

# The *New Mix*: Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting #2B January 26, 2022



**HNTB**

**84**new  
mix

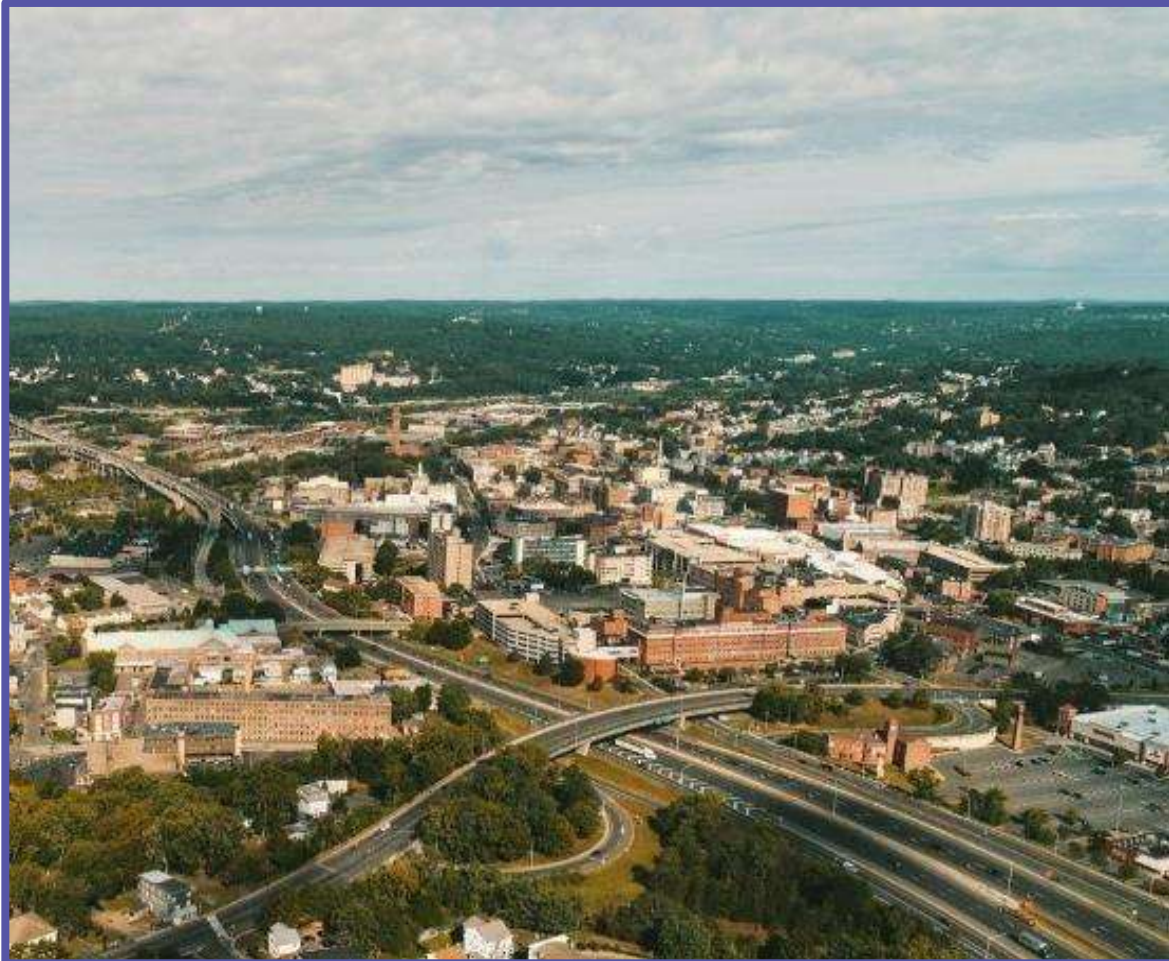
# Agenda

- **Welcome Back!**
- **PAC Meeting #2 Review**
- **Gaining PAC Perspective**
- **PEL Study Goals & Objectives and Preliminary Purpose and Need Statement**
- **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



# New Mix 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/ Waterbury Working Cities Challenge

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



# Since Our Last Meeting...

**You have been:**



**Identifying** Transportation-Related Goals & Objectives on input map.



**Checking email** for information about the New Mix Program.

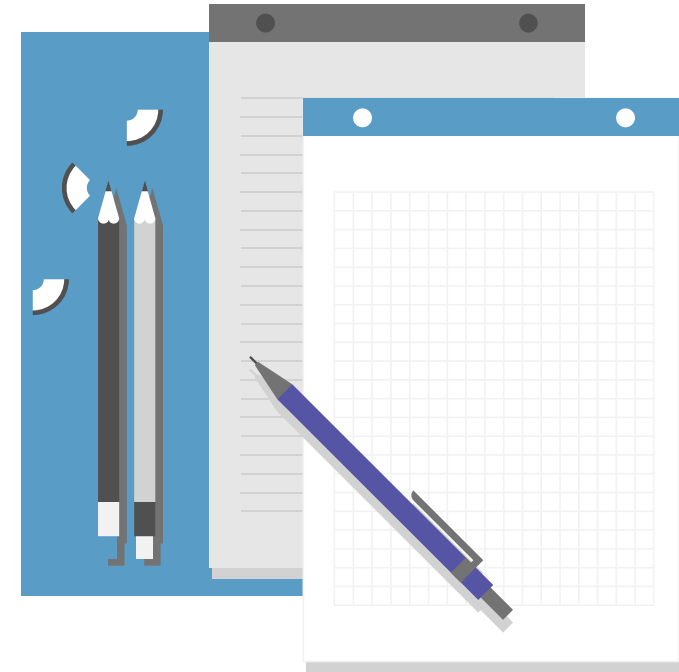
**We have been:**



**Obtaining Input** from PAC members, stakeholders, and the public.



**Refining** the Preliminary Purpose & Need Statement and Transportation-Related Goals & Objectives



**84new mix**







Interstate 84 / Route 8  
"MIXMASTER" INTERCHANGE

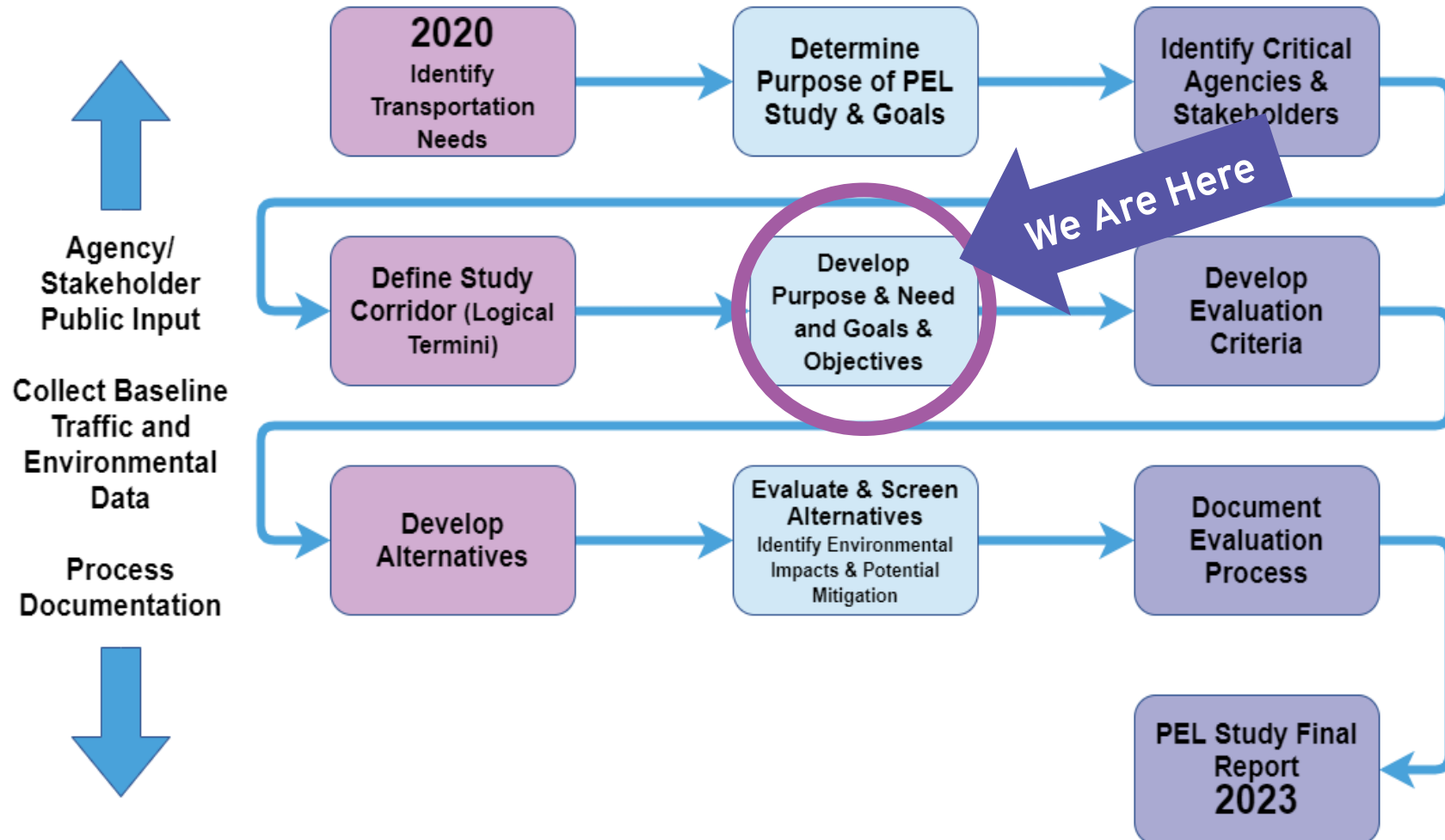
# ANALYSIS, NEEDS AND DEFICIENCIES REPORT

AUGUST 2020



Analysis, Needs and  
Deficiencies Report  
(AN&D)  
(a.k.a. the existing conditions report)

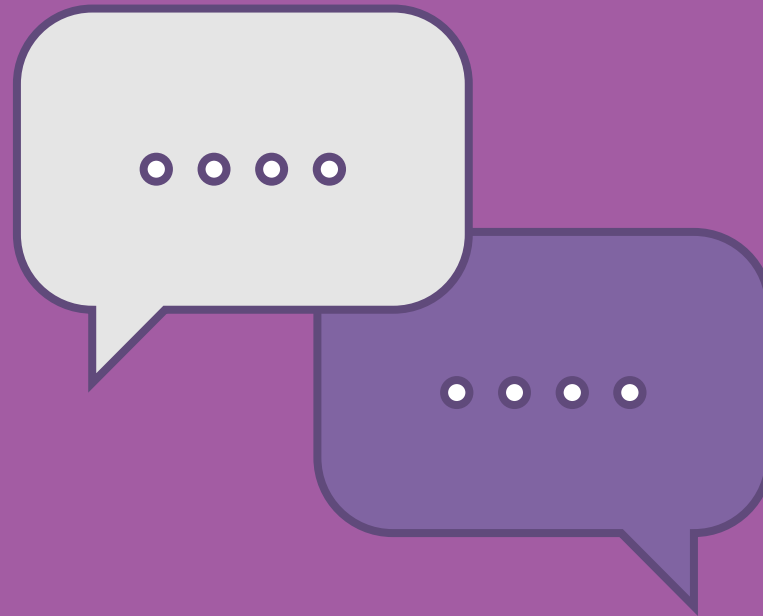
# New Mix PEL Study Steps



*Purpose & Need Statement*



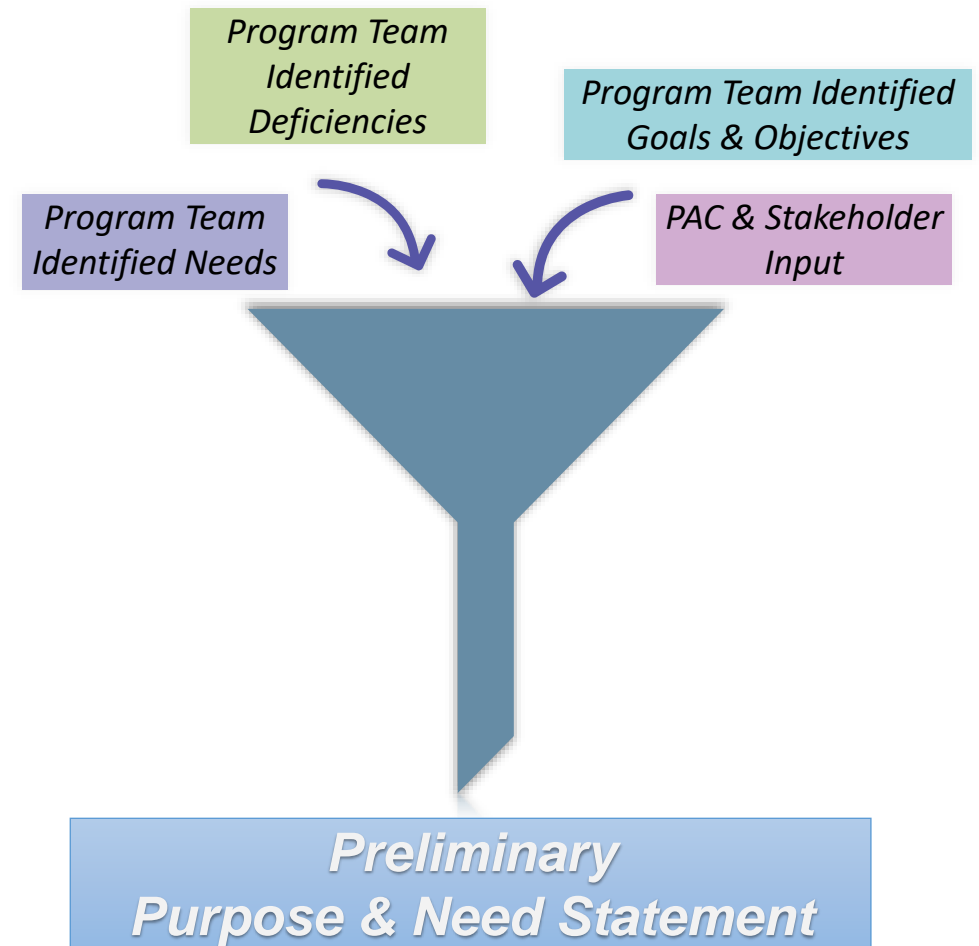
# Gaining PAC Perspective





# Objectives of Today's Workshop

- To better understand the perspective of members of the PAC and the constituents that members represent by:
  - Identifying existing needs and deficiencies
  - Confirming local issues and potential program priorities.
  - Providing context that will inform the continued development of the Program's Preliminary Purpose & Need Statement.



# PAC Member Comment Exercise

From my perspective, the most pressing needs and deficiencies within the I-84 and Route 8 interchange in Waterbury are (list up to three (3)):

*Traffic, safety, and city connectivity.*

In my opinion, the **New Mix Program** would be successful if it achieved the following (list up to three (3)):

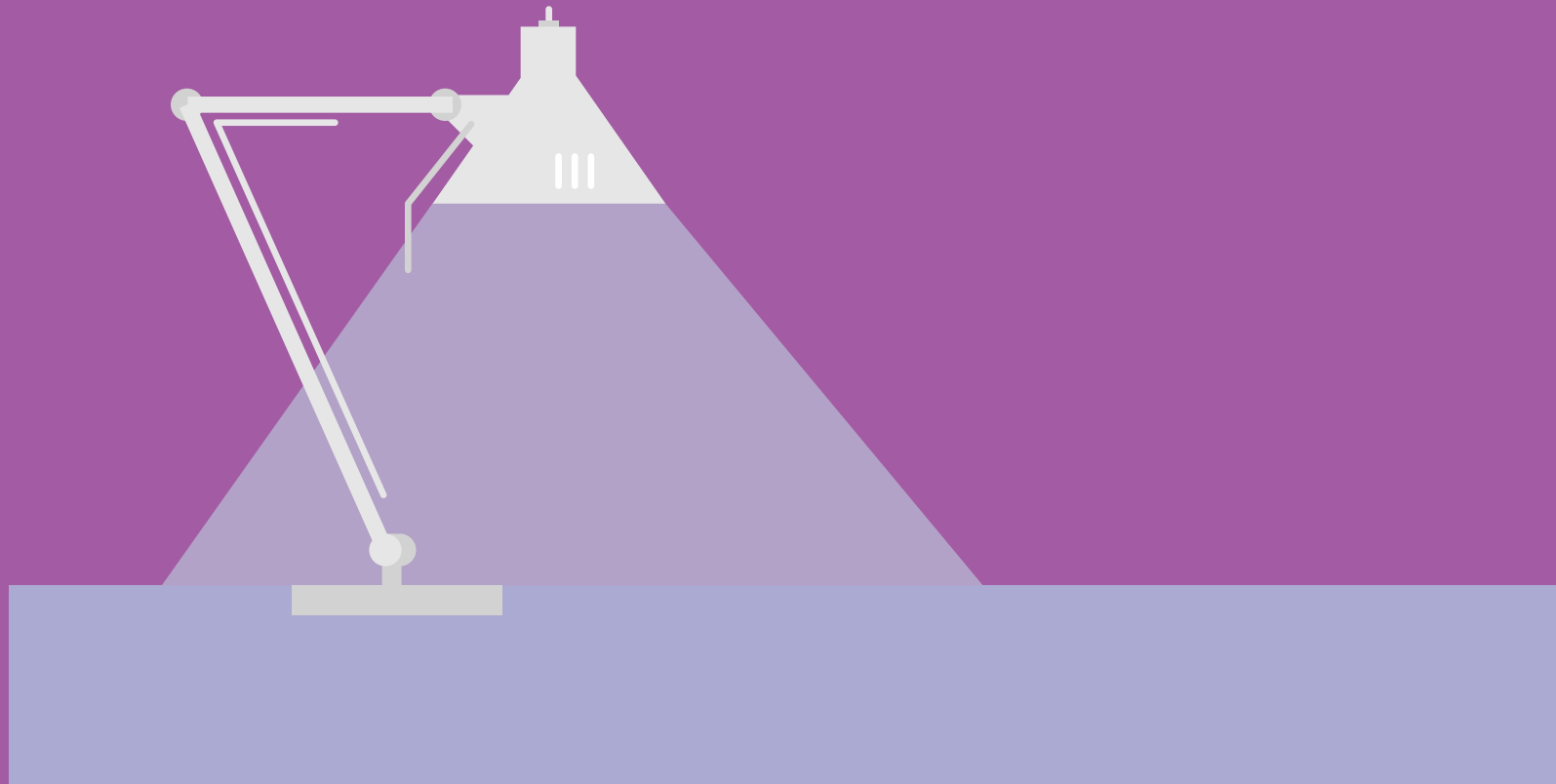
*Reduced congestion, increased safety, and enhanced city connectivity.*

List three (3) destinations and/or landmarks that positively or negatively define Waterbury to you:

*The Mixmaster in the middle of Waterbury, the Waterbury Green to Union Station, and the Brass Mills Mall.*



***New Mix* PEL Study**  
**Goals & Objectives and Preliminary  
Purpose and Need Statement**





**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 is the Purpose and Need?

Typically associated with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

NEPA requires federally sponsored projects to develop a concise and well-defined statement of why the project is proposed and what underlying transportation issues and deficiencies need to be addressed.

The Purpose and Need Statement is one of the most important sections of the environmental document.

It establishes a basis for the range of reasonable alternatives to be evaluated in the environmental document.

PEL = Pre-NEPA



# A Purpose and Need Statement has three parts:

1

## **PURPOSE**

States why the program is being proposed.

2

## **NEEDS**

Identifies the major transportation deficiencies.

3

## **PROGRAM GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

Identifies the goals and objectives to be met.





# **PURPOSE**

States why the program is being proposed.

# Program Team Identified Program Purpose

(Why the Program is Being Proposed)



To correct existing I-84/Route 8 Interchange deficiencies:

- **Structural,**
- **Geometric,** and
- **Operational**

**-AND-**

Achieve acceptable levels that meet current and future (2045) traffic needs.



1

## **PURPOSE**

States why the program is being proposed.



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## **NEEDS**

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## **PROGRAM GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

Identifies the goals and objectives to be met.

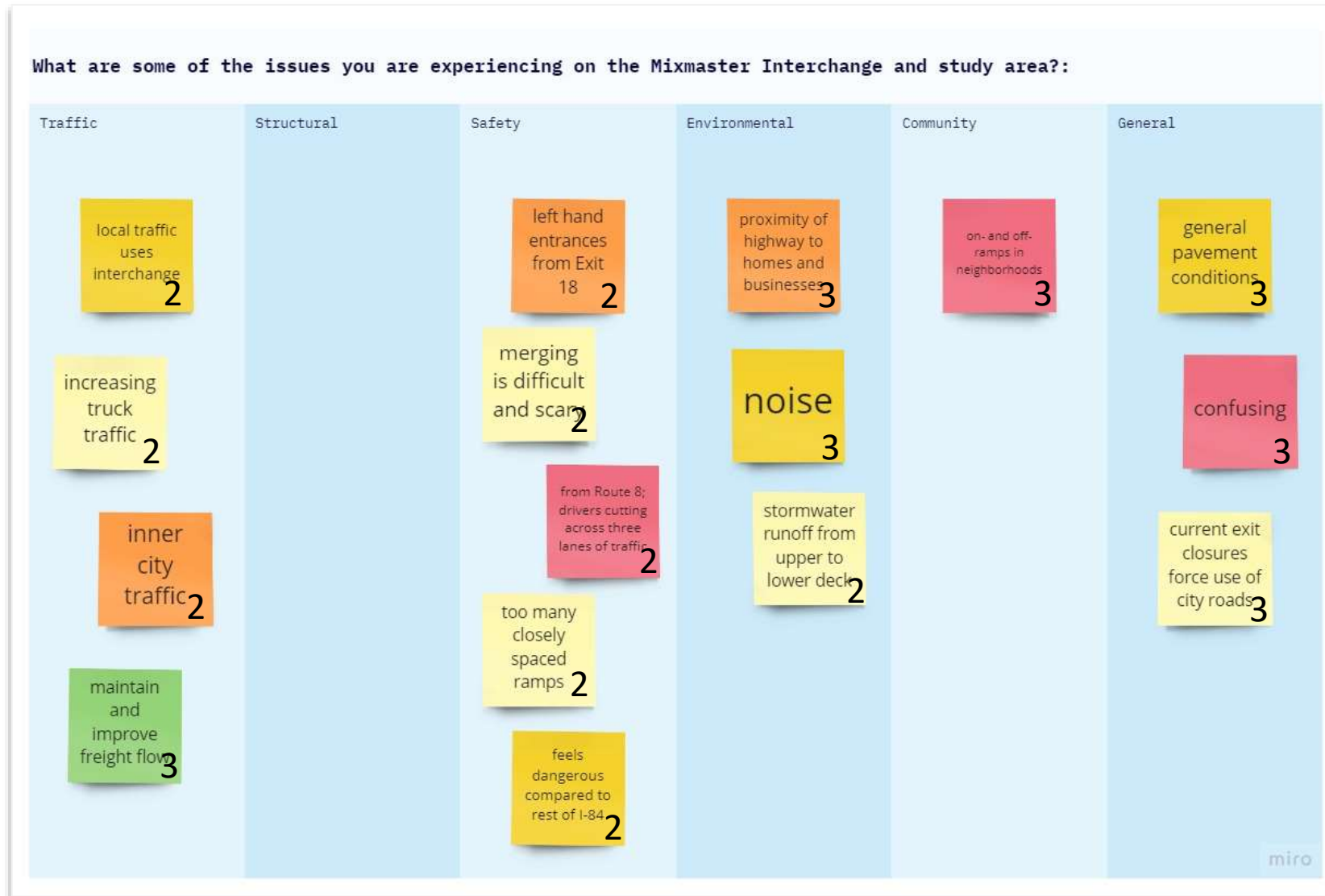




## **NEEDS**

Identifies the major transportation deficiencies.

# The *New Mix* PAC Identified Issues (Needs)



- 1 Purpose
- 2 Needs
- 3 Goals and Objectives

# The *New Mix* PAC Identified Needs Perspective

Please rate each of the following statements on a scale of 1-5,

1. Strongly Disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neutral
4. Agree
5. Strongly Agree

1. I routinely change my travel patterns/commuting behavior in order to avoid traffic congestion on the Mixmaster.
2. I routinely use the Mixmaster to travel across Waterbury.
3. I believe the local roadway network of Waterbury is difficult to navigate and prefer to use the Mixmaster to travel between destinations.
4. I believe the Mixmaster acts as a barrier to bicycle and pedestrian travel across Waterbury.
5. I believe the Mixmaster routinely feels unsafe to travel on.
6. I believe the entrance and exit ramps on the Mixmaster feel unsafe.
7. I believe the congestion on the Mixmaster is negatively impacting the local economy.

Try to think back to before the rehabilitation project, when there was not a large construction presence on the highway.



# Program Team Identified Program Needs

## (Identified Major Transportation Deficiencies from the AN&D Report)



### Structural Deficiencies

Measured by deck area, of the 62 studied bridges: 60% were structurally deficient, Over 40% are functionally obsolete, and 19% are fracture critical.

### Geometric Deficiencies

Along the highway, deficiencies include, but are not limited to: sharp curves, reduced speeds, and inadequate sight stopping distance. Additional geometric deficiencies have been identified within the AN&D report for system and service ramps.

### Traffic (operational) Deficiencies (including congestion)

Left-hand entrances/exits and inadequate merging, inadequate interchange spacing, and deficient intersections with local roadways.

### High Crash Rates

The geometric and operational deficiencies contribute to a substantially higher crash rate at this interchange when compared to the average State crash rate for all roads per million daily vehicle miles traveled.



1

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Identifies the goals and objectives to be met.

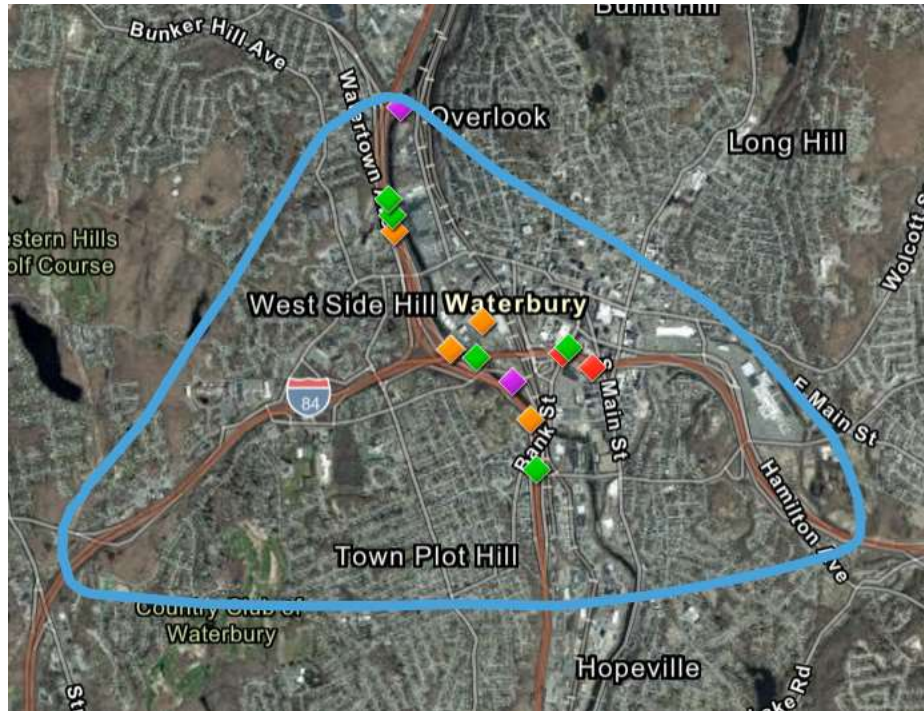
A large, bold, blue number '3' is positioned on the left side of the slide. Below the number is a faint, light blue reflection of the number itself, creating a sense of depth.

## **PROGRAM GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

Identifies the goals  
and objectives to  
be met.



# Program and Other Potential *New Mix* Transportation-Related Goals and Objectives PAC Map:



1. Purpose
2. Needs
3. Goals and Objectives

PAC C	How	Fresh
	<p>“Need to reconnect the neighborhoods divided/separated by the interchange. Focus should be on developing the Naugatuck River area”</p>	
	<p>“Riverside Cemetery, a National Historic site, is in the shadow of the interchange ... which is ugly, noisy and causing damage to our chapel. Move it east of the river where the Route 8 bypass was located.”</p>	
	ff ramp directly adjacent to groc...	0 ♥
	Riverside Cemetery, a National His...	0 ♥

# Where do Environmental Impacts fall into the Program Evaluation?



PEL = Pre-NEPA

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) & Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA)

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

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

Through NEPA/CEPA, CTDOT must consider and assess the significance of the potential impact of the proposed activities on the environment.

Coordination, communication and engagement with members of the community occurs throughout all phases of the evaluation.



# The *New Mix* PAC Identified Goals & Objectives Perspective

Please rate each of the following statements on a scale of 1-5,

1. Not Important
2. Somewhat Not Important
3. Neutral
4. Somewhat Important
5. Very Important

1. How important is it that the *New Mix Program* reduces congestion on the highway (I-84 and Route 8)?
2. How important is it that the *New Mix Program* improves the associated local roadway network?
3. How important is it that the *New Mix Program* improves connections between the highway and businesses and employers?
4. How important is it that the *New Mix Program* improves neighborhood connectivity through improvements to the bicycle or pedestrian connections near the highway?
5. How important is it that the *New Mix Program* reduces the potential for crashes?



# Transportation-related Goals and Objectives\*

(Goals and Objectives Intended to be Met as a Result of the Program)

3

Enhance Safety

Maintain Critical System Linkages

Improve System Performance

Reduce Congestion

Facilitate Connectivity with Downtown Waterbury Through Local Road Network, Including Accommodating and Enhancing Multimodal Travel.

\*Identified by the Program Team and informed by PEL study PAC and Stakeholder input received so far.



1

## **PURPOSE**

States why the program is being proposed.



2

## **NEEDS**

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3

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“

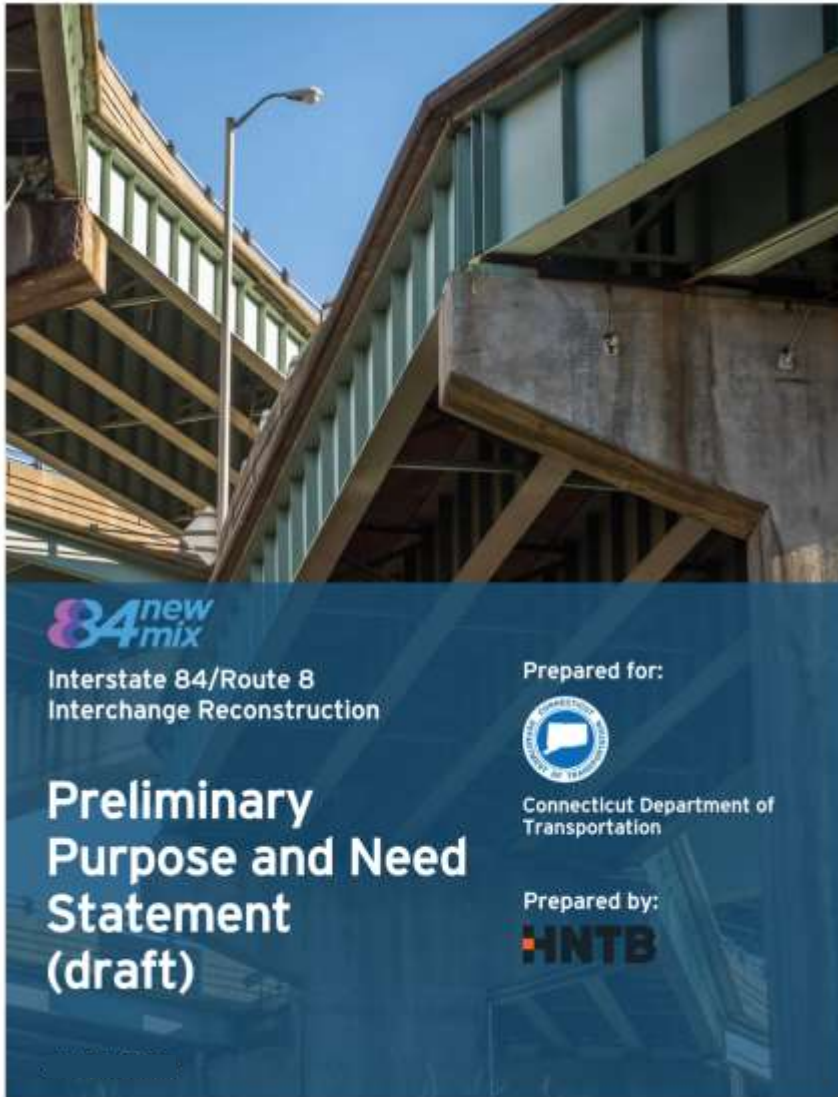
The purpose of the New Mix Program is to correct the existing structural, geometric and operational deficiencies of the I-84 and Route 8 interchange. These corrections are expected to improve system performance, reduce congestion, enhance safety, maintain critical system linkages in Connecticut and the northeast, and facilitate connectivity with downtown Waterbury through the local road network, including accommodating and enhancing multimodal travel.

”





# *New Mix* Preliminary Purpose and Need Statement

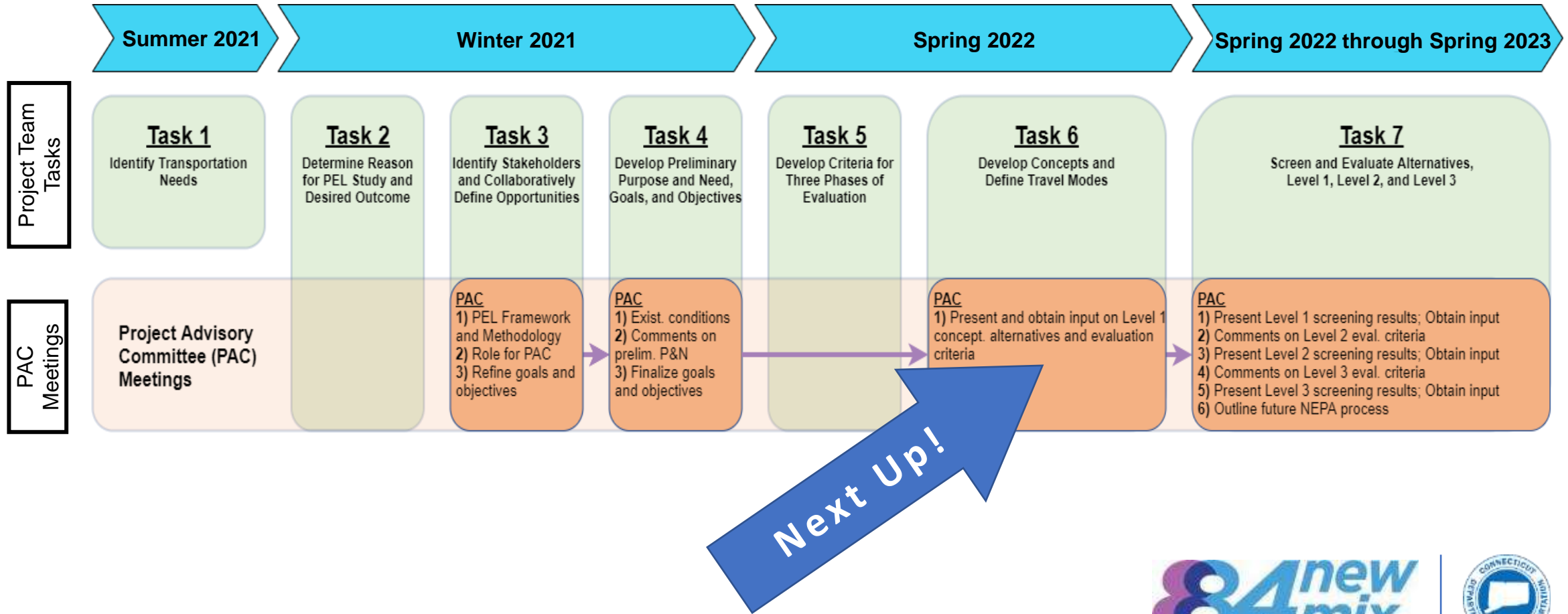


- Final adjustments will be made post meeting and will be made available online for your viewing.
- The preliminary purpose and need statement will be presented at the next PAC meeting and will inform our PEL Study Level 1 evaluation criteria.
- The *Preliminary Purpose and Need Statement* report may be updated as more information is obtained and as the program progresses.



# Next Steps

# Project Advisory Committee Detail & Timeline



**Next Up!**



# Upcoming Meetings and Future PAC Agenda Items

## PAC Mtg #3 February 18, 2022

### Where:

Anticipated  
Virtual via Zoom

### Topics:

- Present Finalized Purpose & Need Statement
- Present Conceptual Alternatives and Level 1 Evaluation Criteria, and
- Obtain Input from PAC

## PAC Mtg #4 Anticipating 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

## PAC Mtg #5 Anticipating Summer 2022

### Where:

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

### Topics:

- Present Level 2 Screening Results, Level 3 Evaluation Criteria, and
- Obtain Input from PAC



# Before the Next Meeting Continue to...



**Review PAC Meeting #3 Materials**



**Explore the Program Website.**



**Check email** for information about the next PAC meeting and scheduling.



**Remain excited** to participate in our next meeting.



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mix**



# Questions & Comments





# Thank you.

