

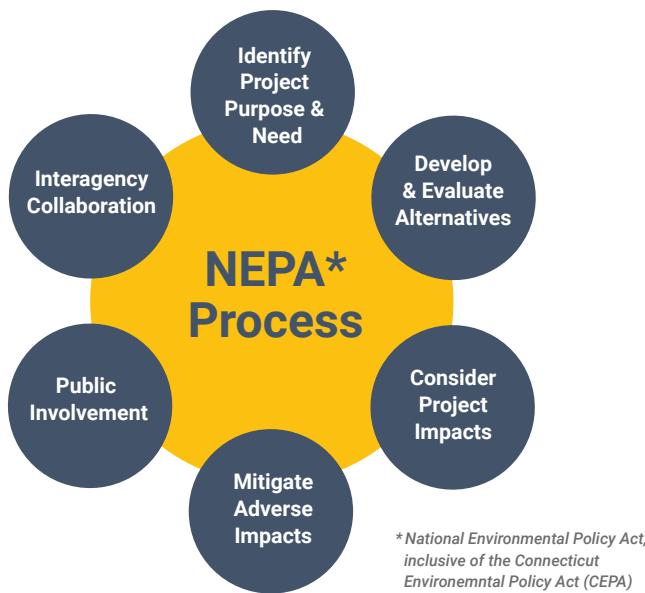


I-84 Danbury Project



Fall 2018 Newsletter

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Environmental Documentation

What are NEPA and CEPA? What is their benefit?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) require that proposed federally and state-funded projects undergo a process to identify and evaluate their potential impacts and engage the public about those impacts. This work must occur in the early planning phases of a project, before key decisions are made. Both NEPA and CEPA govern the I-84 Dan-

bury Project work.

Prior to NEPA/CEPA, engineers focused narrowly on how to design a highway instead of how that highway could affect the surrounding communities and environment. The NEPA/CEPA process ensures that community and environmental values remain at the forefront of the project.

Local residents have important knowledge of many of the places and resources in Danbury. NEPA/CEPA requires that planners, engineers, and designers dis-

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GET INVOLVED



We Need Your Help!

We are now forming a Project Advisory Committee (PAC) to help guide the alternatives analysis process. The PAC will meet several times a year over the course of the project and is intended to:

- Represent various Danbury communities,
- Share opinions and ideas; and
- Help develop solutions.

If you are a leader in your community or represent a group, we want you to join us! No technical skills required. **We need a Committee full of participants that represent the residents, groups, and community organizations of the City.**

Contact us online at
www.i84danbury.com
if you're interested.

Make a small commitment to
help shape your community!

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close potential environmental, social, and economic effects that a proposed project could have on these places and resources. The process provides opportunities for residents to be involved in decision-making for the project.

Weaving the Alternatives Analysis into NEPA and CEPA

A broad range of alternatives—or project solutions—will be identified and studied by the project team. This will occur in close collaboration with the greater Danbury community and state and federal agencies. The expected result is that higher performing, more desirable, and community-preferred alternatives will rise to the top for consideration. Historically, alternatives that receive robust input from the public are the alternatives that are most successful.

The NEPA/CEPA process ultimately

guides the project team by answering key questions such as:

- Will alternatives meet the purpose and need of the project?
- Has the project team identified a reasonable range of feasible alternatives?
- How will construction disrupt Danbury and surrounding communities?
- How will the project affect valuable resources and how can we lessen those impacts?

In summary, NEPA/CEPA will help the public to shape and inform the alternatives and understand their impacts. The result will be a better I-84 Danbury Project that meets safety and mobility needs while minimizing social and ecological impacts. Consider learning about the project (via the website and meetings), asking questions, and sharing your opinions!

Who is conducting NEPA / CEPA?

The project team recently began the environmental documentation process required by NEPA/CEPA. Milone and MacBroom, a Cheshire-based consulting firm specializing in engineering, planning, and environmental science, is conducting this analysis on behalf of CTDOT. Their first step has been to identify those resources that could be affected by the reconstruction of the highway. Typical resources include those related to the natural environment such as air quality, noise, wetland, and wildlife habitat, as well as those related to the human environment such as land use, socio-economic, and cultural resources. The team will also assess how I-84 affects the local transportation network including cross streets, transit networks, and pedestrian facilities.

**Have a
Question?
We Have an
Answer!**

The project team regularly receives questions and comments via the project website, at public meetings, and at pop-up events. Recent examples include:

Q: How many crashes per year occur on this stretch of I-84?

A: The number of crashes on I-84 between exits 3 and 8 is approximately 350 per year—nearly one per day!

Check out these and other FAQ at <http://www.i84danbury.com/faqs/>. Or ask us a different question! Who knows...It could be added to the webpage soon after.



Transit-Oriented Development in Danbury

The City of Danbury is undertaking a Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) study to help revitalize downtown. Danbury's TOD study has many objectives, including:

- Expand downtown Danbury's walkable and mixed-use character;
- Unlock market-driven development opportunities;
- Improve multi-modal access and use of transit service;
- Link downtown and other neighborhoods with transit; and,
- Design places that attract people.

TOD is a type of development that consists of compact, dense, mixed-use buildings—a combination of apartments, shops, services, and/or offices—within walking distance to quality public transportation.

TOD would improve non-motorized travel (walking and bicycling), increase transit ridership levels, and enable people to live closer to where they work. This shift of travel from cars to more sustainable forms of transportation will benefit I-84 by reducing travel demand by single-occupant automobiles. Also, TOD has the potential to improve access to jobs and services for low-income and minority populations—a key goal that is shared by the I-84 Danbury Project team.

To learn more about the Danbury TOD study and read the draft report, visit: <https://www.danbury-ct.gov/government/departments/planning-zoning/tod/>

"By capitalizing on its great places and multi-modal transit connections, [the Downtown Danbury TOD Study will] transform Downtown Danbury into a more vibrant, densely developed center of urban life where businesses thrive..."

**Downtown Danbury
TOD Study Vision**



Ongoing Public Involvement

The project team has met with key local stakeholders such as the Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce, Danbury Airport, Danbury Hospital, and major employers.

In addition, the project team continues its community outreach, with a focus on informal public events such as pop-ups at CityCenter Danbury's Downtown Chowdown and Farmers' Market to meet the local community and discuss needs and desires for travel on I-84 in Danbury. If you want us to set up a table at your event, school activity, or other community get together, please let us know. We would like to talk to as many in the community as possible!



Upcoming Meetings

Keep an eye on the project website (or [subscribe to email updates](#)) to learn of upcoming meetings. As the project team embarks on the development of alternatives, next steps will include holding a Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Kickoff Meeting and a public meeting on the Purpose and Need for the I-84 Danbury Project.

Get Involved!

- 👉 [Attend a meeting](#)
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- 👉 [Visit I84Danbury.com and sign up for project updates](#)