



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

MEETING MINUTES

Project No.: 151-331
 Project Name: Reconstruction of Interstate 84/CT Route 8 Interchange (Mixmaster)
 Date of Meeting: July 31, 2024 1PM – 1:53PM
 Location of Meeting: Microsoft Teams
 Subject of Meeting: New Mix Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting #6

Attendees:

| PAC Members | |
|------------------------|---|
| Name | Organization |
| Maria Vaccarelli | CTtransit Waterbury |
| Arthur Denze Sr. | Waterbury Neighborhood Council |
| Barbara Kalosky | Connecticut Association for Community Transportation |
| Mark Nielsen | Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) |
| Richard Donovan | NVCOG |
| Stephanie Valickis | Saint Mary’s Hospital |
| Robert Nerney | City of Waterbury Planning Department |
| Ken Stanco | Office of the Mayor |
| Kallysia Raymond | Waterbury Development Corporation |
| Kenneth R. Cook, Ph. D | National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) |
| Martin Begnal | Friends of Riverside Cemetery |
| Brian Peterson | Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church |
| Daniel Pesce | Main Street Waterbury |
| David Williams | Federal Highway Association (FHWA) |
| Kevin Taylor | NEST (formerly known as Neighborhood Housing Services of Waterbury) |

| Department of Transportation | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Name | Organization |
| Nilesh Patel | CTDOT |
| Joe Belrose | CTDOT |
| Kevin Carifa | CTDOT |
| Edward Sabourin | CTDOT |
| Consultant Team | |
| David Schweitzer | HNTB |
| Christopher Fagan | HNTB |
| Naomi Hodges | HNTB |
| Kimberli Owens | HNTB |

Distribution: All Attendees

1. Meeting Purpose

The New Mix Team presented an overview of the Mobility Equity Analysis (the Analysis) that was performed as part of the New Mix Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study. The New Mix Team highlighted the outreach activities and the Mobility Equity survey that were performed as part of the Analysis as well as the survey findings, evaluations, and recommendations that resulted from the Analysis. At the conclusion of the presentation, PAC members were given the opportunity to provide feedback on the recommendations. The New Mix Team requested PAC members to provide input regarding anything discussed during the meeting. PAC members were able to ask questions at the end of the meeting and could send comments after the meeting by emailing the New Mix Team or sending feedback through the New Mix website.

2. New Mix Program Project Advisory Committee Meeting Presentation

A. Project Advisory Committee Meeting No. 6 Summary

- a. Presented an overview of the New Mix PEL Study as well as an update of the activities that have been occurring since the last PAC meeting.
- b. Introduced and defined mobility equity in relation to the transportation system focusing on other modes of travel rather than solely motor vehicles (i.e., bicycle, pedestrian, and transit); mobility equity exists when all transportation users have access to safe, affordable, and convenient transportation options.
- c. Reviewed the public outreach efforts, the Mobility Equity Survey, and highlighted results.
- d. Presented the desktop data collection activities and analysis that occurred to define needs and the existing conditions of the transportation network including demographic and socioeconomic information.
- e. Reviewed the identified goals and strategies that were developed from the input provided through the survey and the desktop data collection.
- f. Shared the categories of projects evaluated for prioritization as well as the factors used to score the identified projects.
- g. Presented the results of the evaluation and recommendations for incorporation into the PEL Study. Reminded PAC that more analysis must occur before any project moves forward.
 - i. Presented an overview of the next steps including the refined Preliminary Purpose and Need Statement and PEL Study activities occurring through Fall 2024.
- h. PAC members were encouraged to continue exploring the Project website to stay up to date on the latest information, including the imminent release of the New Mix Mobility Equity Video.
- i. General questions and discussion.

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

The following questions and comments were received during the PAC Meeting No. 6 presentation.

- Brian Peterson of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church referenced the widespread lack of access to personal vehicles highlighted in the survey results. Mr. Peterson asked if those who do not have access to a vehicle would have also had trouble responding to the survey if it required technology that not all residents had and how that could have affected the data collected from the surveys. Naomi Hodges of HNTB acknowledged the demographic considerations and emphasized that the Analysis focused on the broader potential improvements for all modes of transportation as needed by the community. Ms. Hodges added that hard copy surveys were available during in-person outreach efforts and that those without access to an electronic device were offered the choice to complete the survey using one of the New Mix Team's electronic tablets available at the in-person outreach events.
- Kenneth R. Cook, Ph. D of NAACP asked if the presentation would be made available after the meeting. Ms. Hodges responded that a PDF file of the presentation would be provided to all PAC members and a Report of Meeting will be uploaded to the project website once developed.
- Dr. Cook voiced concerns over the public transit system's circulation, distribution, access, and capacity and how those aspects were incorporated into the Analysis. Ms. Hodges acknowledged Dr. Cook's concerns and highlighted that the Analysis was focused on the local system within Waterbury for all modes of transportation and therefore a detailed review of the transit system did not occur. The Analysis identified recommendations that require additional analysis to identify more specific projects as well as to identify implementing parties as project partners would need to be involved.
- Mark Nielsen of NVCOG asked if the report would be made available so members could have a chance to review the Analysis in more detail and provide more specific feedback. Mr. Nielsen also noted that NVCOG is in the process of discussing transit with the City of Waterbury and that the previous Waterbury Area Transit Study may need to be revisited and updated. Ms. Hodges replied that the technical memorandum (report) produced as part of the Analysis is under review at CTDOT and will be uploaded to the project website once finalized. Nilesh Patel of CTDOT added that they understand the importance of keeping the PAC informed and affirmed that the meeting was the first step of informing stakeholders. Conversations will continue with stakeholders when appropriate. Ms. Hodges reminded the PAC that additional analysis is needed to identify tangible projects to be implemented since the Analysis only identifies general improvement recommendations.
- Arthur Denze, Sr. of Waterbury Neighborhood Council highlighted that there was no discussion of the potential relocation of the Interstate-84 Eastbound Exit 18 ramps and stressed the importance of its review as it would impact the community in that area. Ms. Hodges ensured Mr. Denze that Exit 18 was not forgotten as part of the PEL Study. The presentation delivered was solely regarding mobility equity and potential improvements to the bike, pedestrian, and public transit infrastructure at the local level. David Schweitzer

of HNTB added that information related to Mr. Denze's questions will be ready in the Fall and presented to the PAC prior to showing the public. Mr. Denze also brought awareness to the driving habits of motorists in the area with excessive speeding and aggressive driving taking place.

- Dr. Cook asked if the New Mix Team is looking at headways on the busses. Ms. Hodges replied that the public transit data was obtained for the Analysis to understand the general conditions of the transit network and that information was not evaluated in detail due to the generalized nature of the Analysis. General improvements were identified and recommended for the areas evaluated. Additional and more detailed analysis must occur in the future to define more specific projects such as project limits and other specific improvements. When the transit system is evaluated in more depth, the headways will also be further evaluated.
- Robert Nerney of Waterbury City Planning echoed Mr. Nielsen's earlier statement of sharing the Analysis' technical memorandum (report) and added that the PAC would benefit from receiving PAC meeting information prior to the next PAC meeting.

Following the question and comments portion of the presentation, the New Mix Team thanked all PAC members for their attendance and contributions throughout the meeting. A hyperlink to the New Mix Mobility Equity Video were shared in the chat. Any comments or questions on the New Mix may be sent to Ms. Hodges at nhodges@hntb.com or through the project website at newmixwaterbury.com.

Meeting adjourned at 1:53pm.