



**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: December 8, 2022, 9:05 AM – 10:38 AM  
 Location of Meeting: Waterville Firehouse, 1551 Thomaston Avenue  
 Subject of Meeting: New Mix Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting No. 4C

**Attendees:**

<b>PAC Members</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Arthur Denze Sr.	Waterbury Neighborhood Council
Clifford Brammer III	City of Waterbury Planning Department
Elaine Denze	Waterbury Neighborhood Council
John Blair	Motor Transport Associations of Connecticut
Ken Stanco	Office of the Mayor
Kevin Taylor	Waterbury Bridge to Success
Martin Begnal	Friends of Riverside Cemetery
Martin Spring	Waterville Community Club
Matt Conrad	Housatonic Valley Association
Pat Capobianco	North East Transportation Co.
Peter Vaccarelli	North East Transportation Co.
Robert Nerney	City of Waterbury Planning Department
Ronald Jackson	Waterbury Police Department
Stephanie Valickis	Saint Mary's Hospital

<b>Project Team</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Michael Calabrese	Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT)
Nilesh Patel	CTDOT
Jonathan Dean	CTDOT
Joe Belrose	CTDOT
Kevin Carifa	CTDOT
Kevin Fleming	CTDOT
<b>Consultant Team</b>	
Jacob Argiro	HNTB
David Schweitzer	HNTB
Chris Fagan	HNTB
Naomi Hodges	HNTB
Anna Mariotti	HNTB
Cole Ernst	HNTB

**Distribution:** All Attendees

## 1. Meeting Purpose

The New Mix Project Team (Project Team) provided an opportunity for PAC members to give input on the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study's (the Study) evaluation criteria for the remaining screening levels. The Project Team highlighted feedback received from members of the PAC (City of Waterbury and Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments) and the Study's updates resulting from the feedback. Survey results were presented to the PAC members and a workshop was conducted. The Project Team requested for PAC members to provide input with regard to anything discussed at the meeting by emailing the Project Team or submitting questions through the website.

## 2. New Mix PEL Study Project Advisory Committee Meeting Presentation

### A. Project Advisory Committee Meeting No. 4C Summary

- a. Presented PEL Study progress including the documentation of PAC member feedback, the revised PEL Vision Statement, and previewed the refinement of the evaluation criteria.
- b. Presented Survey Results of the Transportation Improvements and Project-Related Benefits Survey. The results are provided in **PAC Meeting 4C Survey Results**.
- c. Conducted the Workshop Activities
  - i. Identify Community Vision: PAC Members identified challenges and opportunities of their community vision as it pertains to the Project (**Figure 1**). Members of the PAC wrote and placed sticky-notes which identified either a Challenge or Opportunity for Community / Environmental or Transportation considerations and improvements for the Project. A discussion of the activity followed.
  - ii. Pinpoint Key Elements: PAC Members selected their top three (3) most important challenges/opportunities and prioritized between highest to lowest (**Figure 2**). PAC members referred to the previous activity to identify each of their top three most important challenges or opportunities to aid the Project Team in setting Project priorities for the subsequent PEL Study screening levels. A discussion followed.
  - iii. General questions and discussion were held to complete the Workshop Activities.

### B. Questions and Comments on the Presentation and New Mix

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

- Matt Conrad of the Housatonic Valley Association asked about mitigation opportunities for

the stormwater drainage from the bridge to the Naugatuck River. Mr. Conrad also highlighted the importance of access to the Naugatuck River riverfront.

- Martin Begnal of Friends of Riverside Cemetery inquired on the alignment of the future Naugatuck River Greenway. Jonathan Dean of the CTDOT stated that the Greenway is in the planning stages where both east and west alignments along the Naugatuck River are being reviewed.
- Elaine Denze of the Waterbury Neighborhood Council asked about the level of consideration the Study is giving to the Freight Street area which is currently being remediated and is the focus of the City's revitalization efforts. Chris Fagan of HNTB replied that while the Project Team must identify all feasible alternatives, the screening process will evaluate alternatives in part on their impacts to the City of Waterbury's economic development plans like the Freight Street district.
- Ken Stanco of the Office of the Mayor asked if any renderings would be generated depicting the alternatives and area surrounding the future Freight Street district. Chris Fagan replied that visualizations will be developed for public viewing next year before the end of the PEL Study.
- Ms. Denze stated that the exit and entrance ramps need to be revamped as they are dangerous due to the short weaving distances. Ms. Denze also expressed concern about properties being taken off the tax roll and inquired on the plan to take or preserve some of the properties. Naomi Hodges from HNTB replied that the Project Team has identified evaluation criteria and measures such that alternatives are evaluated based on their ability to minimize property impacts and takes. Jonathan Dean from CTDOT added that as the design progresses, the Project Team may be able to identify more opportunities to revise designs to reduce property impacts.
- Arthur Denze of Waterbury Neighborhood Council expressed concern regarding the New Mix goal to move exits and entrance ramps away from the city center. Mr. Denze stated that removing the ramps could reduce congestion downtown, however, increased spacing would move access further from the city. Jake Argiro from HNTB replied that the Project Team has discussed with the City to find alternatives that balance transportation and bringing people to the businesses downtown.
- PAC Member Robert Nerney of the City of Waterbury Planning Department stated that he is hopeful that the New Mix can create a legacy project for the city and the area. Mr. Nerney also suggested that a beautiful bridge can leave a favorable impression of Waterbury for people entering and leaving the City, as aesthetics matter to the community.

The Project Team thanked PAC members for their attendance and contributions throughout the meeting. The Project Team asked if in-person meetings are preferred. About half of the PAC Members in attendance say in-person is preferred. Any comments or questions on the New Mix may be sent to Naomi Hodges at [nhodges@hntb.com](mailto:nhodges@hntb.com) or through the project website at [newmixwaterbury.com](http://newmixwaterbury.com).

Meeting adjourned at 10:48 am.

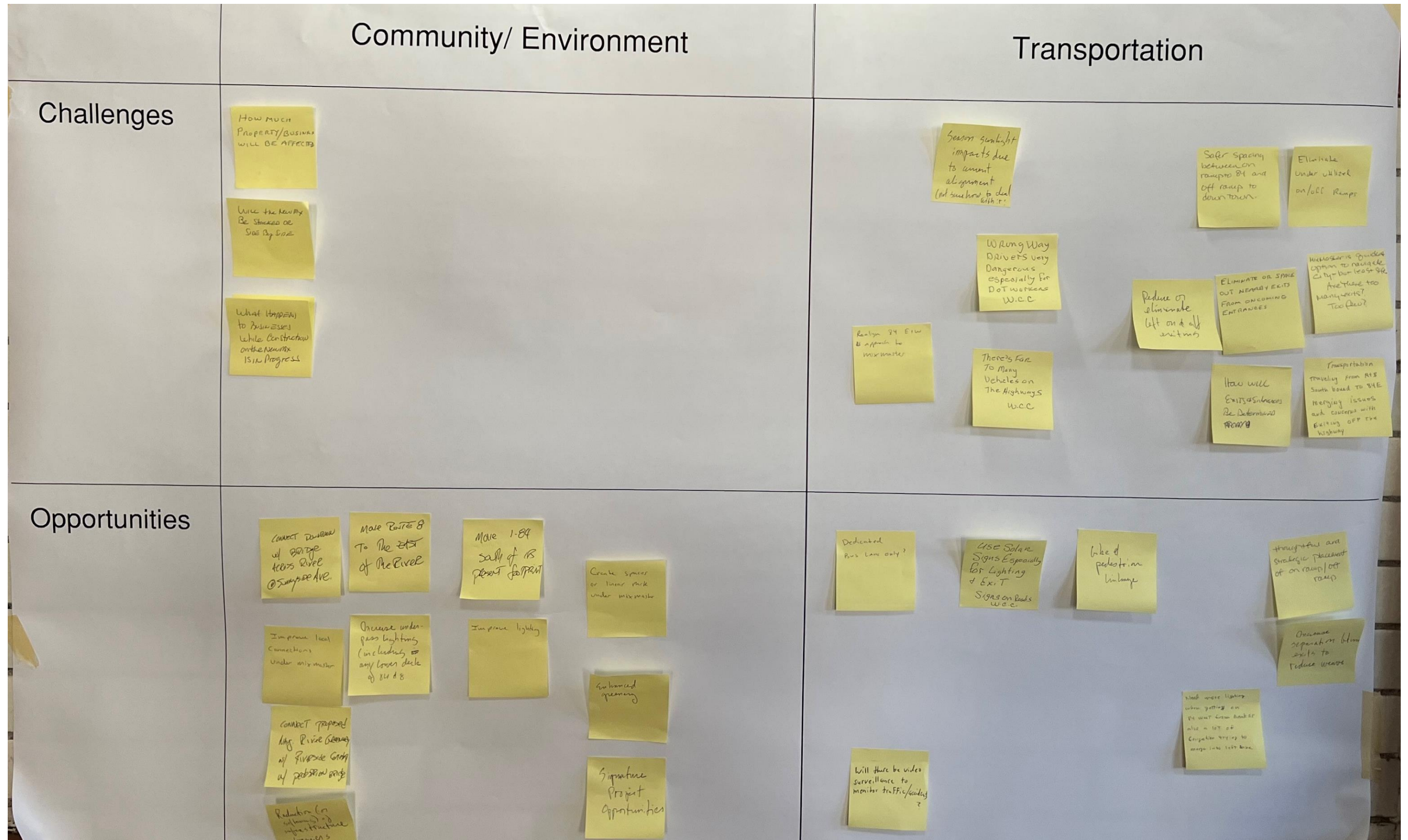


Figure 1 Results of PAC Workshop Activity: Identify Community Vision

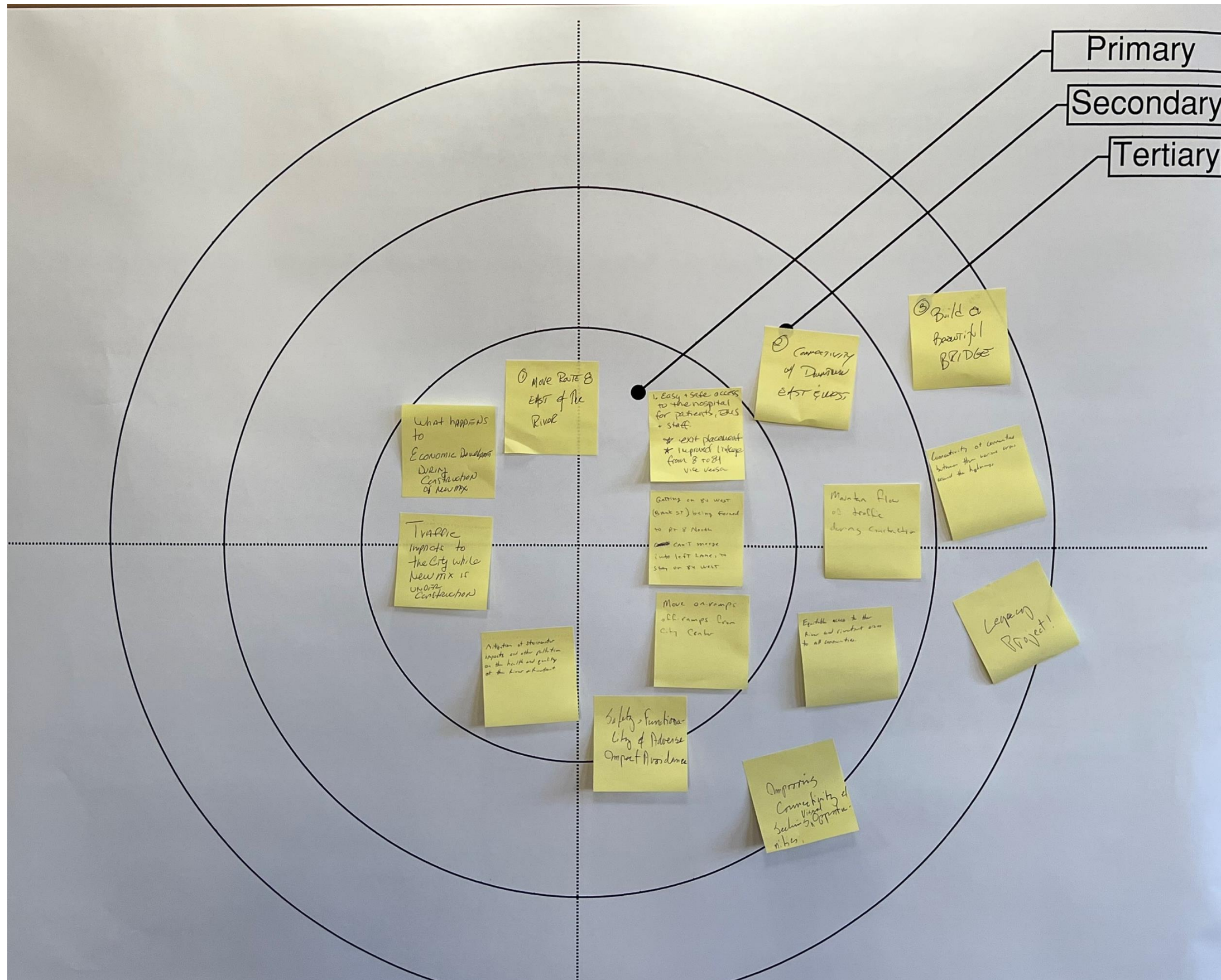


Figure 2 Results of PAC Workshop Activity: Pinpoint Key Elements

### 3. PAC Meeting 4C Survey Results

Members of the PAC were asked, “What transportation improvement is most important to you and why?” This was a ranked choice question where improvements were rated from one (1) as most important and four (4) as least important. Safety Improvements was ranked most important with an average weighted score of 3.33.

Transportation Improvement	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Avg. Score
<b>Safety Improvements</b>	66.67% 8	8.33% 1	16.67% 2	8.33% 1	3.33
<b>Recurring Congestion Reduction</b>	33.33% 4	25% 3	41.67% 5	0% 0	2.92
<b>Infrastructure Improvements</b>	0% 0	41.67% 5	41.67% 5	16.67% 2	2.25
<b>Non-recurring Congestion Management</b>	0% 0	25% 3	0% 0	75% 9	1.5

The following optional explanations were provided for Transportation Improvements:

Mark Nielsen of Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments stated, “Safety needs to be the top priority; reduce fatalities and serious injury crashes. Eliminating left-hand ramps will improve safety and reduce conflicts between vehicle and allow traffic flow better. Structure needs to be maintained in good repair.”

Betty Bajek of Greater Waterbury Transit District stated, “It is unsafe to have drivers entering I-84 from a left-hand entrance onto the 'fast' lane and needing to quickly cross 3 lanes of traffic to the first exit.”

Nadine Amatruda Waterbury Police Department stated, “Safety of our motorists is first priority. Alleviation of the congestion that occurs at certain times of the day would be beneficial to motorists. Infrastructure Enhancement and replacements are important to safety and congestion issues.”

Dana Elm of Naugatuck Valley Community College stated, “Naugatuck Valley Community College is located very close to exit 18. Those merging from Rt. 8 northbound onto I-84, who wish to exit at 18, must cross over several lanes, which is an extremely hazardous maneuver.”

Brian P Peterson P.E. of Holy Trinity Church stated, “Our parishioners could be getting on Rt 84 East or West bound to get off exit 17 or 18.”

Martin Spring of Waterville Community Club stated, “Far too many vehicles on the roads.”

Stephanie Valickis of Saint Mary's Hospital/Trinity Health of New England stated, “The ease and removal of barriers in getting to our facility is the most important improvement in the list provided.”

Members of the PAC were asked, “What Project-Related Benefit is most important to you and why?” This was a ranked choice question where benefits were rated from one (1) as most important and six (6) as least important. Bus Route or Rail Expansion was ranked most important with an average weighted score of 4.50.

<b>Project-Related Benefit</b>	<b>Round 1</b>	<b>Round 2</b>	<b>Round 3</b>	<b>Round 4</b>	<b>Round 5</b>	<b>Round 6</b>	<b>Avg. Score</b>
<b>Bus Route or Rail Expansion</b>	50% 6	8.33% 1	16.67% 2	0% 0	16.67% 2	8.33% 1	4.50
<b>Riverfront / Greenway Access</b>	25% 3	8.33% 1	8.33% 1	25% 3	25% 3	8.33% 1	3.58
<b>Connected Bicycle &amp; Pedestrian Facilities</b>	0% 0	41.67% 5	8.33% 1	25% 3	16.67% 2	8.33% 1	3.58
<b>Access to Downtown</b>	25% 3	16.67% 2	8.33% 1	8.33% 1	16.67% 2	25% 3	3.50
<b>Pollution Reduction / Mitigation</b>	0% 0	16.67% 2	33.33% 4	16.67% 2	16.67% 2	16.67% 2	3.17
<b>Public Park / Open Space Retainment or Creation</b>	0% 0	8.33% 1	25% 3	25% 3	8.33% 1	33.33% 4	2.67

The following optional explanations were provided for the Project-Related Benefits:

Mark Nielsen stated, “Transit options that meet the needs of travelers will help divert some from the highway, thereby reducing congestion. Bicycle/pedestrian enhancements will help reconnect communities and soften visual obstruction.”

Brian P Peterson stated, “We are a church and have parishioners and clergy that might use public transportation to the church.”

Stephanie Valickis stated, “All of the above would be welcome benefits to the downtown area. Bus route or rail expansion would provide much needed travel ability for residents, commuters and visitors.”

The final optional question of the survey asked PAC members to provide a benefit that they would like to see incorporated into the New Mix project that was not identified.

Mark Nielsen stated, “Provide new bike/pedestrian crossing of the Naugatuck River to avoid future conflicts between the New Mix interchange and non-motorized paths.”

Martin Begnal stated, “A pedestrian bridge across Naugatuck River connecting the Naugatuck River Greenway and proposed park with Riverside Cemetery.”

Dana Elm stated, “Bicycle and pedestrian pathways that make safe biking or walking to NVCC possible would be a benefit. This would be along Chase Parkway (crossing the bridge) from downtown and along West Main Street.”

Brian P Peterson stated, “Possible transportation provided to and from the bus station for visitors.”

Martin Spring stated, “Yes solar do not speed signs connected along the new mix master especially at the on and off ramps folks must learn to slow down. There's far too many accidents and fatality's on the highways and wrong way drivers safety should be our number issue especially for the work crews who risk their lives each and every day!”