

The New Mix:
Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting No. 1
November 19, 2021



HNTB



Agenda

- **Leadership Team Introductions**
- **Project Advisory Committee Overview**
- **New Mix Program Overview**
- **Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study Overview**
- **New Mix Program Goals & Objectives**
- **Next Steps**



The *New Mix* Leadership Team



Connecticut Department of Transportation

- Nilesh Patel, PE, Principal Engineer
- Scott Roberts, PE, Project Manager
- Jonathan Dean, PE, Project Engineer

HNTB Corporation

- Jacob Argiro, PE, Project Manager
- David Schweitzer, PE, Deputy Project Manager
- Chris Fagan, PE, Project Engineer
- Naomi Hodges, Environmental Lead

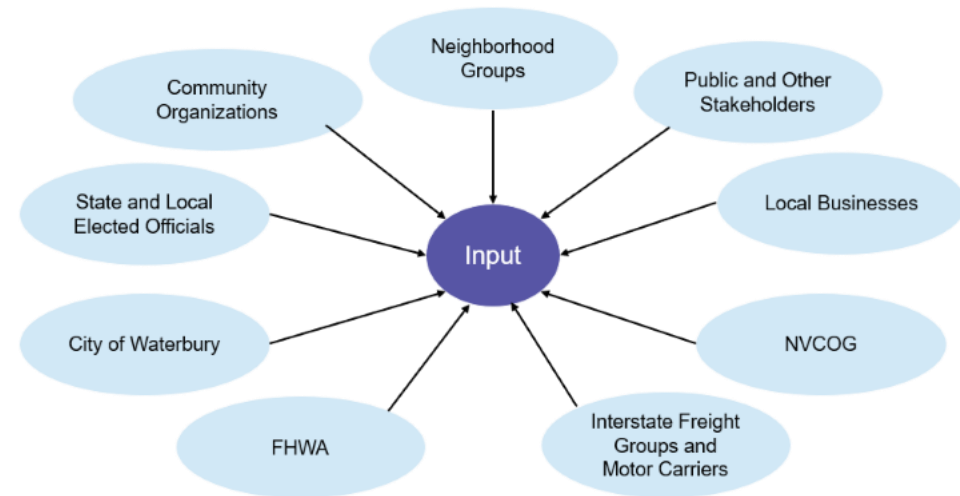


Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Overview

PAC Purpose and Composition:

- Allow for constructive dialogue from various perspectives.
- Provide input and feedback on the New Mix program's **Preliminary Purpose and Need, Transportation-related Goals and Objectives**, and conceptual alternatives.
- Provide two-way communication between the PAC and program team
 - In the early planning phases: feedback will inform the selection of a Range of Reasonable Alternatives for the New Mix.
 - In later phases: feedback will help shape the design and program mitigation measures.

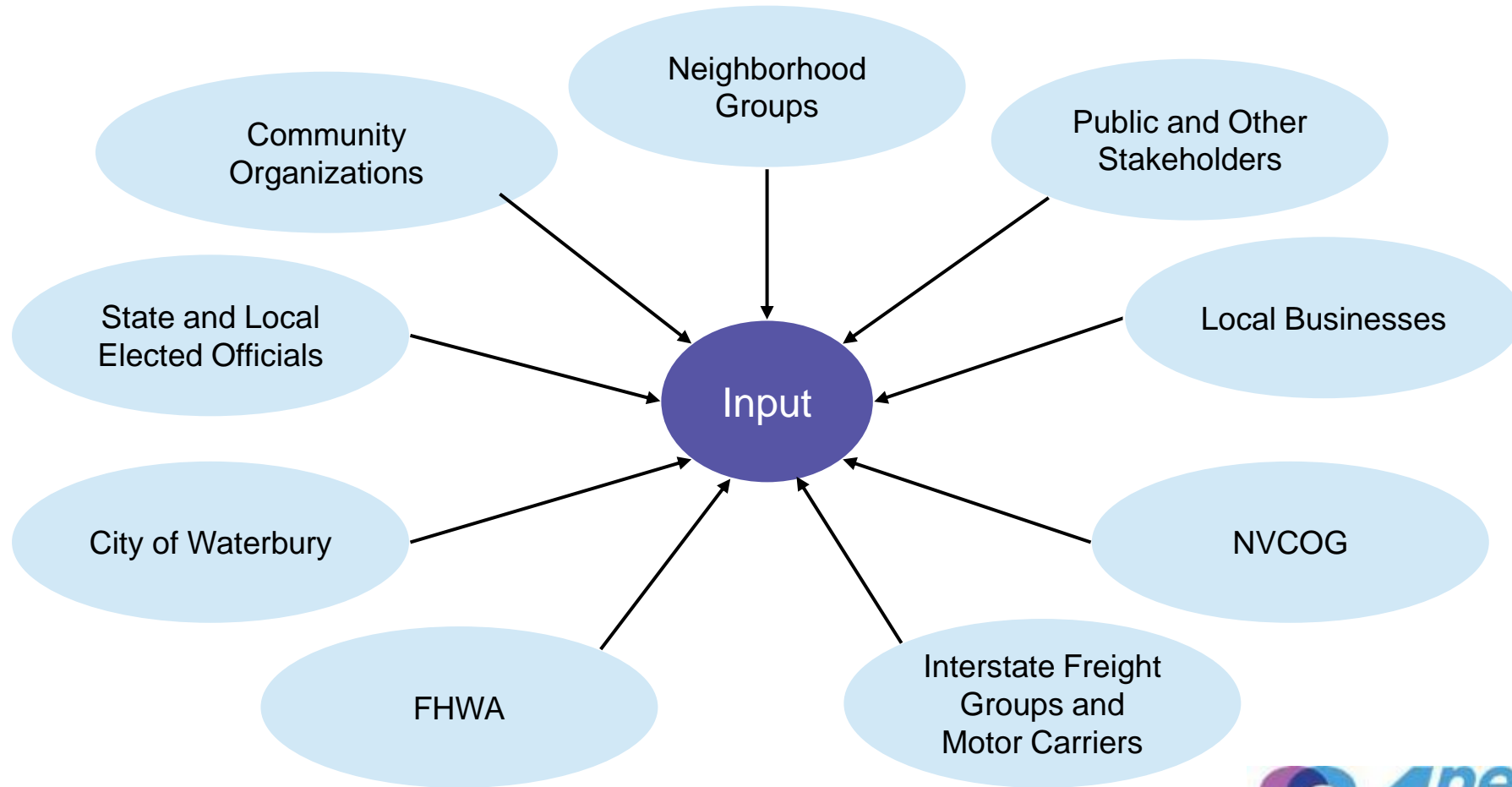
The New Mix Team invited representatives from:



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The *New Mix* Team invited representatives from:



PAC Members:

All Saints/Todos los Santos Parish

Bender Plumbing

City of Waterbury:

- Bureau of Engineering
- City Planning & Inland Wetlands
- Department of Economic Development
- Department of Public Works
- Fire Department
- Office of the Mayor
- Police Department
- Public Schools

Connecticut Association for Community Transportation (CACT)

Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice (CCEJ)

CT transit

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Greater Waterbury Transit District

Hispanic Coalition of Greater Waterbury

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

Housatonic Valley Association

Jarjura's Farm

Main Street Waterbury

Mattatuck Museum

Metro-North Railroad

Motor Transport Association of Connecticut (MTAC)

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) of Greater Waterbury

Naugatuck Valley Community College

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG)

Palace Theater

Police Activity League (PAL) River Brigade

Riverside Cemetery

Saint Mary's Hospital

University of Connecticut (UCONN) Waterbury Branch

Waterbury Bridge to Success

Waterbury Development Corporation

Waterbury Hospital

Waterbury Neighborhood Associations: Bunker Hill, Gilmartin, Waterbury, & Waterville

Waterbury Regional Chamber

Waterbury Working Cities Challenge



PAC Roles and Responsibilities:

Your role as PAC members is to be a contributory entity, providing public input/insight in what will ultimately become the New Mix program by:

Participating
and attending PAC meetings

Reviewing
PAC meeting material

Educating
oneself, sharing community
issues, and staying informed

Sharing
perspectives and
collaborating in the
development and
assessment of concepts

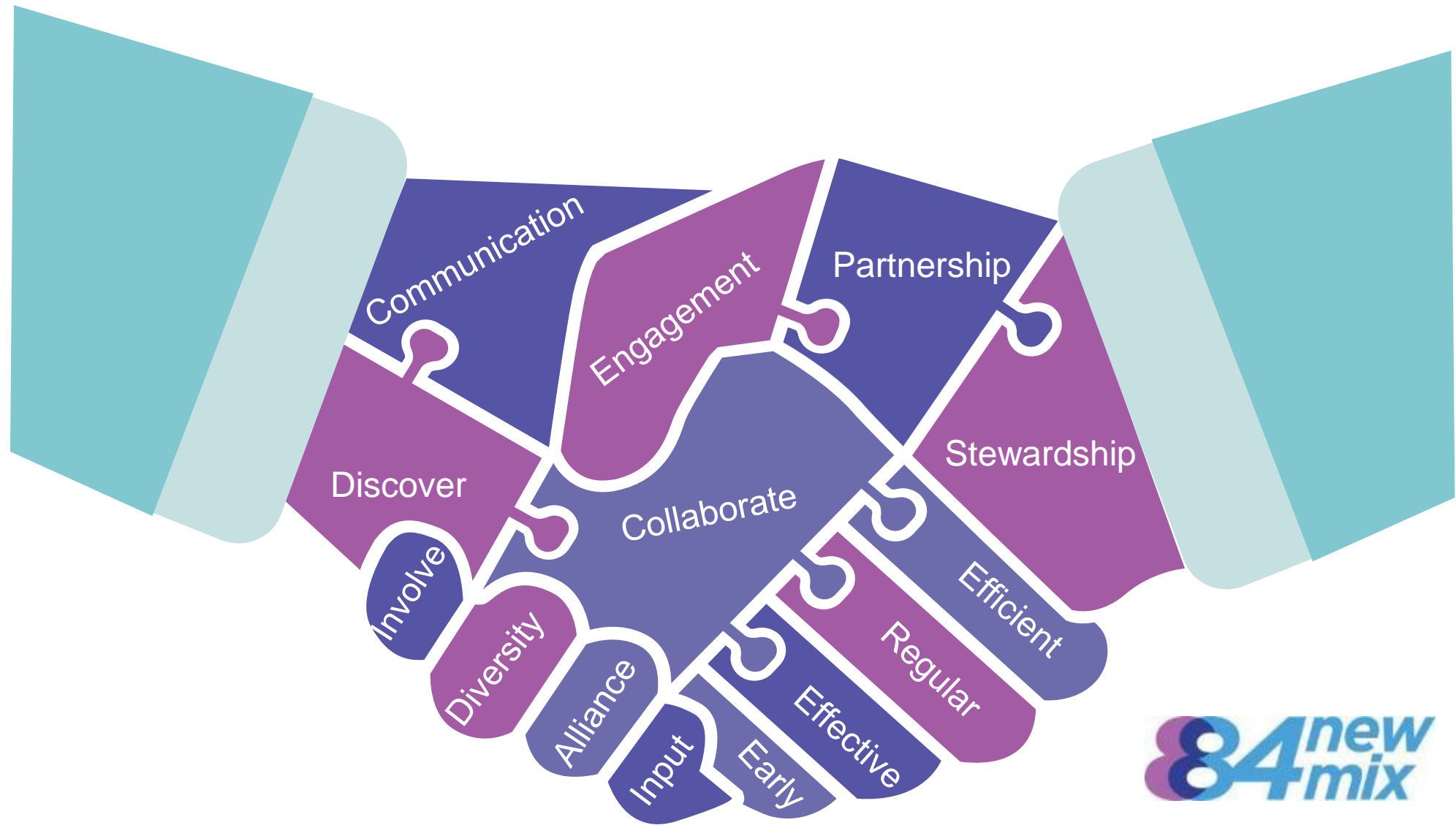
Serving
as the community link
between the Study Team and
the Waterbury community

Providing
input so CTDOT can make
informed decisions on
program transportation
related issues, while
respecting differences in
opinion and perspective

Accepting
of agency determinations,
understanding that complete
agreement on all issues is
likely not possible



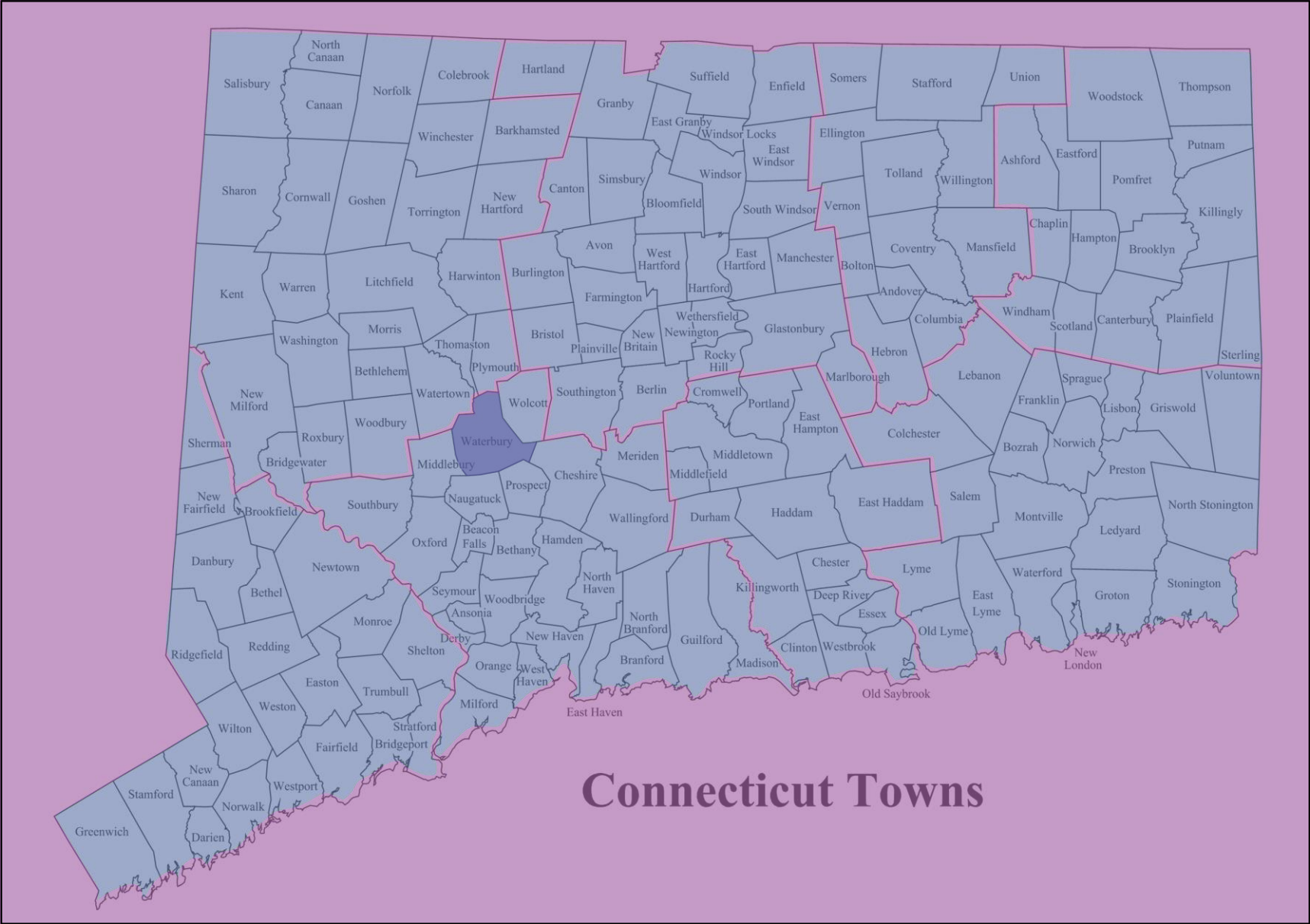
PAC Procedure and Guidelines:



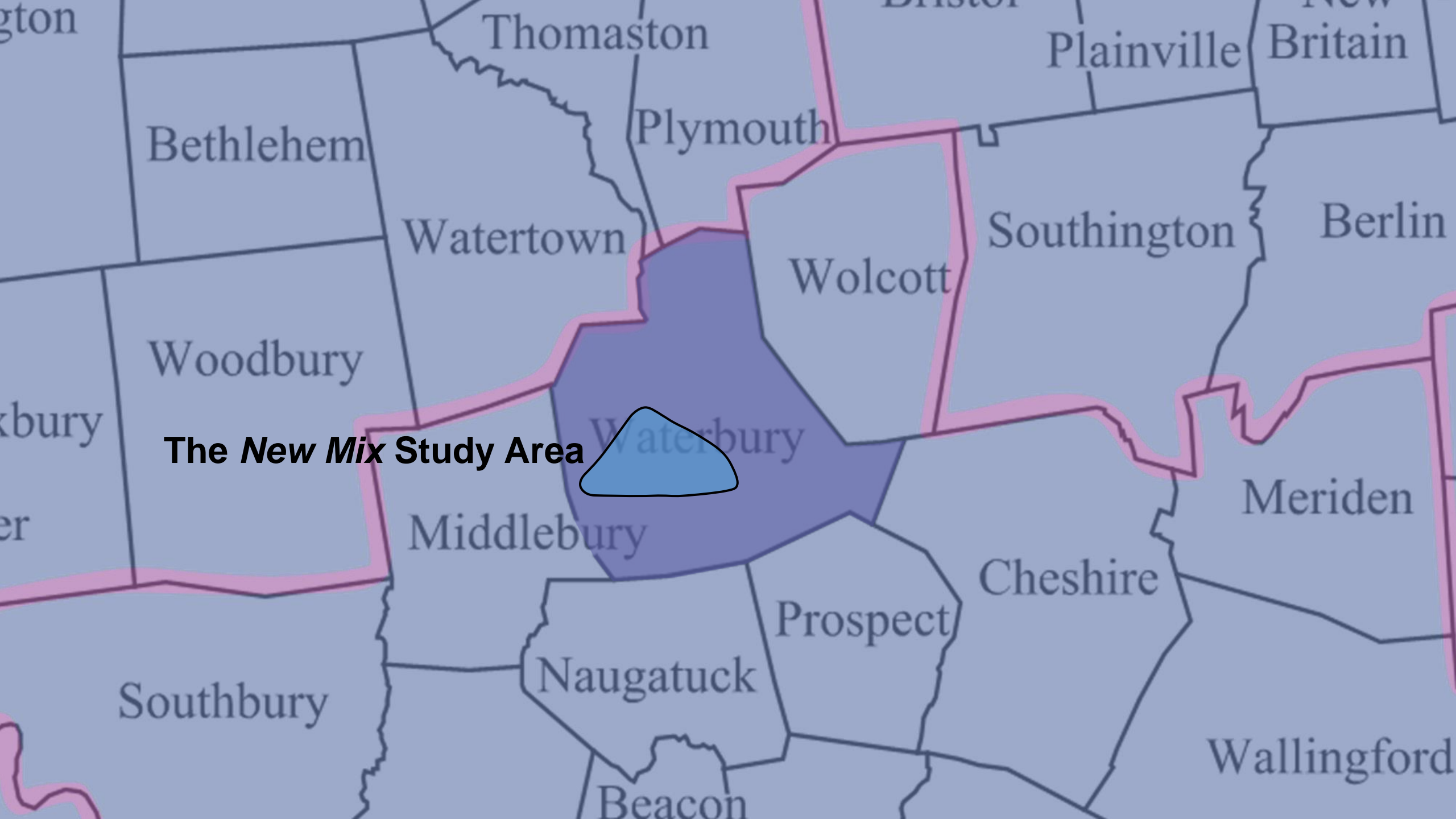
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New Mix Program Overview

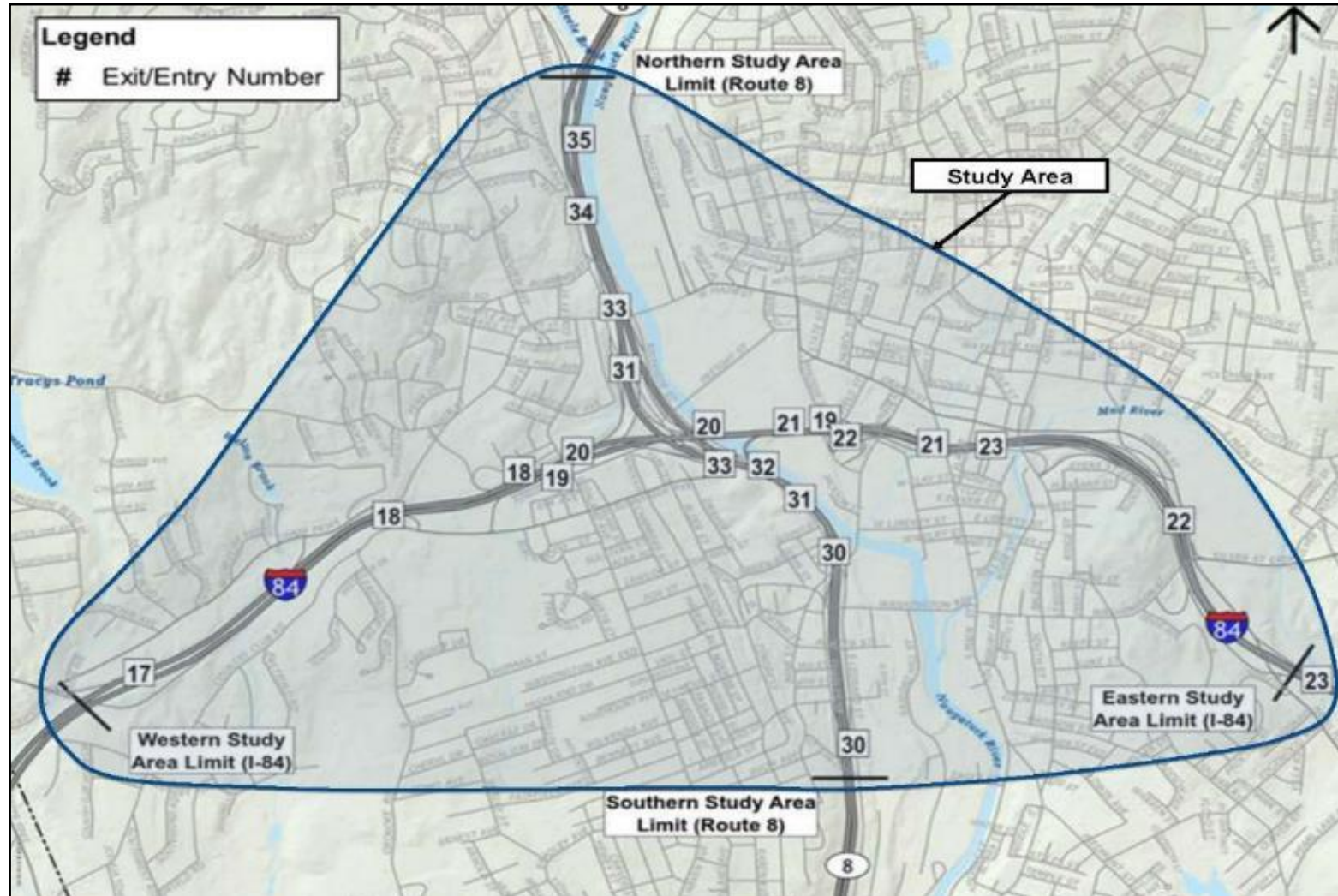


Connecticut Towns



The *New Mix* Study Area

The *New Mix* Study Area



Why Improve the Mixmaster?

- Age of Structures
- Dated Safety & Operational Standards
- Structural Deficiencies
- Geometric Deficiencies
- Operational Deficiencies
- Recurring Traffic Congestion
- High Crash Rates
- High Maintenance Costs

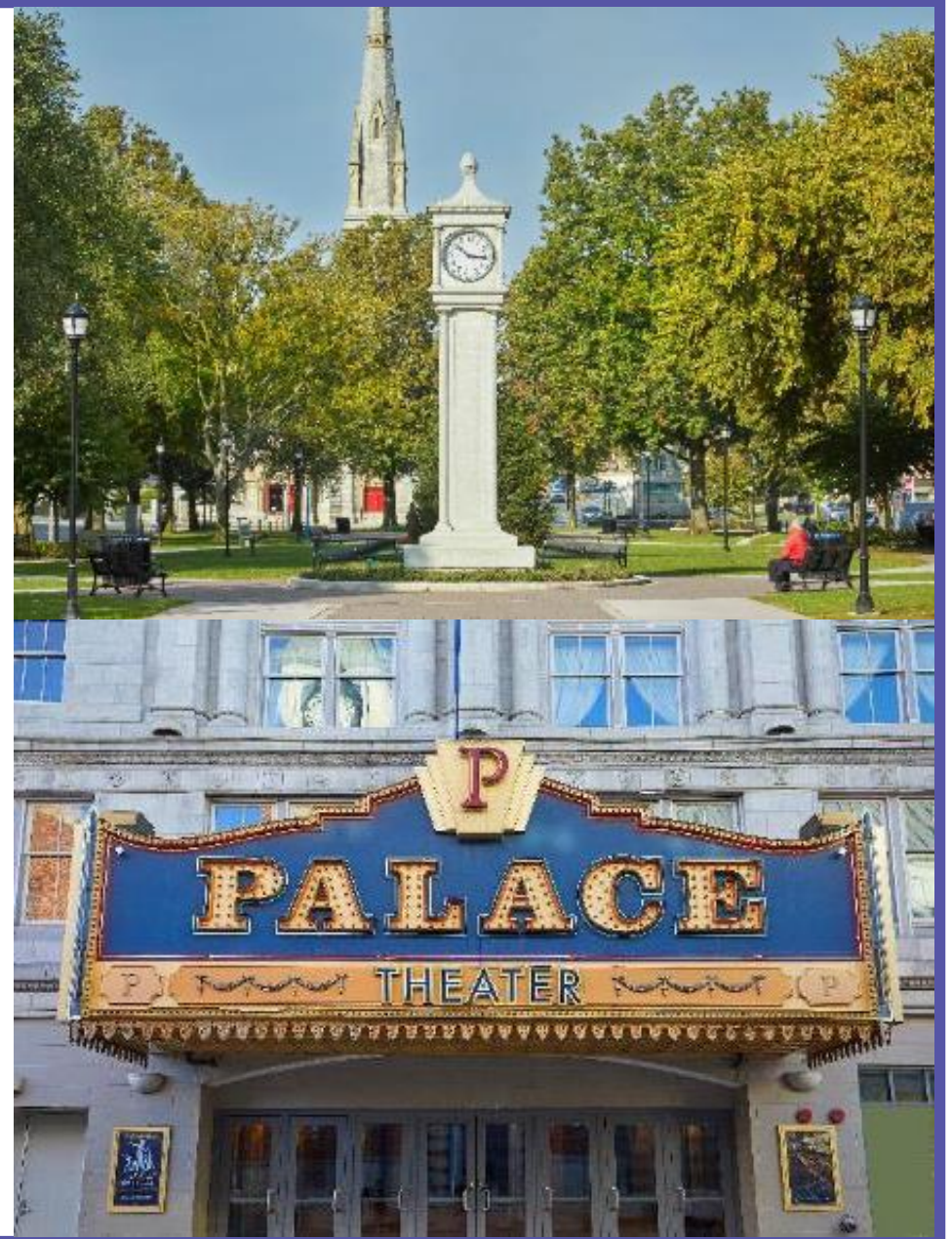


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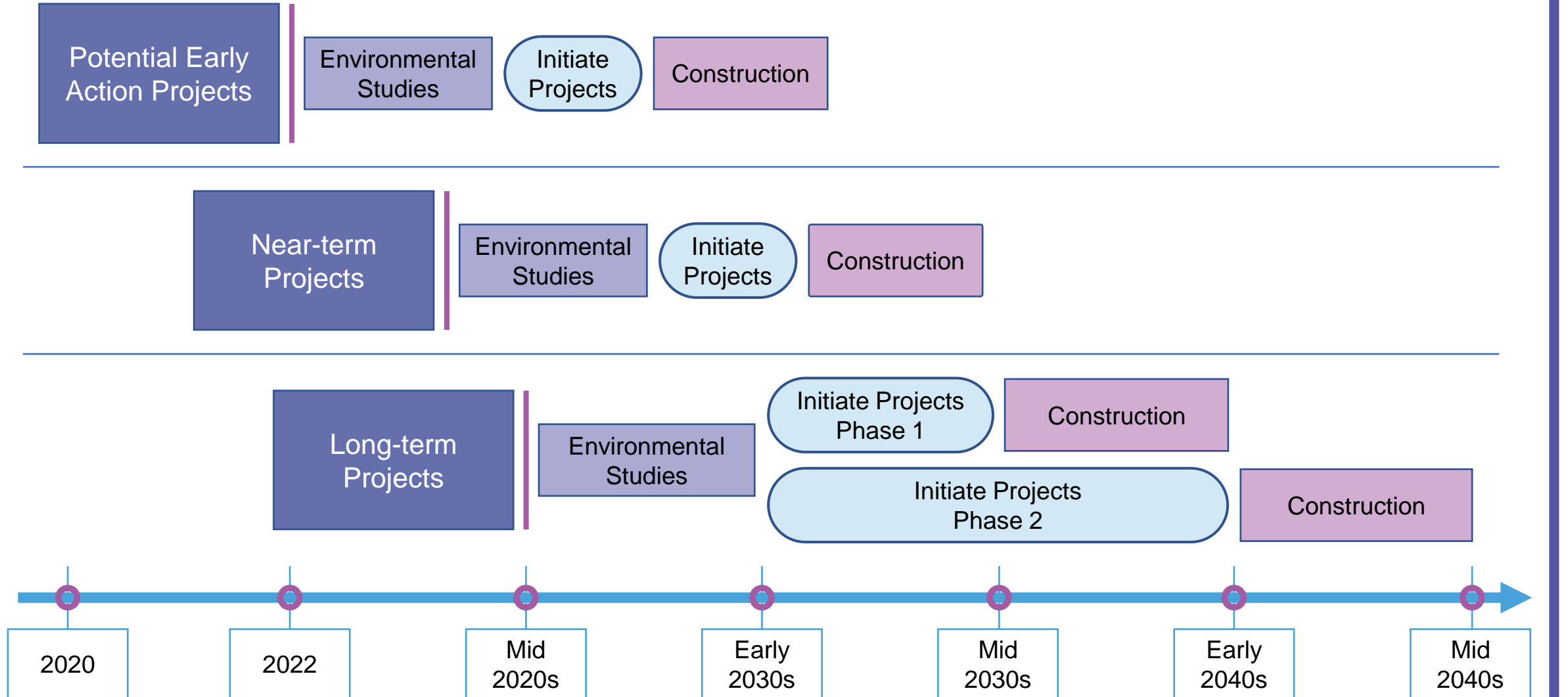


The *New Mix* Program

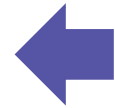
- Long-term plan for the future of the Mixmaster
- Program projects may occur over time
- Analyze rehabilitation and replacement options that:
 - Modernize
 - Improve safety & functionality
 - Improve function of local road network & the interchange
 - Reduce congestion
 - Align with economic development & community context



Potential Timing & Breakout Project Schedule



General Nature of Anticipated Projects

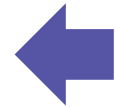
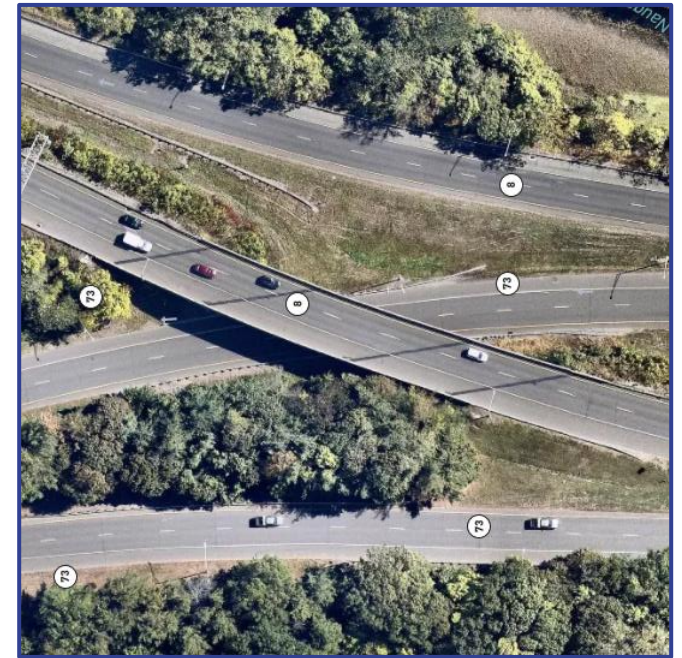


Early Action Projects

Improvements to local roads and intersections

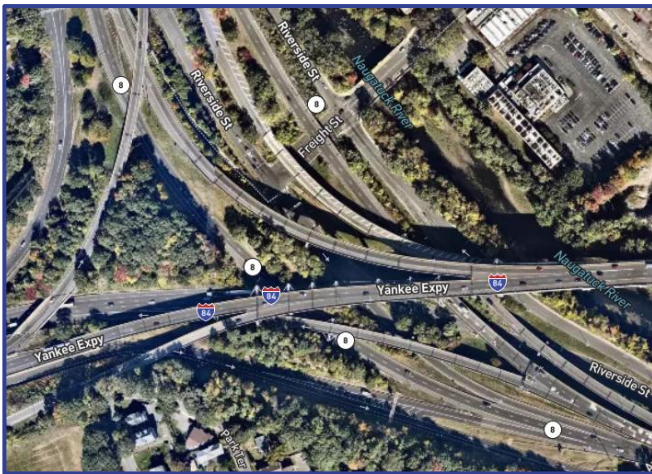
Near-Term Projects

Improvements to highway approaching Mixmaster compatible with Long-Term Projects



Long-Term Projects

Reconstruction of core interchange structures



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Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study Overview

NEPA/CEPA Overview

Requires federal and state agencies to evaluate potential impacts to the surrounding environment during the planning process of projects.

Agencies examine potential impacts to communities – whether it be socioeconomic or natural resource impacts.

Through NEPA/CEPA, CTDOT is required to consider and evaluate the significance of their projected activities on the environment whilst maintaining open communication with the public regarding the decision making.

PEL = Pre-NEPA



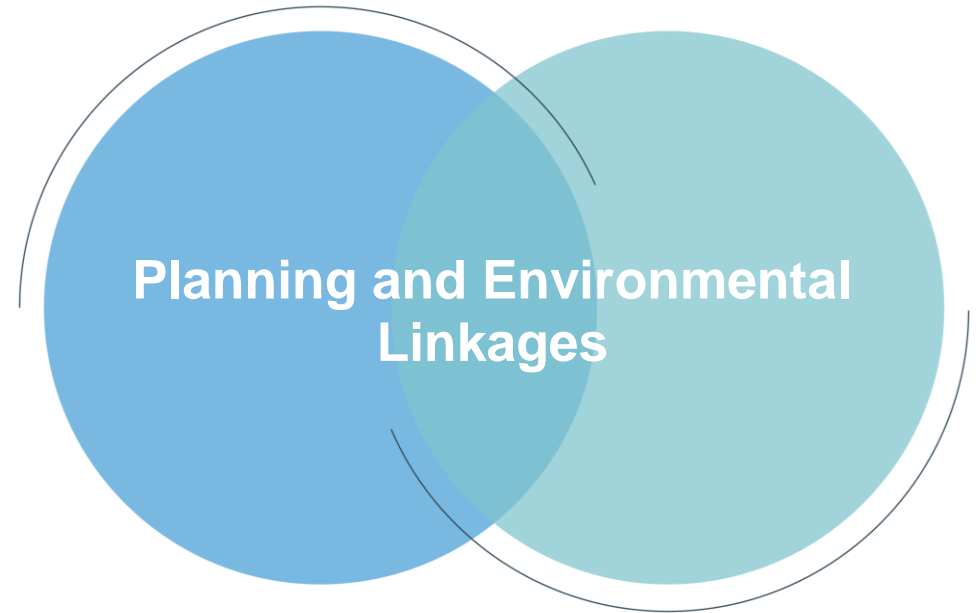
What is PEL?

Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL)

- FHWA recognized process
- Connects transportation planning and environmental/community concerns

Through the PEL study CTDOT will:

- Identify transportation issues
- Determine priorities
- Develop a vision or master plan for the needed transportation improvements of the New Mix
- Highlight environmental concerns
- Highlight community concerns
- Identify mitigation opportunities/strategies
- Create a roadmap to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)



Why Use PEL?

Allows for flexibility in potential project approaches

Enhances and encourages community participation and engagement

Improves relationships and coordination between agencies, stakeholders, and the general public

Entails robust documentation of coordination and analyses

Decisions/Analyses performed during study inform NEPA

Minimizes/avoids redundancies

Promotes cost effective solutions

Promotes environmental stewardship

Endorsed by FHWA as a planning tool

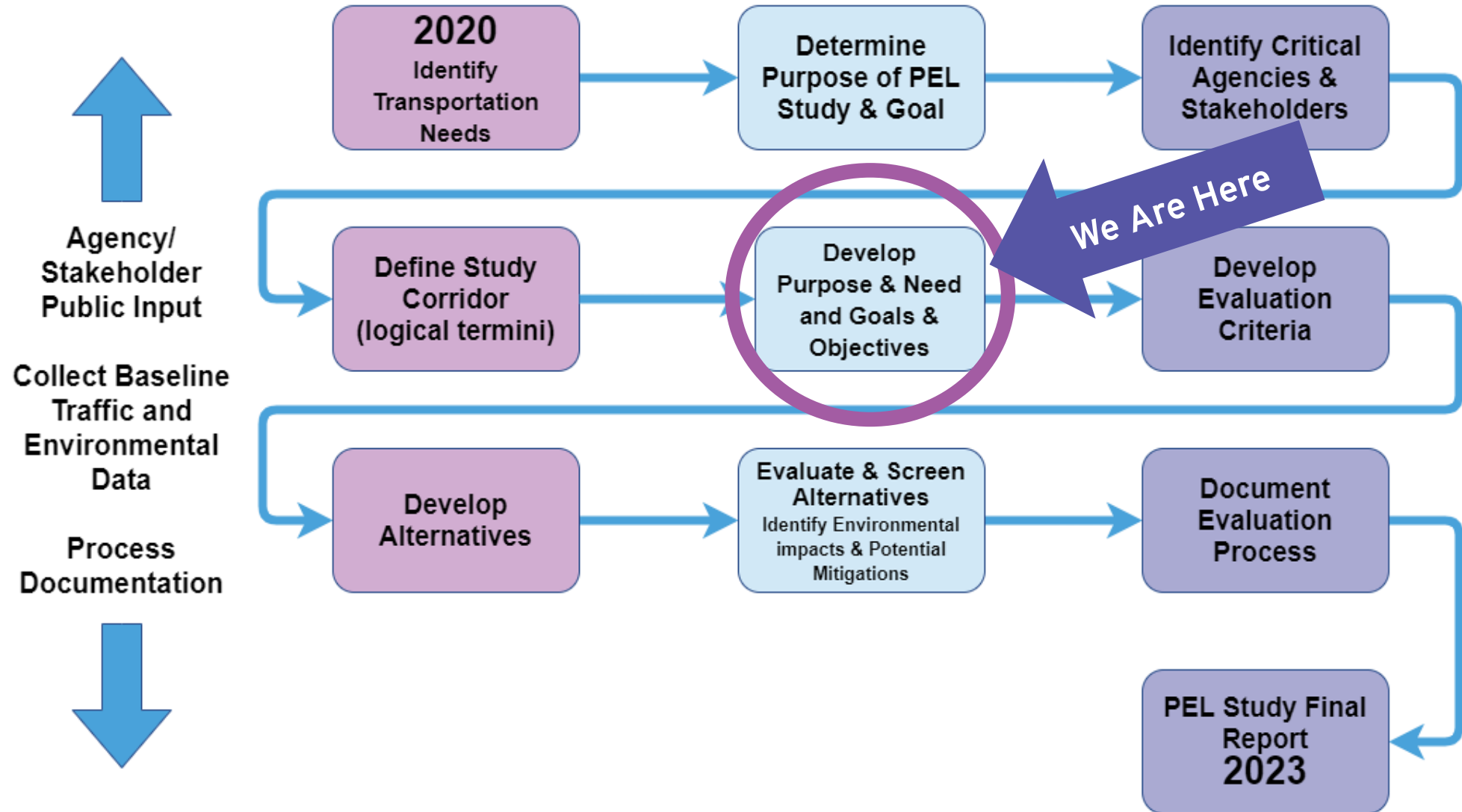
Reduces delays in project implementation

New Mix PEL Study Desired Results

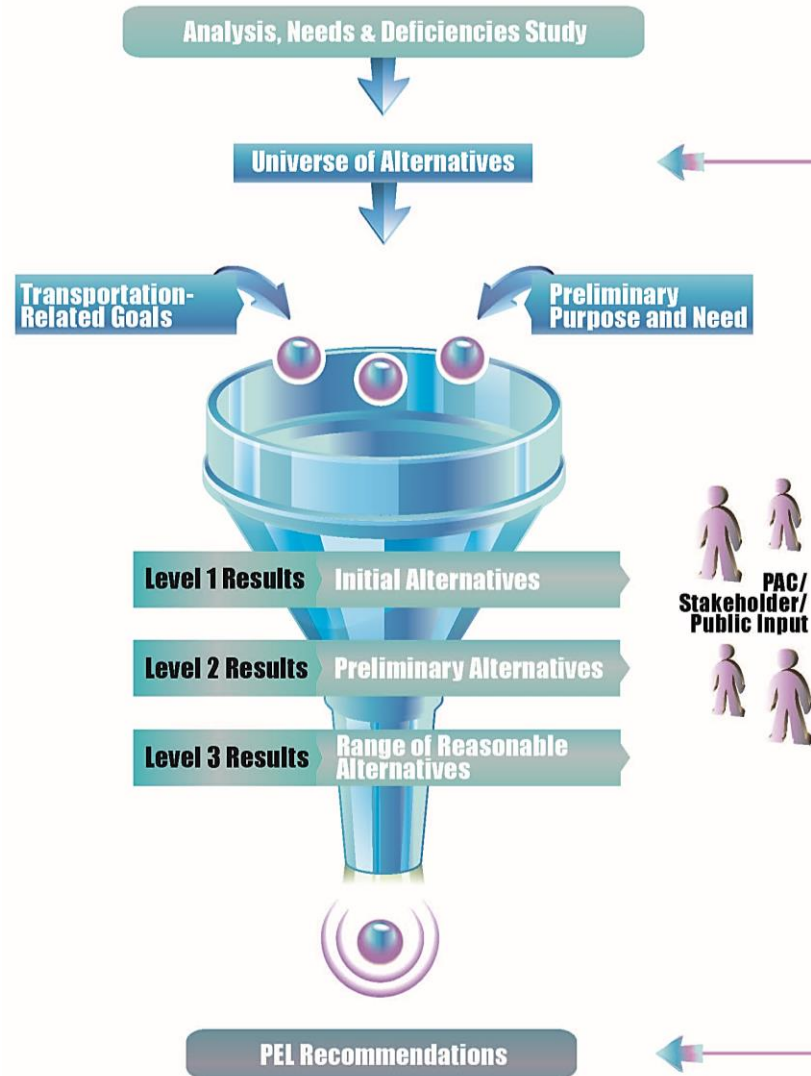
- Early start on technical studies, outreach, and public involvement
- Identify key issues and risks
- Establish Preliminary Purpose and Need
- Identify a Range of Reasonable Alternatives
- Document findings in NEPA friendly format
 - PEL Study Report
 - FHWA PEL Questionnaire
 - NEPA Transition Report - a path for NEPA
 - Summarizes Recommendations
 - Project Phasing
 - Inform the Long-Range Transportation Plan
 - Establish NEPA Class of Action for projects



New Mix PEL Study Overview/Schedule

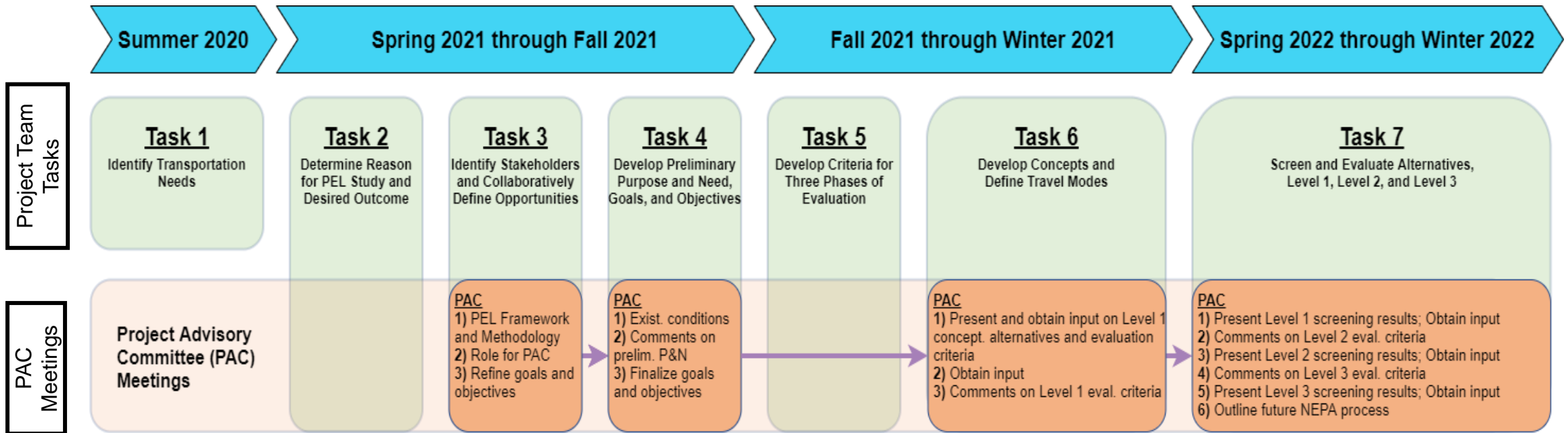


New Mix PEL Screening of Alternatives



Project Advisory Committee Detail & Timeline

- The Project Advisory Committee (PAC) is an important component of PEL
- Serving on the PAC provides opportunity for those who want to be more involved in the PEL study.



The New Mix Outreach Methods

Communication methods will be multi-faceted and include:

- Newsletters & updates via email (including sharing such information through community organizations)
- Social Media
- Program website with question & comment forms
- Public meetings
- Project Advisory Committee



New Mix Program Goals & Objectives

CTDOT desires to establish a vision, or master plan, for the interchange that is articulated in a prioritized plan for the phased implementation of improvements.

The overarching goal of the PEL Study is to develop a clear and supported plan of action for addressing deficiencies at the I-84/Route 8 Interchange and study area.



**What are some of the
problems you are
experiencing on and
around the Mixmaster
Interchange**



Other Transportation-Related Goals and Objectives

These may be a desirable outcome of the New Mix program, although not the primary purpose of the program

They are not reasons to advance or dismiss an alternative in the screening phase, but will be considered during the evaluation process

We would like your input on developing other transportation-related goals and objectives



Potential Transportation-Related Goals and Objectives That Have Been Identified so Far:

Supports local and regional plans

Complements local community surroundings

Accommodates multimodal connections

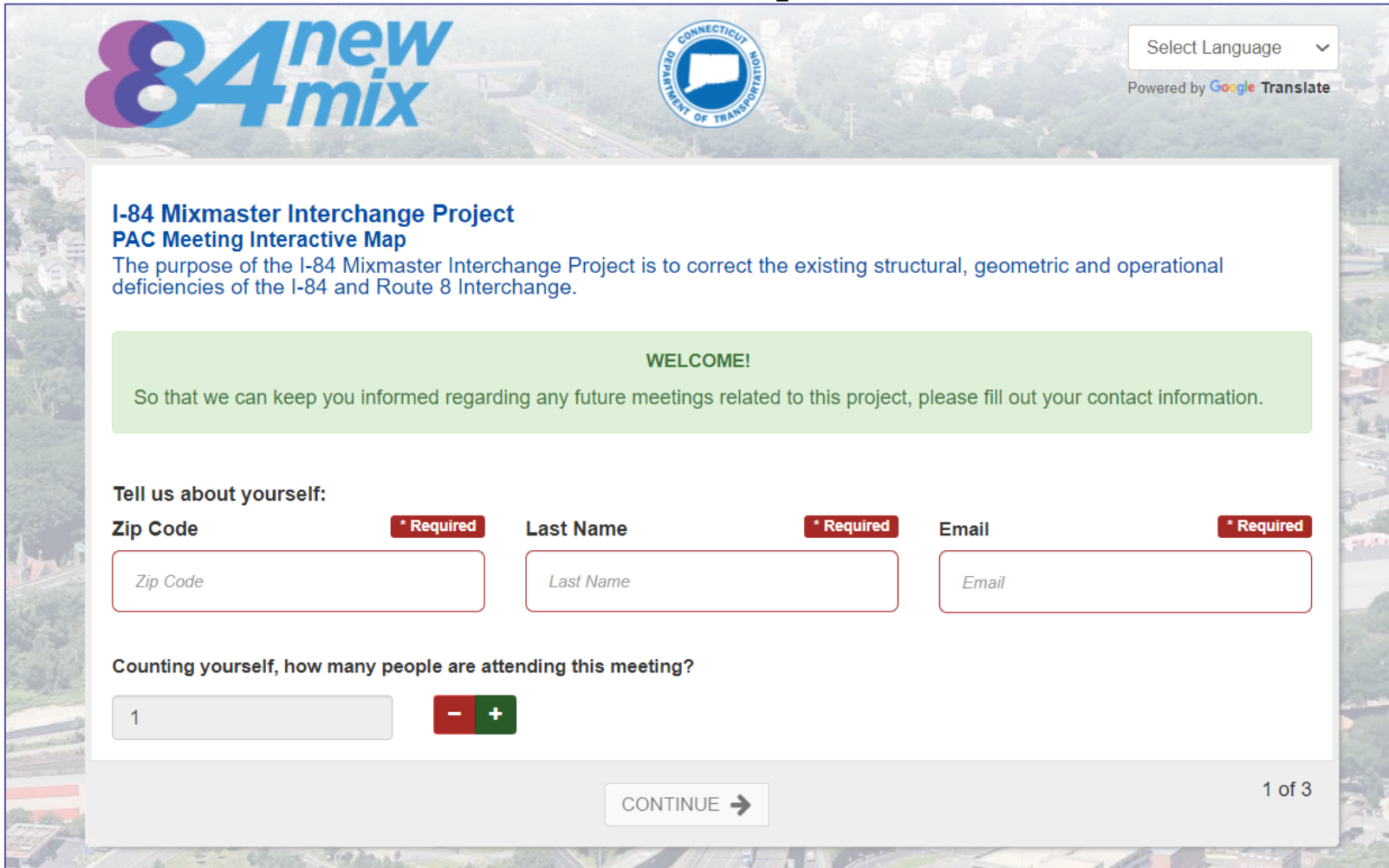
Balances mobility and access for existing and future land and economic development

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Next Steps

The *New Mix* Other Transportation-Related Goals & Objectives Comment Map



The screenshot shows a web form for the I-84 Mixmaster Interchange Project. At the top left is the '84 new mix' logo. In the center is the Connecticut Department of Transportation logo. At the top right is a 'Select Language' dropdown menu and a 'Powered by Google Translate' notice. The main heading is 'I-84 Mixmaster Interchange Project PAC Meeting Interactive Map'. Below this is a paragraph explaining the project's purpose. A green box contains a 'WELCOME!' message and a request to fill out contact information. The form includes three required fields: 'Zip Code', 'Last Name', and 'Email'. Below these is a question about the number of attendees, with a numeric input field set to '1' and minus/plus buttons. At the bottom, there is a 'CONTINUE' button with a right arrow and a page indicator '1 of 3'.

84 new mix

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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I-84 Mixmaster Interchange Project PAC Meeting Interactive Map

The purpose of the I-84 Mixmaster Interchange Project is to correct the existing structural, geometric and operational deficiencies of the I-84 and Route 8 Interchange.

WELCOME!

So that we can keep you informed regarding any future meetings related to this project, please fill out your contact information.

Tell us about yourself:

Zip Code * Required **Last Name** * Required **Email** * Required

Counting yourself, how many people are attending this meeting?


 - +

CONTINUE → 1 of 3

The *New Mix* Website

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84^{new}mix I-84/ROUTE 8 INTERCHANGE REPLACEMENT

Project Information Document Library Contact Us 


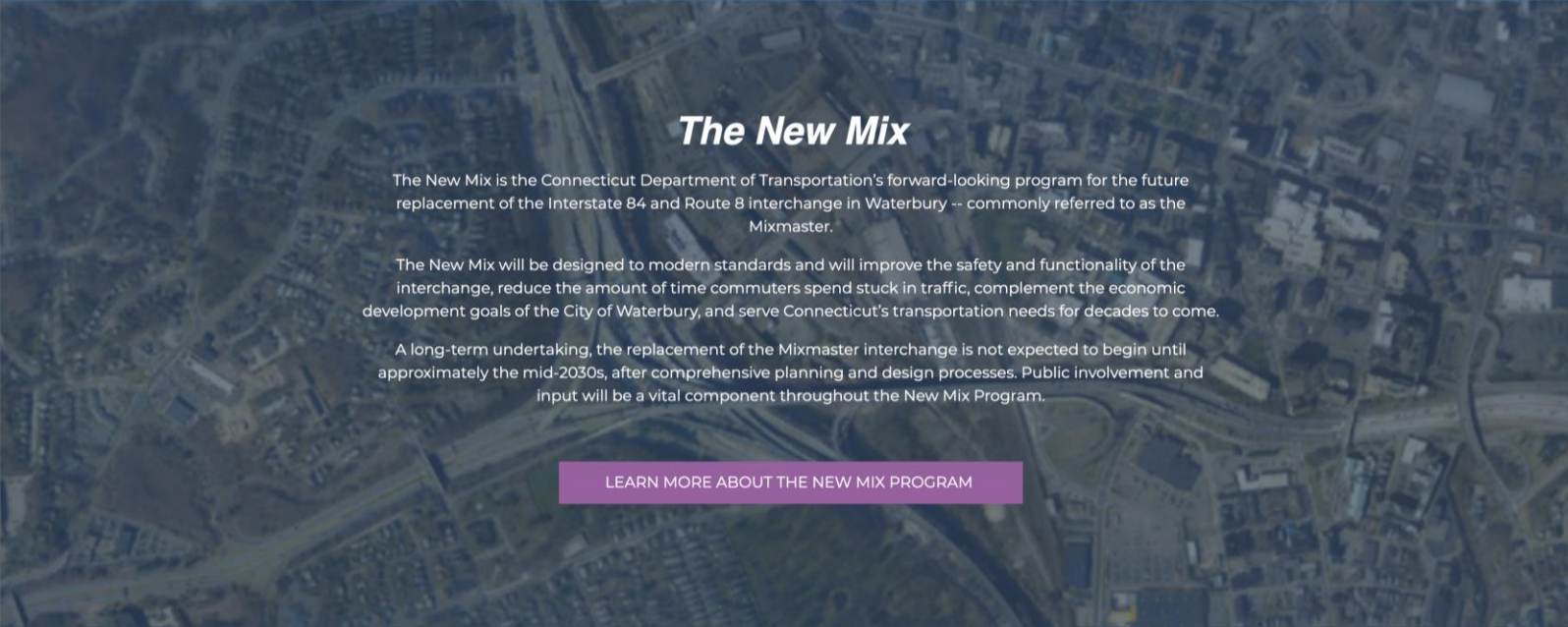
The New Mix

The New Mix is the Connecticut Department of Transportation's forward-looking program for the future replacement of the Interstate 84 and Route 8 interchange in Waterbury -- commonly referred to as the Mixmaster.

The New Mix will be designed to modern standards and will improve the safety and functionality of the interchange, reduce the amount of time commuters spend stuck in traffic, complement the economic development goals of the City of Waterbury, and serve Connecticut's transportation needs for decades to come.

A long-term undertaking, the replacement of the Mixmaster interchange is not expected to begin until approximately the mid-2030s, after comprehensive planning and design processes. Public involvement and input will be a vital component throughout the New Mix Program.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NEW MIX PROGRAM](#)



Upcoming Meetings and Future PAC Agenda Items

PAC Mtg #2 December 2021

Where:

Anticipated Virtual via Zoom

Topics:

Review of Existing Conditions (Needs & Deficiency Analysis), Present Preliminary Purpose & Need Statement and Other Identified Transportation-Related Goals & Objectives, and Obtain Input from PAC

PAC Mtg #3 February 2022

Where:

Anticipated Virtual via Zoom

Topics:

Finalize Purpose & Need and Transportation-Related Goals & Objectives, Present Conceptual Alternatives and Level 1 Evaluation Criteria, and Obtain Input from PAC

PAC Mtg #4 May 2022

Where:

Anticipated Hybrid: Virtual via Zoom/In-person
Location TBD

Topics:

Present Level 1 Screening Results, Level 2 Evaluation Criteria, and Obtain Input from PAC



Before the Next Meeting...



Identify Transportation-Related Goals & Objectives on map



Explore the Program Website



Check email for information about the next PAC meeting and scheduling



Get excited to participate in our next meeting



Questions & Comments



Thank you.

