



**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: December 13, 2021 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM
 Location of Meeting: Zoom Teleconference
 Subject of Meeting: New Mix Program PAC Meeting #2

Attendees:

PAC Members	
Name	Organization
John Touri	Bender Plumbing Supply
Roy Cavanaugh	City of Waterbury Bureau of Engineering
David Simpson	City of Waterbury Department of Public Works
Joseph McGrath	City of Waterbury Economic Development
Clifford Brammer III	City of Waterbury Planning Department
Robert Nerney	City of Waterbury Planning Department
Mary Tomolonius	Connecticut Association for Community Transportation
Sharon Lewis	Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice
Martin Begnal	Friends of Riverside Cemetery
Kurt Salmoiraghi	Federal Highway Administration
Brian Peterson	Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Erik Hazelton	Housatonic Valley Association
John DiCarlo	Main Street Waterbury
Dana Elm	Naugatuck Valley Community College
Mark Nielsen	Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
Kevin Zak	PAL River Brigade
Stephanie Valickis	Saint Mary's Hospital
Kevin Taylor	Waterbury Bridge to Success
Thomas Hyde	Waterbury Development Corporation
Tom Fitzgerald	Waterbury Fire Department
Joseph Violette	Waterbury Regional Chamber
Martin Spring	Waterville Community Club
Tomas Olivo Valentin	Working Cities Challenge

Department of Transportation	
Name	Organization
Carlo Leone	Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT)
Nilesh Patel	CTDOT
Scott Roberts	CTDOT
Jonathan Dean	CTDOT
Joe Belrose	CTDOT
Consultant Team	
Jacob Argiro	HNTB
David Schweitzer	HNTB
Christopher Fagan	HNTB

Naomi Hodges	HNTB
David Giel	HNTB
Katie Theis	HNTB

Distribution: All Attendees

1. Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to familiarize the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) with elements of the Analysis, Needs, and Deficiency Report (AN&D). This presentation recapped key elements of the first PAC meeting, provided a summary of the AN&D, and reviewed next steps, upcoming meetings, and future PAC Agenda Items.

2. New Mix Program Project Advisory Committee Meeting Presentation

A. Project Advisory Committee Meeting No. 2 Presentation

Naomi Hodges (HNTB Environmental Lead) began the meeting by welcoming PAC members to the second PAC meeting. An overview of Zoom accessibility and troubleshooting followed, with notice that the meeting would be recorded. This was followed by an overview of the meeting’s agenda, introductions for the leadership team, and attendance for PAC members. The roles and responsibilities of the PAC members were then reviewed, and progress made on the study since the last meeting was identified.

A brief summary of the New Mix Program was provided which highlighted the program as a long-term plan for the future of the Interstate 84/Route 8 Interchange (Mixmaster), and the CTDOT’s usage of the federally recognized Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) approach for the study. A PEL study overview and schedule were displayed to review the steps involved in producing a final PEL Study Report, as well as to highlight the current step in this process (development of the Preliminary Purpose and Need Statement and identification of Transportation-Related Goals and Objectives). Ms. Hodges provided a description of the AN&D, explained how the report is utilized within the PEL process, and reviewed terms which would be commonly used throughout the presentation.

Christopher Fagan (HNTB Project Engineer) covered an overview of the Structural Conditions section of the AN&D. The analysis, methodology, and determination of the existing conditions of the Mixmaster structures at the time of the AN&D were presented. It was noted that the ongoing Rehabilitation Project at the Mixmaster will restore the Mixmaster bridges to a “State of Good Repair” and that the ongoing project is meant to extend the service life of the bridges until 2045.

David Schweitzer (HNTB Deputy Project Manager) presented an overview of the Geometric Conditions section of the AN&D. The geometric analysis criteria, methodology, and the determination of the existing geometric conditions at the time of the AN&D were reviewed. Several elements of the Mixmaster Interchange were highlighted to illustrate various existing geometric deficiencies, and a map graphically representing some of the notable geometrically deficient regions was displayed.

David Giel (HNTB Traffic Engineer Lead) presented the elements of the Traffic Analysis (operational conditions) section of the AN&D. This section focused on the study area, interchange traffic volumes (past, present, and forecasted), and traffic modeling tools and simulations.

The presentation continued with a review of the Safety Conditions section of the AN&D. High crash intersection locations and mainline crash density within the project study area were identified. Additionally, a graph portraying the varying contributing factors for crashes across the Mixmaster was displayed to convey the concerns regarding safety within the study area as it stood at the completion of the AN&D.

A poll was presented to the PAC: “On a Scale of 1-5, How Do Our Analyses Compare with Your Lived Experience?” The following results were generated:

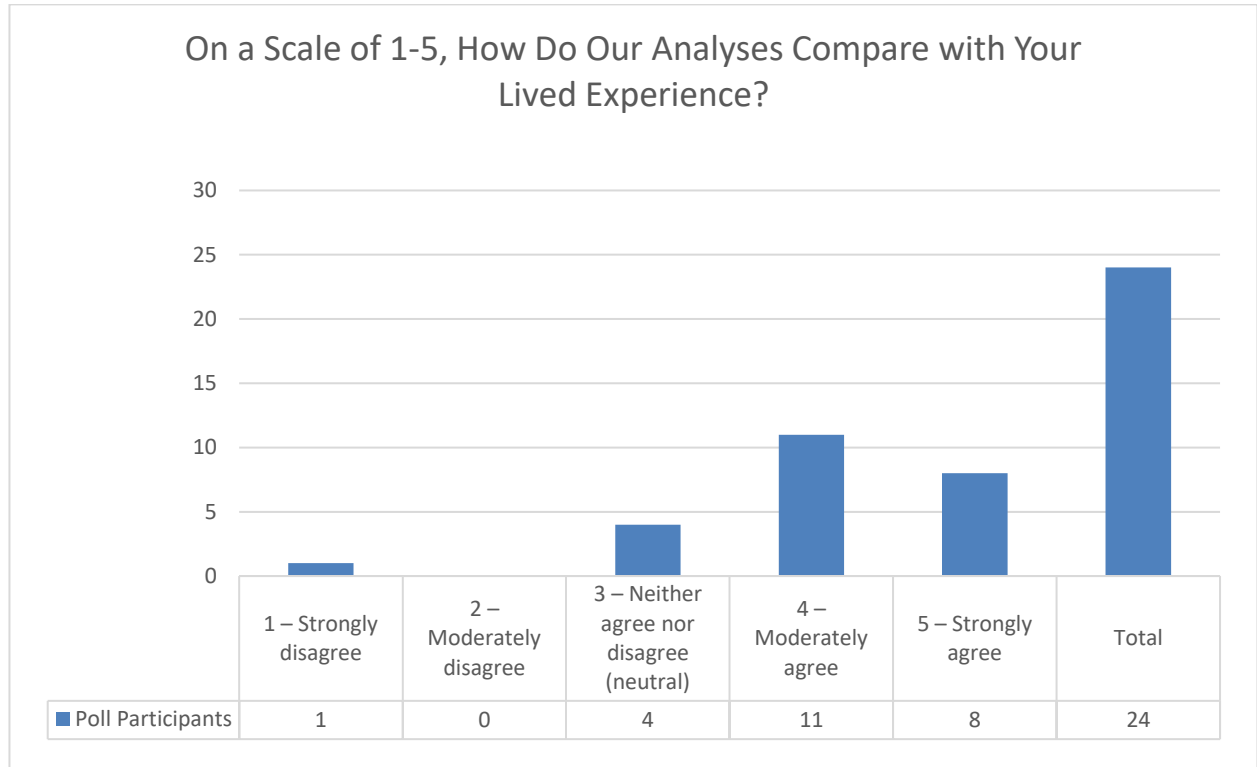


Figure 1 - Poll Results: On a Scale of 1-5, How Do Our Analyses Compare with Your Lived Experience?

During the poll, the meeting was opened to comments:

- Martin Begnal (Friends of Riverside Cemetery, President) asked if the projected congestion displayed during the Traffic Analysis portion of the presentation relied on transportation systems staying the same and added that hopefully there would be improvement between now and 2045. Ms. Hodges responded by noting the traffic models consider the planned transportation improvements, but there are some improvements that may consider less people using the system if they have public transit options. Mr. Bengal reiterated a hope for other improvements beyond those occurring through the New Mix Project to be utilized in the forecasting tools.

The presentation resumed with Katie Theis (HNTB Urban Design Lead) providing an overview of the Multimodal Conditions section of the AN&D. Existing bicycle and pedestrian conditions, existing transit and rail service conditions, and existing routes and key destinations were noted, with focus on both current conditions of these elements as well as emphasis on the potential for improvements.

The presentation continued with an overview of the Environmental and Community conditions of Waterbury. The methodology and resources utilized to inform the Environmental and

Community Conditions section of the AN&D were also noted. These resources included Geographic Information System (GIS) data-based research using Federal and State database tools, State and Regional Engineering Evaluations, and State, Regional and Local Planning Initiatives.

A second poll was conducted: “On a Scale of 1-5, How Do Our Analyses Compare with Your Lived Experience? The following results were generated:

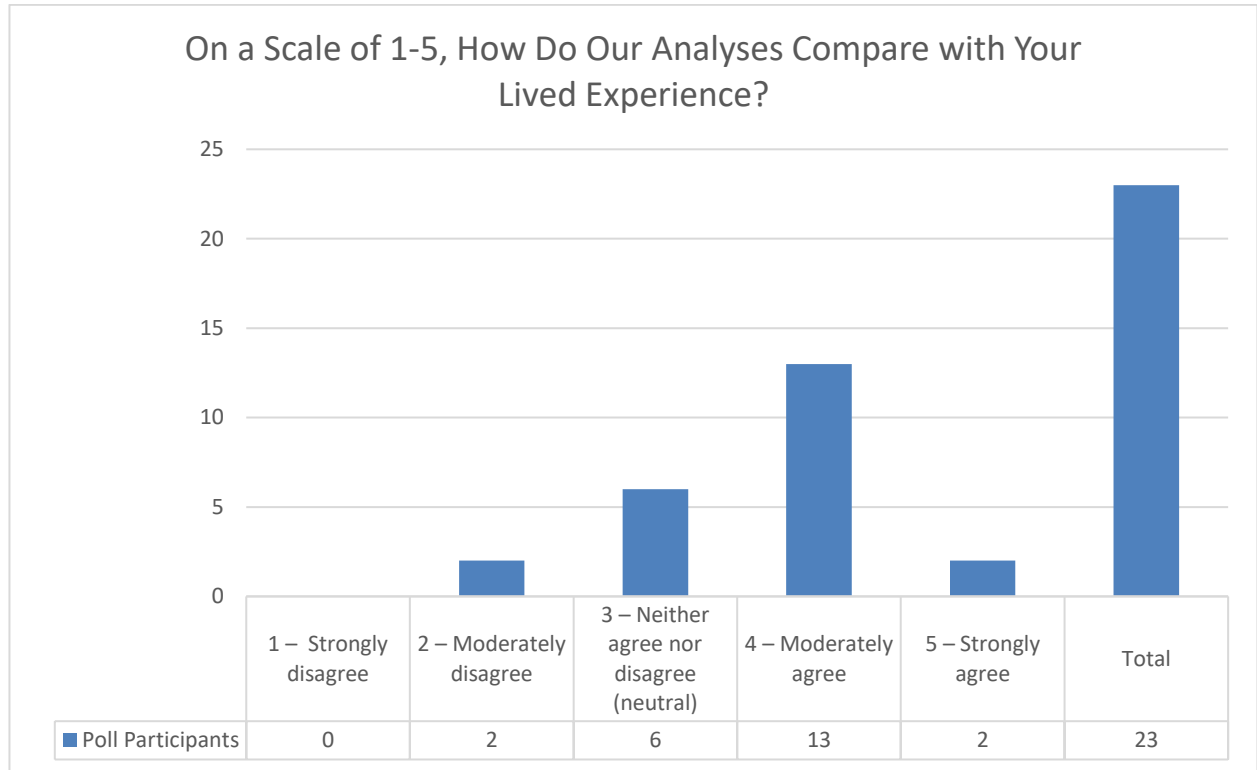


Figure 2 - Poll Results: On a Scale of 1-5, How Do Our Analyses Compare with Your Lived Experience?

After this poll, the meeting was opened to comments.

- Mark Nielsen (Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, Director of Planning / Assistant Director) asked if the temporary bridge that was constructed as a bypass for Route 8 Northbound could be repurposed as a bike and pedestrian corridor. Scott Roberts (CTDOT, Project Manager) explained that because the bridge was temporary in nature it was only permitted for the temporary condition. Mr. Schweitzer added that the bridge only met the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) twenty-five-year storm standards, and thus cannot be left as a permanent structure. Mr. Nielsen suggested that because the city is divided into four quadrants due to the Mixmaster, a bike/pedestrian bridge may help eliminate this partitioning.
- Erik Hazelton (Housatonic Valley Association, Southern Valley Conservation Projects Manager) questioned if there are stormwater analyses within the environmental section of the AN&D. Ms. Hodges responded by noting that nothing specific or data driven regarding stormwater is being utilized at this time, as this type of information will be analyzed once there is a design or concept for the project.
- Kevin Zak (PAL River Brigade, President) asked about the absence of temporary trash and oil pollution separators within the highway drainage system to the Naugatuck River as a part of

the Rehabilitation Project at the Mixmaster and identified as part of the New Mix Program AN&D data collection. Mr. Zak stated that the installation of temporary pollution separators could occur during the ongoing Rehabilitation Project at the Mixmaster and incorporated at a low cost. Mr. Zak also added that he believes the Rehabilitation Project at the Mixmaster to be a nonpoint source of pollution for the Naugatuck River, having found traffic cones in the river himself. The installation of trash and oil pollution collectors could reduce the effects of nonpoint source pollution to the Naugatuck River and other downstream watersheds. Mr. Roberts responded by noting that trash interceptors can be taken into consideration for New Mix Program, however the conditions Mr. Zak referenced are part of the ongoing Rehabilitation Project at the Mixmaster, which is not a part of the New Mix Program. Mr. Zak was encouraged to access the Rehabilitation Project at the Mixmaster project website for more information. Mr. Schweitzer also offered to continue this discussion with Mr. Zak subsequent to this meeting.

- Mr. Hazelton asked if PAC members would get a presentation on current work and the Rehabilitation Project at the Mixmaster. Ms. Hodges offered to send a link to the project websites for members with interest in current projects. Mr. Roberts added that the New Mix Program is focused on the future and the PAC meetings for the New Mix Program were not meant to focus on existing projects.
- Mr. Zak asked if comments were still being accepted on the Rehabilitation Project at the Mixmaster. Mr. Roberts noted that the Rehabilitation Project at the Mixmaster was nearing completion but encouraged Mr. Zak to reach out to the CTDOT Construction Office if he had concerns. The Program Team also offered to follow up with Mr. Zak and Mr. Hazelton after the meeting regarding the stormwater concerns generated by the Rehabilitation Project at the Mixmaster.
- Mr. Begnal highlighted the Riverside Cemetery as being a thirty-six-acre urban forest within Waterbury that is also on the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Begnal added that he hopes that the Mixmaster can be considered to move to the eastern side of the Naugatuck River within the design phase. Mr. Begnal noted the cemetery is within the shadow of the interchange and hopes that the cemetery is included in future analyses. Ms. Hodges responded that nothing has been decided yet, and that all options will be considered during the PEL Study to which PAC members and the public would have the opportunity to provide input.

The presentation resumed and PAC members were then briefed about the upcoming meetings, future PAC agenda items, and objectives to have completed prior to the next PAC meeting.

B. Comments & Questions on the New Mix Program

The presentation was then opened to questions and comments, and a pause followed to allow for PAC members to vocalize any questions or concerns.

With no comments or questions remaining, the project team thanked all PAC members for their attendance and reminded members to expect a follow up email.

Meeting adjourned.