of traffic through Waterbury and will help economic development in the city because of the easy access to the I-84 and Route 8.

Yes, it would be an improvement if travelers could go around when possible to avoid traffic and tie-ups.

It depends if the changes are done solely for business or involve the community. People in leadership seem to have no care or thought about the people using the service provided.