

The I-84 Danbury Project

Summary of Responses to Project Launch Survey

November 14, 2017

The I-84 team launched a survey in June of 2017 to heighten interest in the I-84 Danbury Project, help the team better understand how residents, commuters and stakeholders use I-84, and begin a dialog about how well the highway serves their daily needs. The logical follow-up to this survey is to work with the public to determine how I-84 can be improved to better meet the public's current and future transportation needs.

The survey was first made available to attendees at the project's first Public Open House held at Western Connecticut State University on June 13, 2017. It was later posted on the project website, www.i84danbury.com. The survey was not intended as a scientific survey given to a representative or random sampling of highway users, rather, it was an informal survey that seeks to better engage the public during the initial stages of the planning of the I-84 Danbury Project. Accordingly, the survey results should not be interpreted as conclusive or representative of public opinion. Nonetheless, the results are interesting, and the design team appreciates all 178 of the people that gave their time to take the survey. Following is a summary of results.

1. How often do you use I-84?

- Nearly 57% of respondents indicated that they use I-84 daily
- 23% use it 3 to 4 times per week
- None responded that they never use the highway

2. How do you use I-84?

- 67% of respondents use the highway to drive to local destinations
- 56% of respondents said they use the highway for daily travel needs such as commuting to work or school
- 8% use the highway to deliver goods or services
- 7% use the highway only for long trips
- Responses to this question exceed 100% because survey takers could choose more than one response

3. Is I-84 critical to your travel needs?

- An overwhelming majority of 90% of respondents indicated "yes" to this question
- Only 9% said "no"

4. Do you feel safe traveling on the I-84 Danbury corridor?

- The clear majority of respondents, 75%, either said "yes", they feel safe using I-84 (16%), or that they felt safe using I-84 "most of the time," (59%)
- Only 17% said that they do not feel safe using I-84
- Another 6% said that it "depends on weather conditions"

5. Do you use city buses to travel to work, school, or other daily destinations?

- Only 2% of respondents said that they use city buses daily
- Another 2% said they use the bus occasionally
- Almost 7% use a carpool daily
- The overwhelming majority of respondents, 87%, indicated that they prefer to drive alone

6. Do you use commuter rail to travel to work, school, or other daily destinations?

- Only 3% of survey takers indicated that they use commuter rail daily
- Another 10% said they use commuter rail a few times a month
- The clear majority of respondents, 84%, said they do not use commuter rail transit

7. Do you or other family members feel that walking and bicycling to work, school or other daily destinations is an option?

- 48% of respondents indicated either:
 - “Yes,” they walk or bicycle to destinations daily (2%)
 - At least once or twice a week (1%)
 - “Would like to do so if they felt walking or bicycling was safe or convenient” (45%)
- 49% said “no,” they prefer to drive by car

8. Does congestion on I-84 frustrate you or cause you to be late?

- Over 88% of survey takers responded affirmatively to this question
- Only 10% said that congestion is not a problem

9. Does congestion on I-84 impact local roads in Danbury or in bordering towns?

- This question had the highest level of affirmative responses – nearly 96% of survey takers indicated that congestion on I-84 impacts local roads
- Only 3 respondents said “no”

10. Would you like to know more about plans for I-84 and attend future meetings?

- 56% of respondents indicated that they would like to know more about the project and attend future meetings
- 39% said “no”

11. Where do you live?

- Most respondents, 50%, live in a Connecticut town that borders Danbury
- 26% live in Danbury
- 20% live in a Connecticut town or city that does not border Danbury
- Only 4 respondents live in a New York town just over the state border or in another state

12. What race/ethnicity best describes you?

- Most respondents, nearly 69%, indicated that they are White/Caucasian
- 14% preferred not to answer
- 2% indicated “Other”
- One respondent (less than 1%) indicated “Black or African American”

13. What is the primary language spoken in your household?

This open-ended question received the following range of responses:

- “English” (140 responses)
- “Prefer Not to Answer” (1 response)
- “English/German” (1 response)

14. What was your approximate household income in 2016?

- 38% of respondents either did not respond to this question or indicated that they “preferred not to answer”
- 29% of respondents chose one of two household income categories that span between \$75,000 and \$150,000
- 24% indicated their household income was \$150,000 or more
- 9% of respondents chose one of three categories of household income that is less than \$75,000
 - 3% chose \$50,000 to \$74,999
 - 3% chose \$35,000 to \$49,999
 - 3% chose \$25,000 to \$34,999
 - Less than 1% chose less than \$25,000