



**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: Thursday, September 15, 2022, at 12:00 PM and again at 6:00 PM
Location of Meeting: Virtual via Zoom
Subject of Meeting: New Mix Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study, Public Meeting No. 2

Attendees:

Public Members:	
Please see Attachment A.	
Project Team	
Name	Organization
Michael Calabrese	Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT)
Nilesh Patel	CTDOT
Jonathan Dean	CTDOT
Joe Belrose	CTDOT
Consultant Team	
Jacob Argiro	HNTB
David Schweitzer	HNTB
Susan Yarbrough	HNTB
Naomi Hodges	HNTB
Anna Mariotti	HNTB

1. Meeting Format and Attendance

The second New Mix public meeting took place via Zoom. Two meeting times were offered, one at 12 noon and the other at 6 p.m. Please see Attachment A for lists of attendees.

Real-time translation in Spanish and in Portuguese were provided for both meetings.

2. Presentation: Introduction to the New Mix Project’s Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

A. Public Involvement Overview

- a. Recap of Public Meeting No. 1
- b. Ways in which the public can learn more, ask questions, provide comments

B. New Mix PEL Study Universe of Alternatives

- a. Develop Evaluation Criteria and Conceptual Alternatives
 - a. The No-Build Alternative and other Travel Modes



- b. Rehabilitation and Replacement Alternatives
- c. Rehabilitation Alternatives
- d. Replacement Alternatives

C. New Mix Program PEL Study Level 1 Screening Criteria

- a. Engineering-Based for Improving the Identified Deficiencies (Needs) and Feasible Solutions (Purpose)

D. Next Steps

- a. The public was reminded that they can stay informed, sign up to receive project updates via email, leave comments, and ask questions any time on the project's website at NewMixWaterbury.com.
- b. The project team request that public feedback concerning the information presented at this meeting be submitted by September 30, 2022.
- c. The New Mix team will have informational tables set up at various community events such as the Waterbury Fall Fest and at locations such as schools and libraries.
- d. Preview of upcoming public meetings.

3. Post-Meeting Question & Answer (Q&A) Sessions

The following is a summary of the questions asked at the public meeting along with the answers that were provided. It has been edited for clarity. Please visit the New Mix website to view the recording of the entire public meeting. The video may be found at: <https://www.newmixwaterbury.com/public-involvement/public-meetings/>

A. Q&A for the 12:00 p.m., September 15, 2022, Public Meeting

Q: Town of Prospect Mayor: When this phase of construction is over, will overweight/over-length vehicles be allowed onto Interstate 84?

A: A steel strengthening program and load rating study was recently completed as part of the Rehabilitation Project. So, overweight vehicles are allowed on I-84 now and will continue to be in the future.

Q: Town of Prospect Mayor: Do you anticipate any problems with traffic in Prospect during the future construction of the New Mix? I am concerned about traffic being detoured onto Route 68 and through the Town of Prospect. This occurred in the past when I-84 was rebuilt on the east end of Waterbury.

A: That is a big challenge. As we look to potentially replace the Mixmaster we are going to do so in a way to carry traffic on the highway or structures purposely built to avoid large detours through local communities.

Q: *Kevin Ellis (Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG))*: The State put out a directive targeting a Vehicles Miles Traveled (VMT) reduction over the next decade. However, this project shows an increase with VMT. Is there a consideration to align your VMT projections with the goals the State of Connecticut has?

A: The governor did issue an executive order and the Department of Transportation is currently working on developing a plan to achieve a reduction of VMT. We will incorporate any changes that may be needed in this project in accordance with that plan.

Q: *Jackson Hurst*: If CTDOT decides to go with the tunnel alternative and there is an increase in cost compared to other alternatives, is there a possibility of using tolls to offset the project cost?

A: Currently, that [tolls] is not being considered but is something that could be looked at in the future. The tunnel option may not be underground, the way we typically think of tunnels. If used, a tunnel option could be a depressed section of the highway that is built over providing developable or available land.

During a pause in questions, CTDOT noted that the New Mix project team is getting the word out about the New Mix project by attending community events, regularly meeting with the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) that includes representatives from City Hall, the hospitals, neighborhoods and others.

Q: *Kevin Ellis (NVCOG)*: A focus on this interchange is to move traffic along Interstate 84 and Route 8 and may have negative impacts to Waterbury and other neighboring communities, such as environmental justice. What steps would you take to mitigate or eliminate any negative impacts to the city?

A: Construction of highways back in the 1960s did divide communities across the country, including Waterbury. Urban planning is a part of the New Mix PEL study. As we narrow down alternatives in Level 2 and Level 3 screenings, we will be incorporating some of these urban design strategies to reconnect the community and improve traffic not just for motor vehicles but also for public transit such as busses and trains. With the train station in Waterbury as well as bus service, there are a lot of opportunities to get into the urban planning side of things. Urban planning and design professionals have been involved from the beginning, not as an afterthought.

At this point in the meeting, there were no further questions or comments from meeting participants. Jonathan Dean, CTDOT Project Manager, then stated that if something comes to mind after the meeting, individuals can always submit comments and/or questions on the New Mix website NewMixWaterbury.com. In addition, individuals can sign up for project related information on both the website and at thenewmixwaterbury@gmail.com.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

B. Q&A for the 6:00 p.m., September 15, 2022, Public Meeting

In addition to the Question-and-Answer session we are about to begin, there are many ways that people can learn about what's going on and ask questions or leave comments. We can be emailed at theNewMixWaterbury@gmail.com and you follow us on social media to learn about what events we will be attending. We will be at the Watertown Festival this Saturday, September 17, 2022. In addition to getting the word out to these public meetings, the New Mix team is also meeting with the Project Advisory Committee (PAC). In addition to the community events that we have been attending, our social media is ongoing. Also, people can visit the New Mix website anytime to learn more, ask questions, leave comments, and sign up to receive project updates via email.

Q: *Karen:* I want to make sure I understand correctly—right now you are going through the process to narrow down the options. The feedback that you are looking for now is that relative to the process you are following, or do you want feedback on some of the alternatives?

A: We would love to hear public feedback about the process, the alternatives, and the screening criteria, and anything we discussed during this meeting.

Q: *Thomas:* Thanks for the presentation. Is there a high-level preference for a partial interchange or a complete interchange at this level? I personally would be in favor of complete interchange.

A: We cannot give you a preference as the alternatives are all going to go through the funnel that was shown earlier in presentation. There are some movements on the interchange that do not carry as high of a level of traffic as others. We are juggling a lot of factors. The ideal outcome would be to have a complete system interchange with the highway connections, but this is a very constrained area so there may have to be some adjustments and accommodations that are made.

At this point in the meeting, there were no further questions or comments from meeting participants. Jonathan Dean, CTDOT Project Manager, then stated that if something comes to mind after the meeting, individuals can always submit comments and/or questions on the New Mix website NewMixWaterbury.com. In addition, individuals can sign up for project related information on both the website and at thenewmixwaterbury@gmail.com.

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.



Attachment A

Public Attendees, New Mix Public Meeting No. 2

New Mix Public Meeting No. 2, 12 p.m.
Jim Lohr
Brendan Crowley
Faith Thurmond
Ken Stanco – City of Waterbury
Paul Iadarola
Maria Vaccarelli
Desira Blanchard
Robert Chatfield – Town of Prospect
Paul Buzzelli
Joshua Lecar
Nancy Barbato
Don Travis
John DiFederico, Jr.
Brian MacAllister
Martin Spring
Keith Rosenfeld
Krista Goodin
Lex Nesta
Terry Macary
Kevin Carifa
Bob Eddy
Joanne Marquis
Lance Reynolds
Rebecca Hall
Aaron Budris - NVCOG
Michael Szpryngel
Gary Golding
Rebecca Augur
Mary Griffin
Phil Brigham
Patrick Cooney
Kafi Rouse
Meghan Rigney
Ben Cadwell
KaLyn McCullough

New Mix Public Meeting No. 2, 12 p.m. <i>(Continued from previous page)</i>
Joanna Rogalski - NVCOG
Kevin Ellis – NVCOG
Brian Kalosky
Clifford Brammer – City of Waterbury
Tony Margiotta
Susan Sprano
Bob Nerney – City of Waterbury
Jackson Hurst
Richard Crowther
Barbara Kalosky
Mark Carlino
Patricia Bauer
Alec Slatky
Carlo Leone
Kim LeSay
David Ferraro

New Mix Public Meeting No. 2, 6 p.m.
Brian Barakat
Kevin Taylor
Karen Svetz
Richard Donovan – NVCOG
Norm Berg
Marc Mancini
David Simpson - City of Waterbury
C Merrick
Betty Bajek
Thomas Wamser
John Famiglietti
Brian Kalosky
Penny Pecka
Jim Redeker
Brett Stark
David Ferraro
Kim Lesay
Meghan Rigney
Ben Cadwell