

I-84 Danbury Project

Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting No. 3

September 24, 2019



Agenda

- PAC Membership and Recap of Outreach Efforts
- Perspective Gathering Exercise
- Project Need
- Project Need Check-in
- Project Purpose
- Project Purpose Check-in
- Next Steps



PAC Membership and Recap of Outreach Efforts



PAC Membership

AAA	Danbury Hospital	League of Women Voters of Northern Fairfield County	Town of New Milford
Boehringer-Ingelheim	Danbury Housing Authority	Motor Transport Association of CT (MTAC)	Town of Newtown
Cartus	Danbury Public Schools	New York Metropolitan Transportation Council	Town of Redding
City of Danbury: Business Advocacy, Engineering, Health & Human Services, Library, Planning, Public Works, & Traffic	Danbury Museum & Historical Society	Putnam County, New York	Town of Ridgefield
CityCenter Danbury	Get Downtown Danbury	Sierra Club	West Terrace Neighborhood
CTrides	Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce	Spring Street Neighborhood	Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG)
Connecticut State Police	Housatonic Area Regional Transit (HART)	Sterling Woods Association	Western Connecticut State University
Danbury Airport	Housatonic Railroad	Town of Bethel	West Side District
Danbury Commission for Persons with Disabilities	Juniper Ridge Tax District	Town of Brookfield	
		Town of New Fairfield	

Recap of Outreach to Date:



2
PAC
Meetings



7
Pop-Up
Events



3
Focus
Group



34
Stakeholder
Meetings



1
Public
Open House



178
Survey
Responses

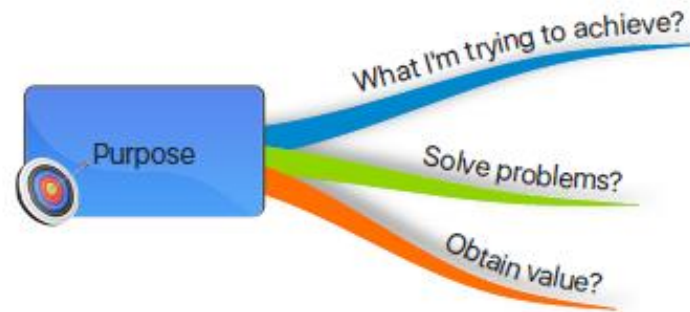


Perspective Gathering Exercise



Objectives of Today's Meeting

- Better understand the unique perspectives of individual PAC members and constituencies
- “Check in” on local issues and priorities
- Provide context that will inform the development of Project Purpose & Need





Comment Card Exercise

From my perspective, the most pressing needs and deficiencies within the I-84 corridor in Greater Danbury are (list up to 3):

In my opinion, the I-84 Danbury Project would be successful if it achieved the following:



Project Need

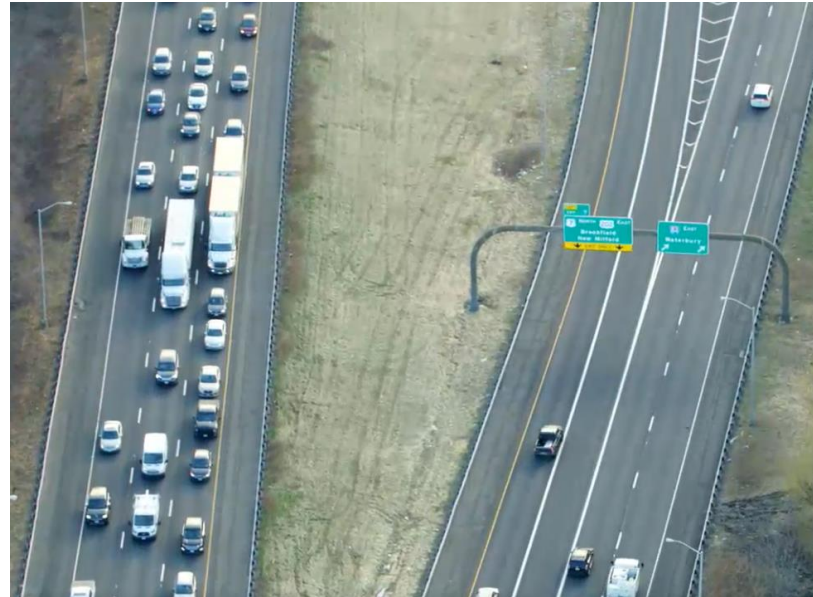


What is project need?

- **Establishes the problem(s)**
- **Justified by data and research**
- In the case of I-84 Danbury, project need has been **quantified through the needs & deficiencies analysis**, which is consistent with stakeholder input received to date.

Key Problems:

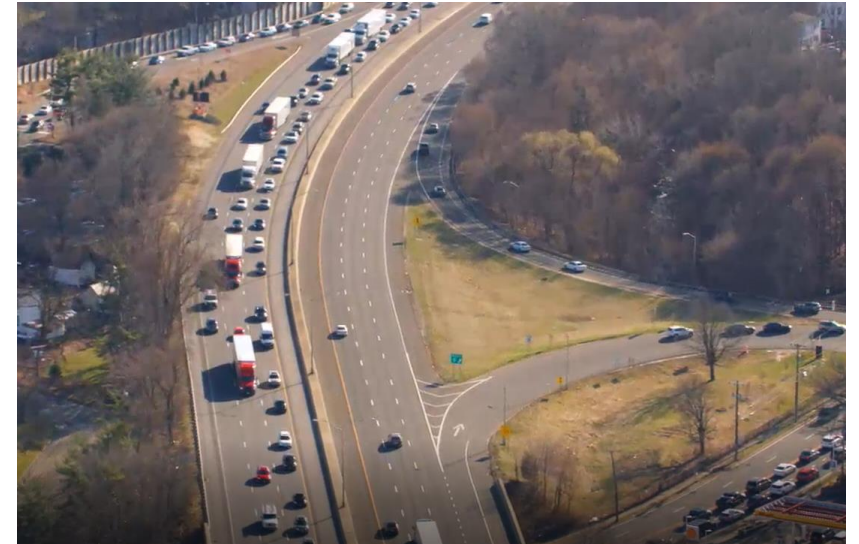
- Congestion
- Poor Mobility





Key Problems:

- Congestion
- Poor Mobility



What is Congestion?

Congestion is characterized by slower speeds, longer delays, and queuing.

Causes of Congestion:

- Heavy Traffic Volumes
- Highway Design Deficiencies
- Weaving
- Crashes





I-84 Traffic Volumes


 = **10,000**
vehicles per day

**Original Design
Capacity:**

 **15,000**
vehicles per day


2016:

(Observed Traffic Volumes)

 **110,000**
vehicles per day

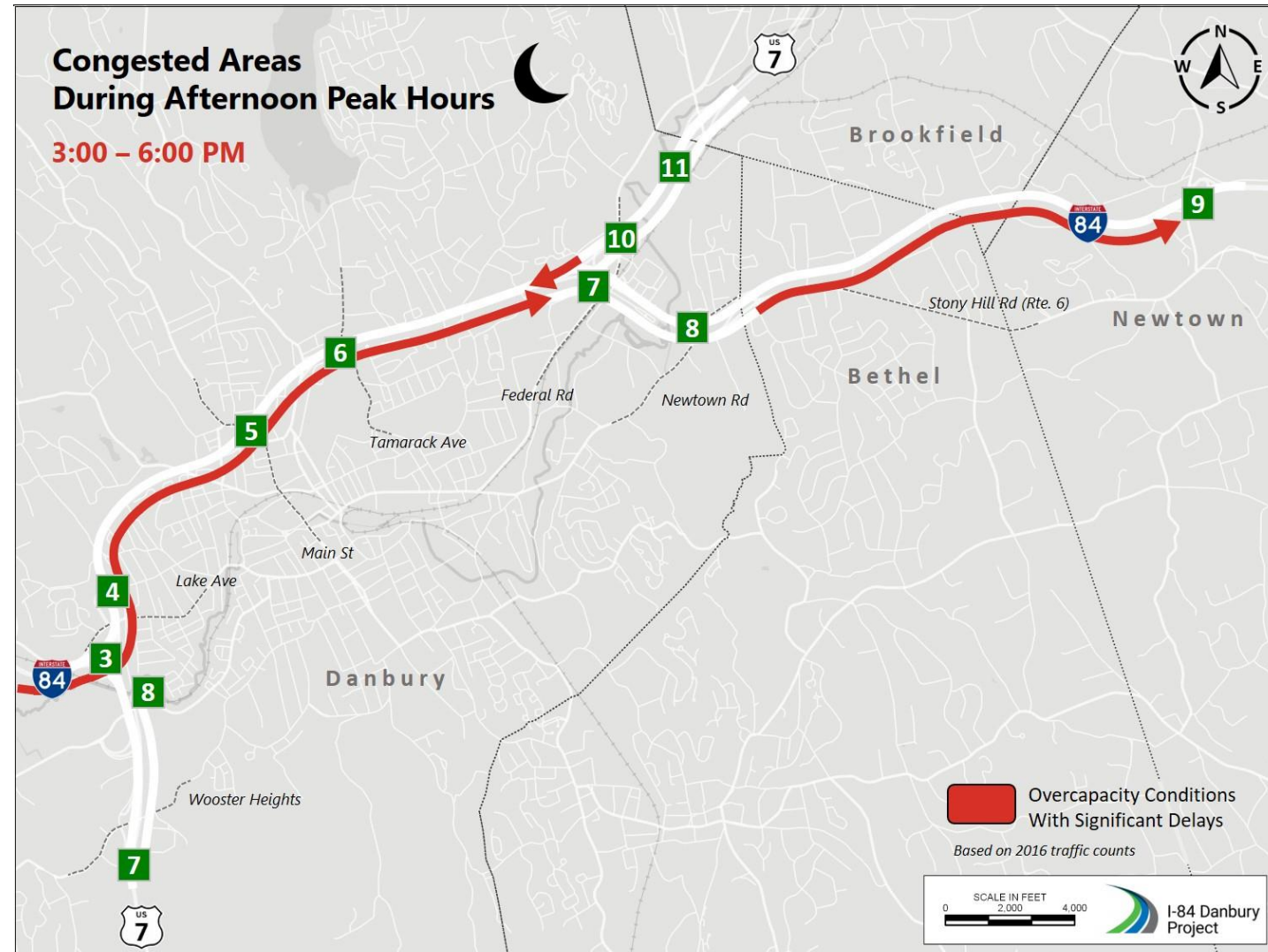
2040:

(Projected Traffic Volumes)

 **130,000**
vehicles per day

Heavy Traffic Volumes

- Morning peak hour congestion occurs primarily in **westbound** direction (towards New York)
- Afternoon peak hour congestion occurs primarily in **eastbound** direction (towards Waterbury)



Highway Design Deficiencies



Sharp curves limit sight distance (Exit 3)



Short merging distances (Exit 4)



Short ramp causes ramp queueing (Exit 5)



Incomplete interchange (Exit 6)



Left hand exit (Exit 7)



Insufficient shoulder widths (Exit 8)

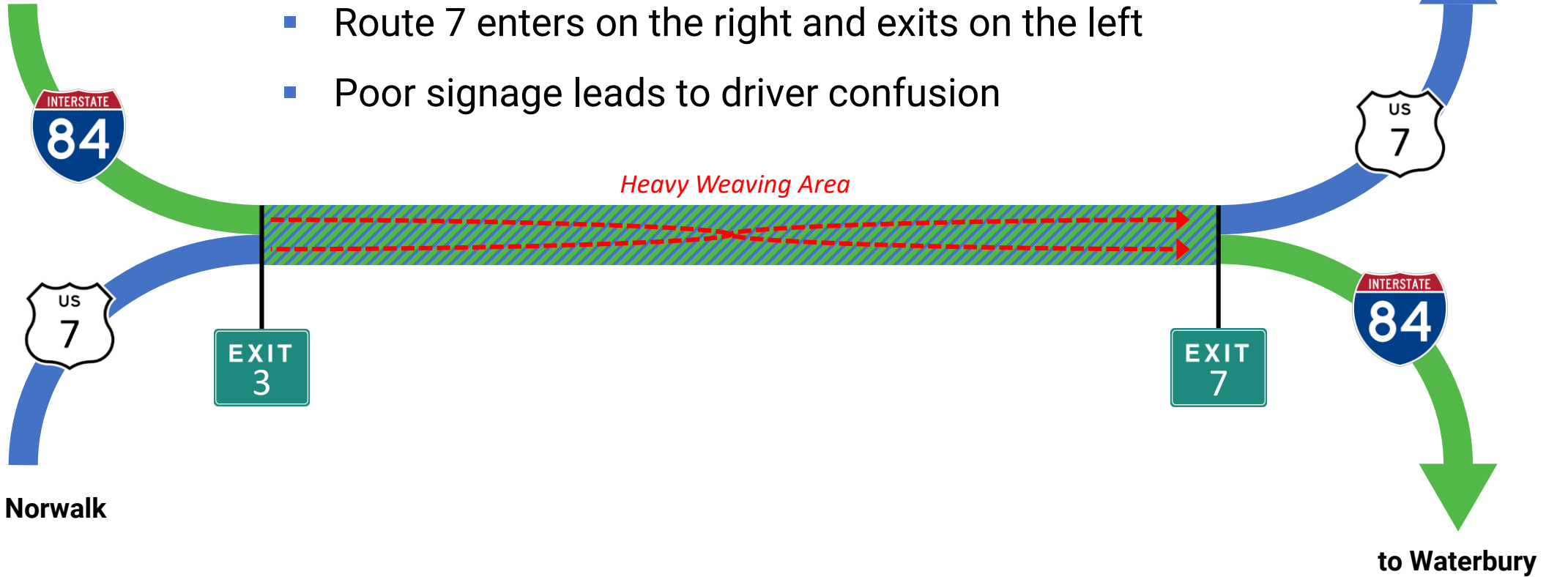


Weaving

Heavy weaving (e.g. between Exit 3 and Exit 7) contributes to congestion and crashes

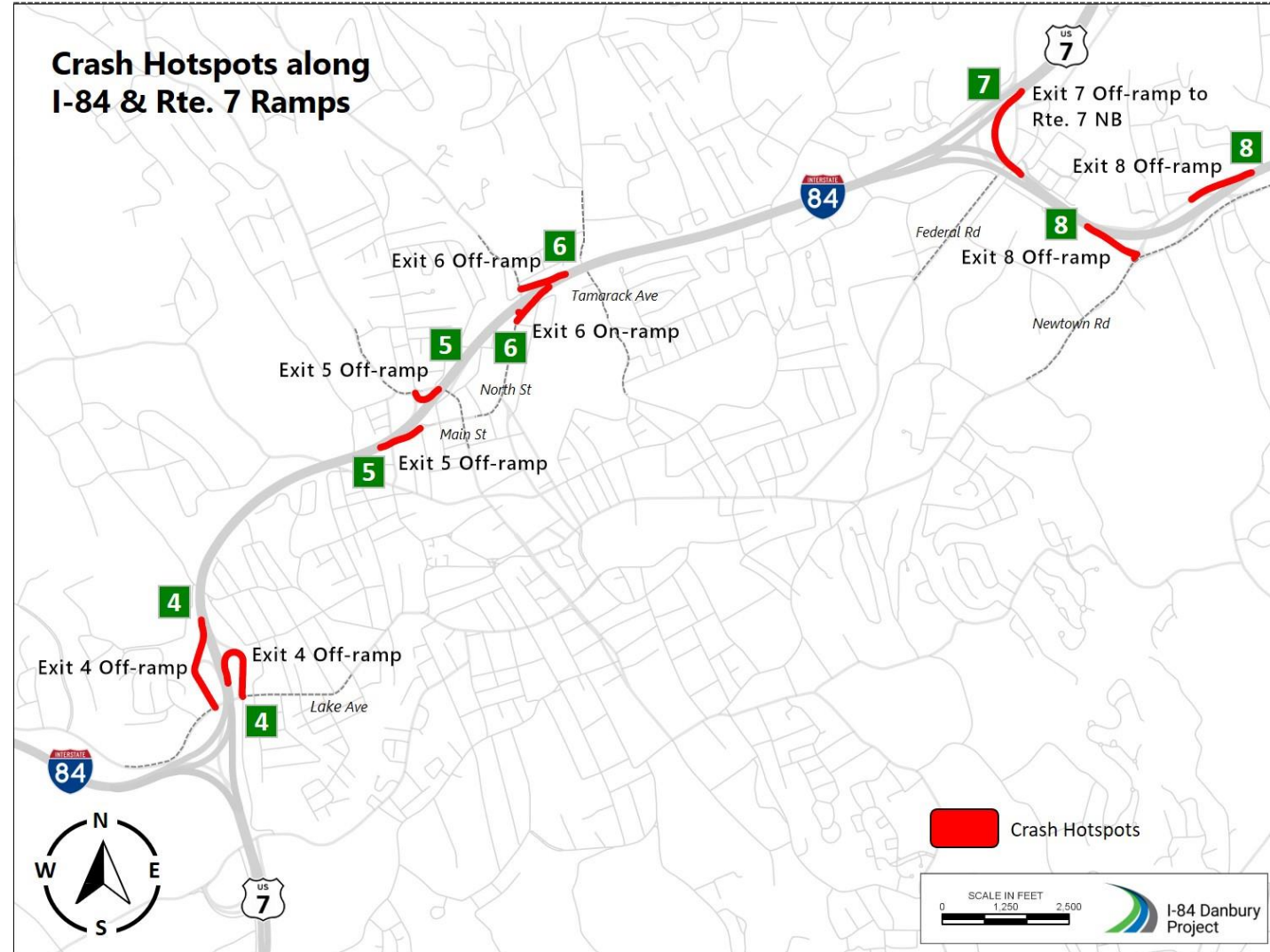
- Left hand exit
- Route 7 enters on the right and exits on the left
- Poor signage leads to driver confusion

from New York State



Crash Hotspots

- About **one crash a day**
- Mostly rear-end and sideswipe crashes



Key Problems:

- Congestion
- Poor Mobility





What is Mobility?

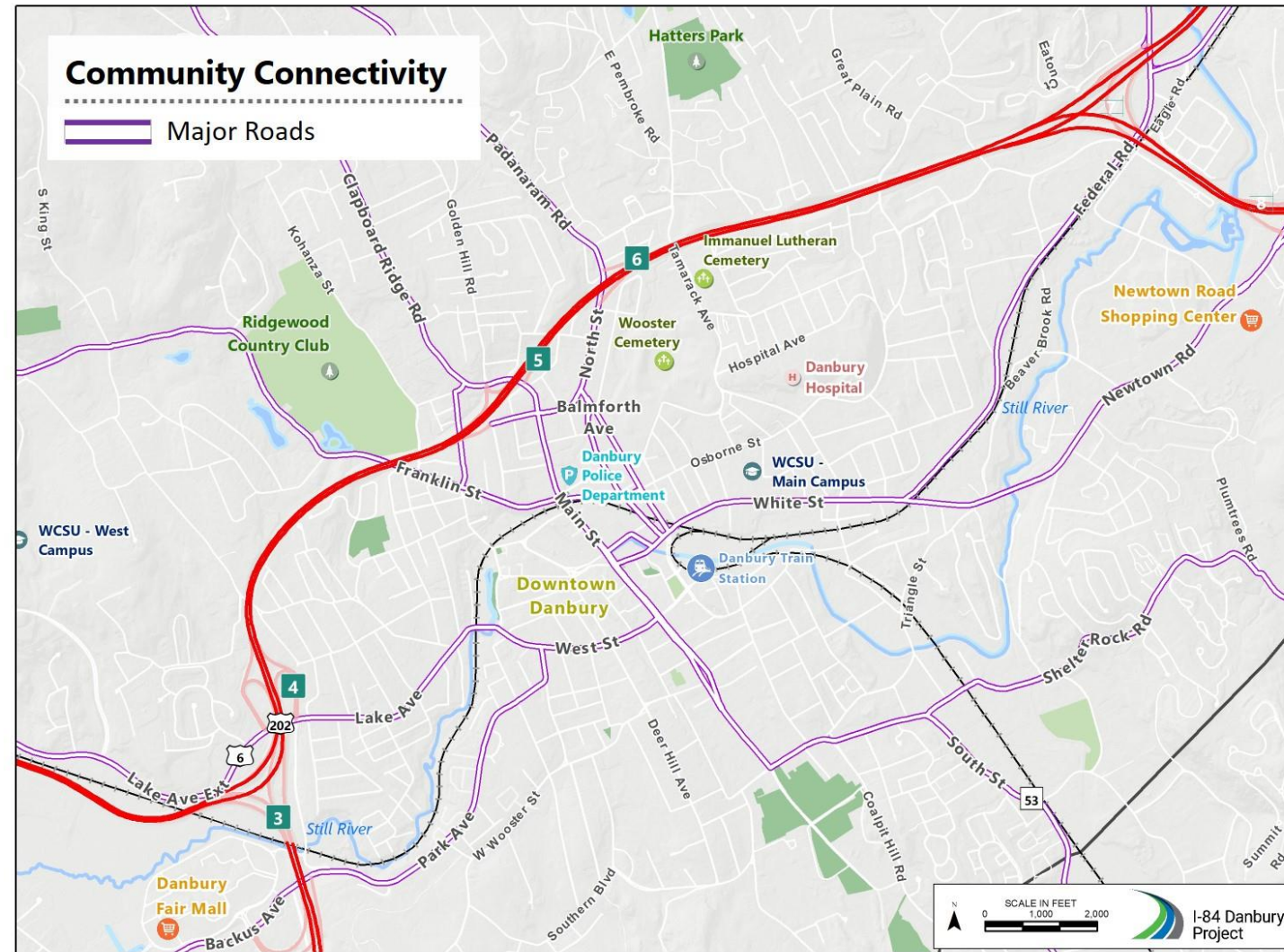
The ability of a transportation system to effectively move people and goods.

Causes of Poor Mobility:

- Local traffic patterns
- Poor connections between the highway and key destinations
- Increased travel demand
- Low use of transit, biking, and walking

Local Traffic Patterns

- Lack of alternative east-west routes
- **1/3 of highway traffic is local traffic**
- Highway traffic diverts onto local roads to avoid congestion



Poor Connections Between the Highway and Key Destinations

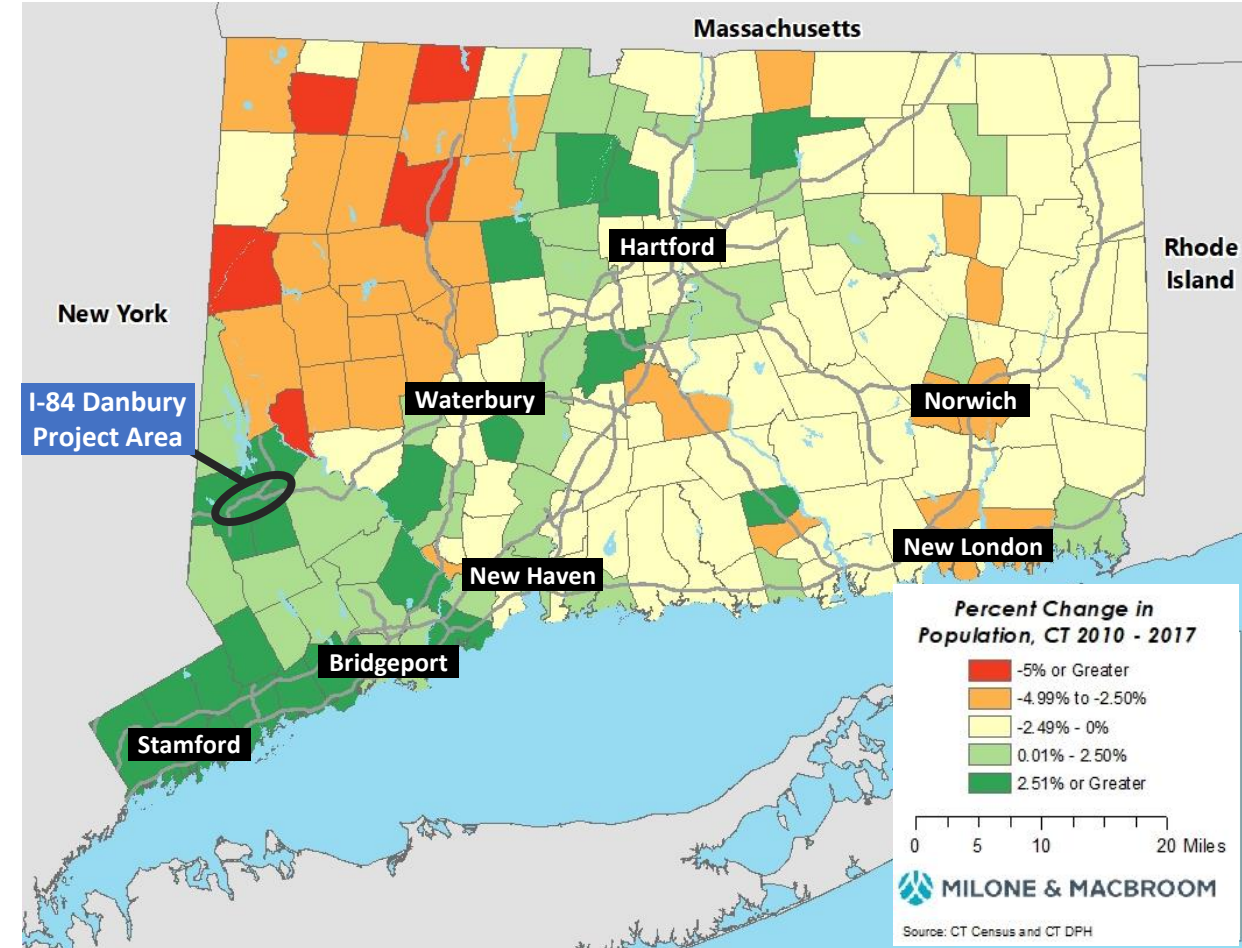
- Danbury Hospital
- Major Employers
- Downtown Danbury



Increased Travel Demand

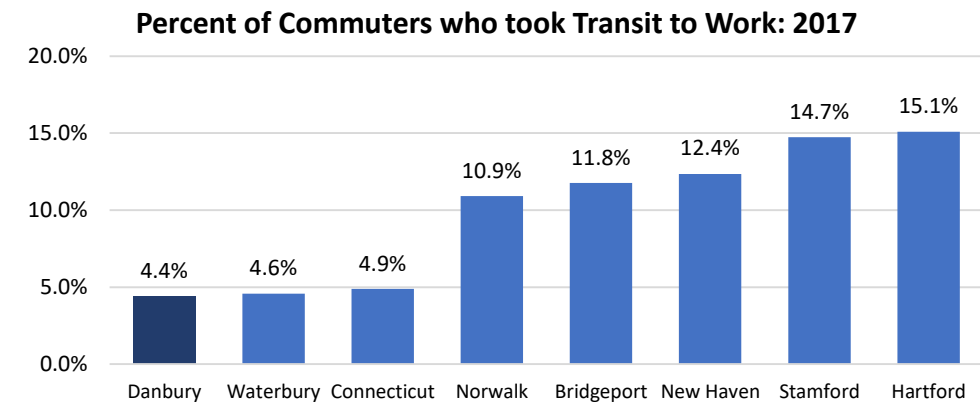
One of the fastest growing regions in the State since 2010

- City of Danbury estimated to have added over 4,300 new residents since 2010
- Brookfield and Bethel also among the fastest growing towns in the State



Low Use of Transit, Biking, & Walking

- **Over 90% of Danbury commuters drive to work**
- Lower use of transit compared to other CT cities
- **No marked bicycle lanes** within Danbury city limits
- **Gaps in sidewalk network** within project area



Source: American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates: 2013-2017. Table B08006



Project Need Check-In



Project Need Check-in

Please take a keypad.



- Read the question.
- You have 15 seconds to press the numbered button that corresponds with your answer.
- You may change your mind; the last button pressed will be your recorded response.

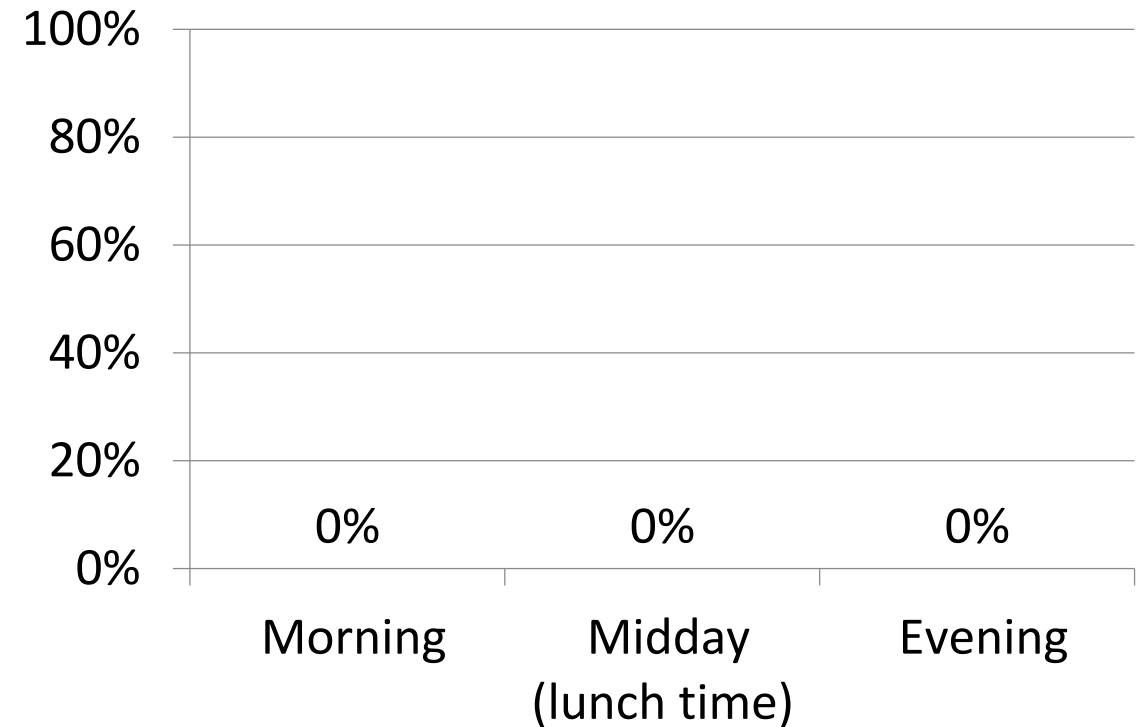
Let's start with a practice question . . .



Project Need Check-in

What time of day works best for future Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Meetings?

1. Morning
2. Midday (lunch time)
3. Evening





Project Need Check-in

Please rate each of the following statements based on the weighting scale below:

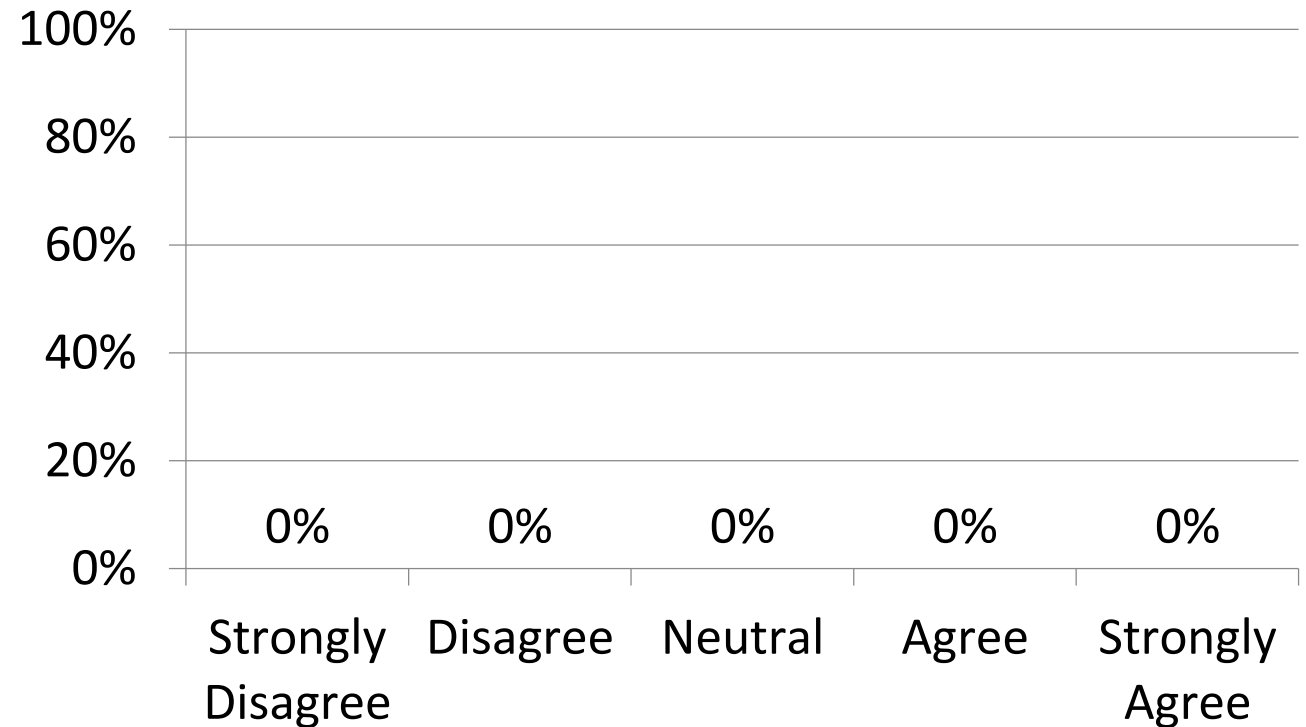
1. Strongly Disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neutral
4. Agree
5. Strongly Agree



Project Need Check-in

I routinely change my travel patterns or behavior in order to avoid congestion on I-84.

1. Strongly Disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neutral
4. Agree
5. Strongly Agree

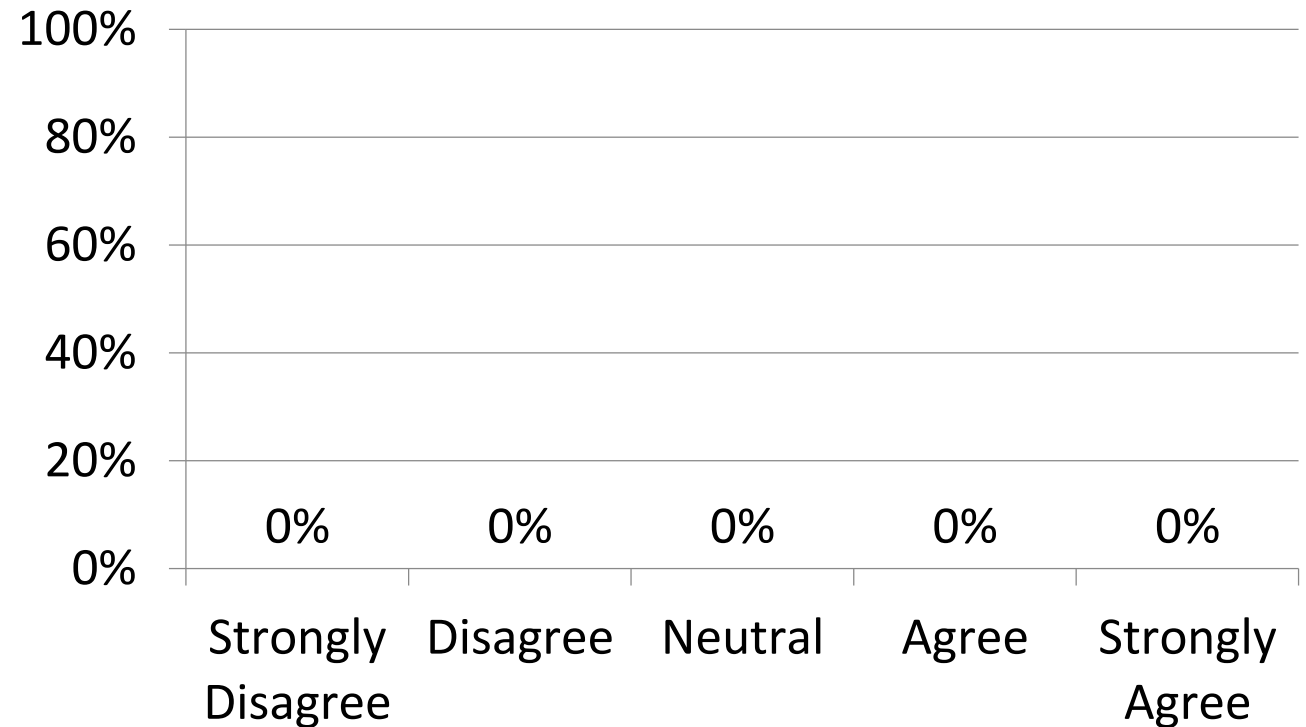




Project Need Check-in

Traffic congestion on I-84 has gotten worse over the last five years.

1. Strongly Disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neutral
4. Agree
5. Strongly Agree

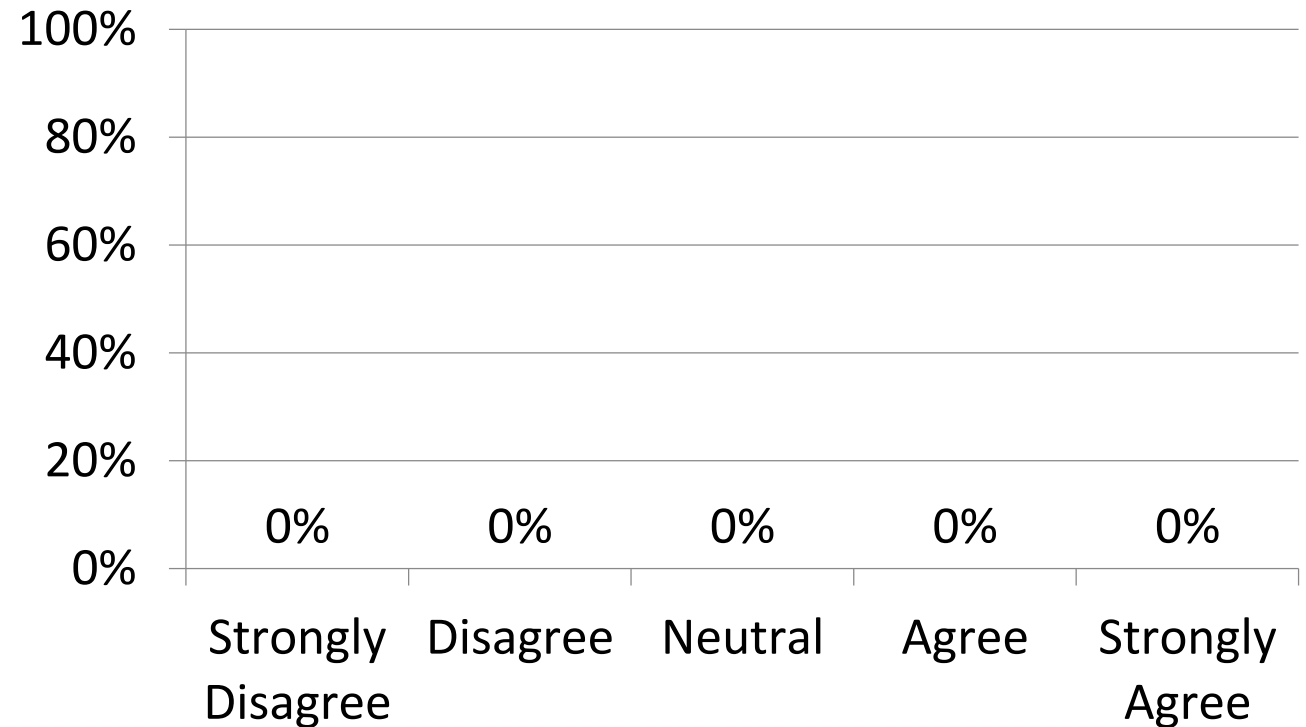




Project Need Check-in

Traffic congestion on I-84 is hurting the local economy.

1. Strongly Disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neutral
4. Agree
5. Strongly Agree

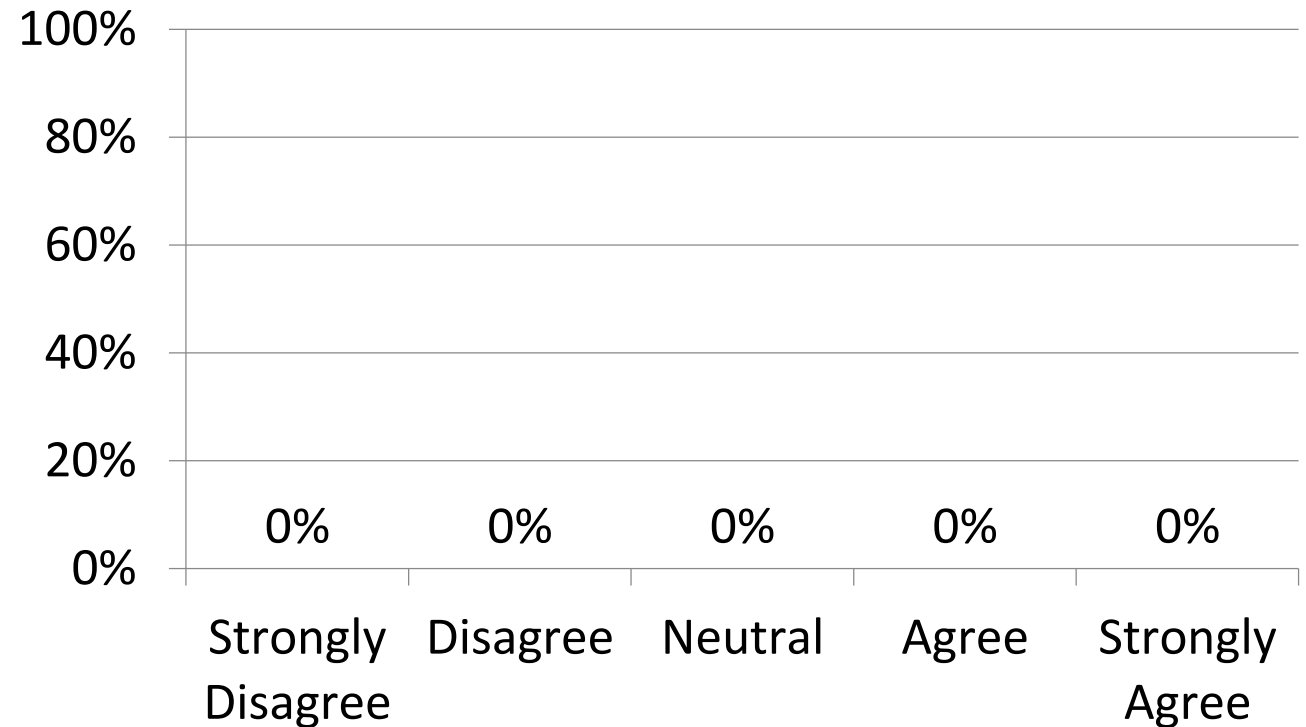




Project Need Check-in

Danbury's local street network makes it difficult to travel between destinations within the city without using the highway.

1. Strongly Disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neutral
4. Agree
5. Strongly Agree

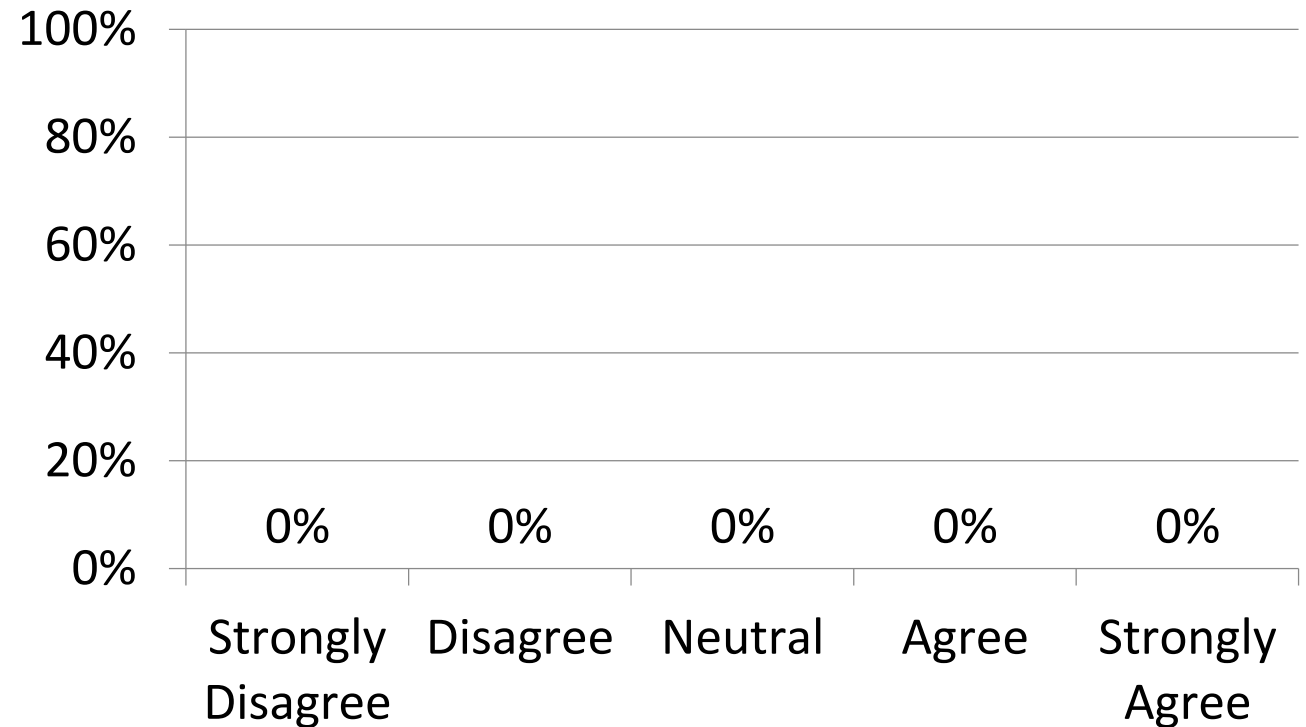




Project Need Check-in

Improved access to rail and bus transit service is a need within the region.

1. Strongly Disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neutral
4. Agree
5. Strongly Agree

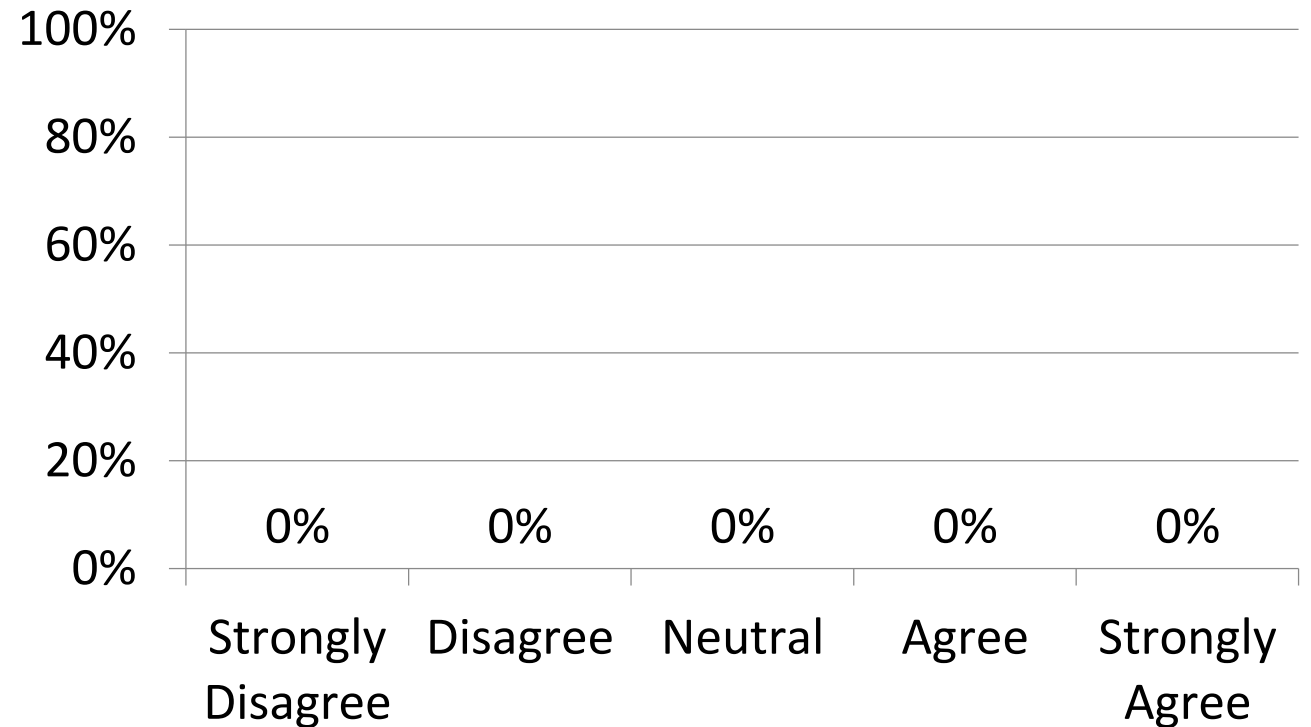




Project Need Check-in

The expansion of the Park & Ride system along I-84 and Route 7 is a need within the region.

1. Strongly Disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neutral
4. Agree
5. Strongly Agree

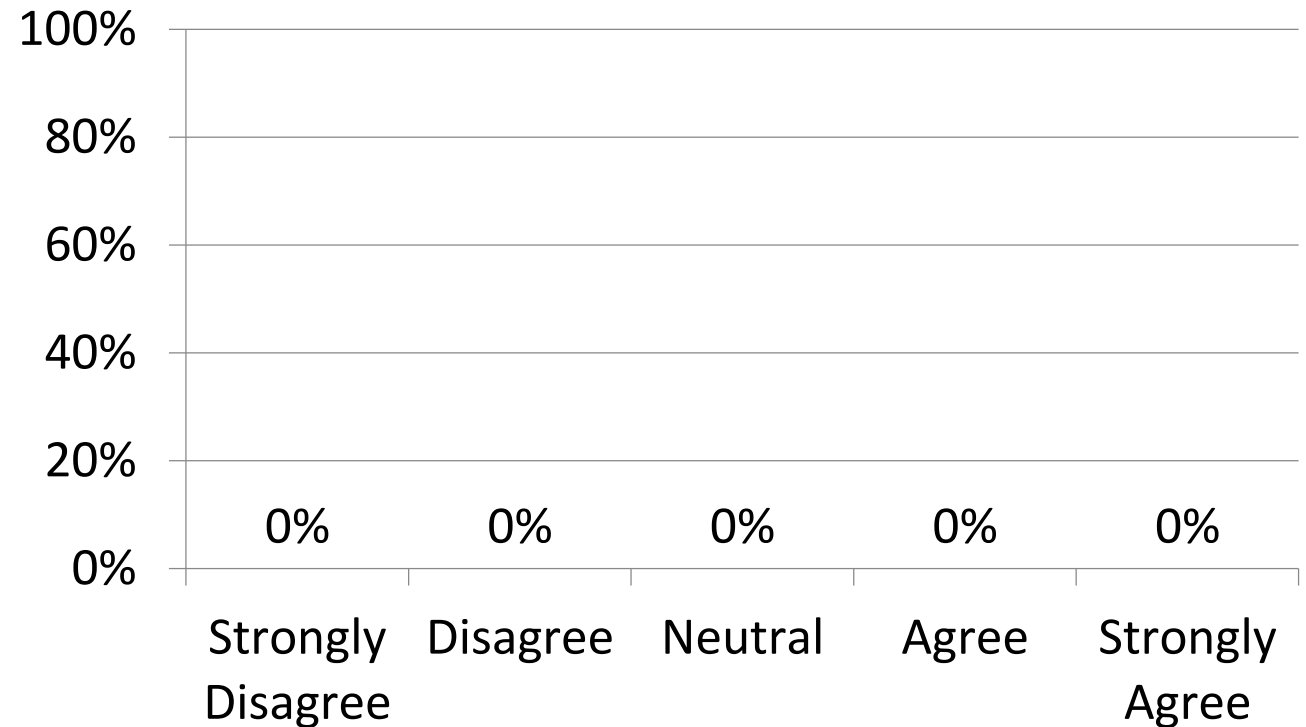




Project Need Check-in

I-84 acts as a barrier to bicycle and pedestrian travel.

1. Strongly Disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neutral
4. Agree
5. Strongly Agree

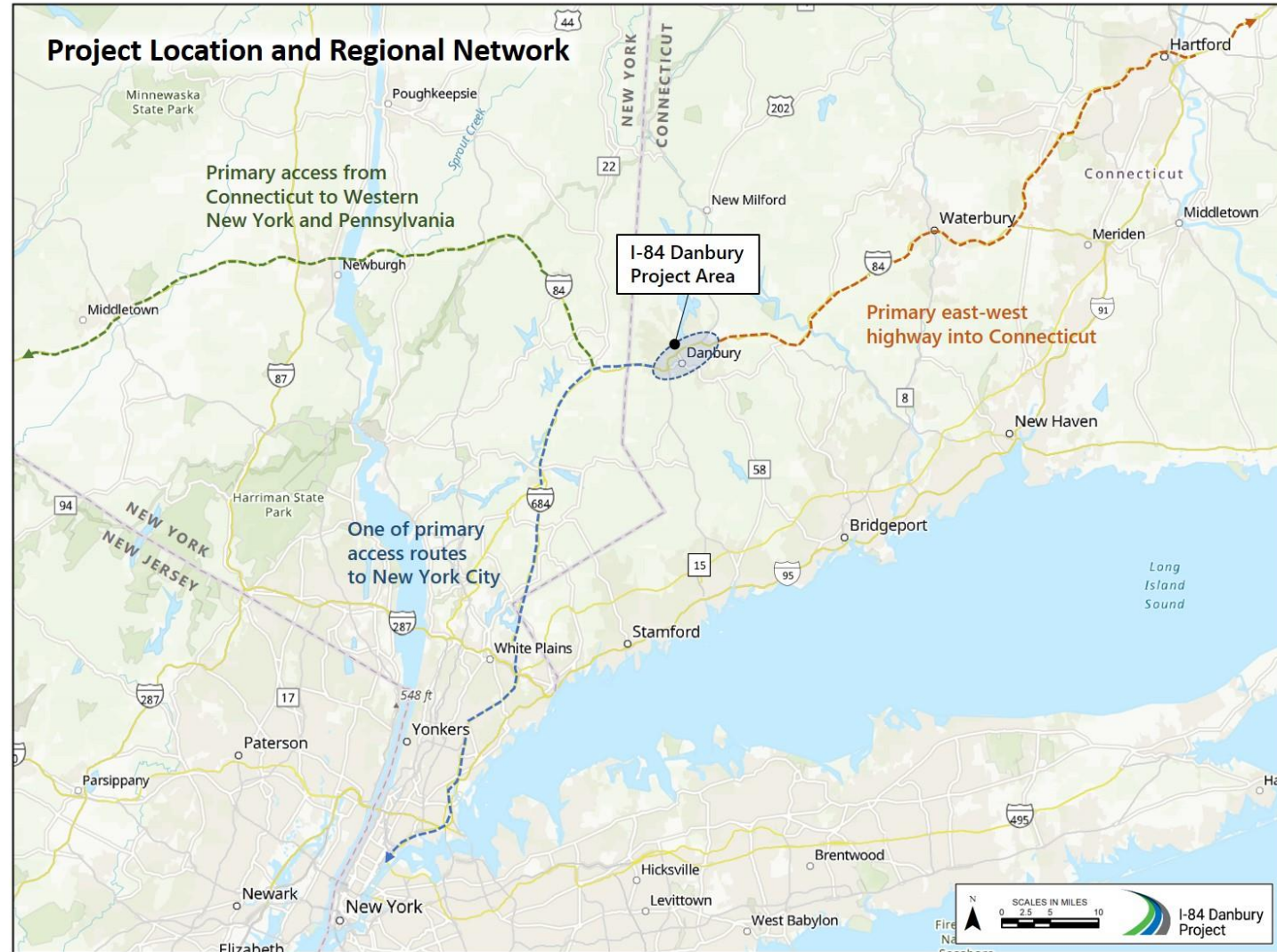




Project Purpose

Why is I-84 in Danbury Important?

- One of the fastest growing regions in the state
- Major employment center
- Major commuter and freight route (10% trucks)





What is project purpose?

- **What the proposed action will accomplish** (i.e. the intended outcome), not the action itself
- Supplemented with **goals and objectives**
 - ✓ used to define full intent, desired outcomes
 - ✓ used to evaluate and compare alternatives
- **PAC Role**: provide local perspective to help CTDOT develop the project purpose




Project Purpose Check-In



Project Purpose Check-in


Please rate each of the following questions using the weighting scale below:

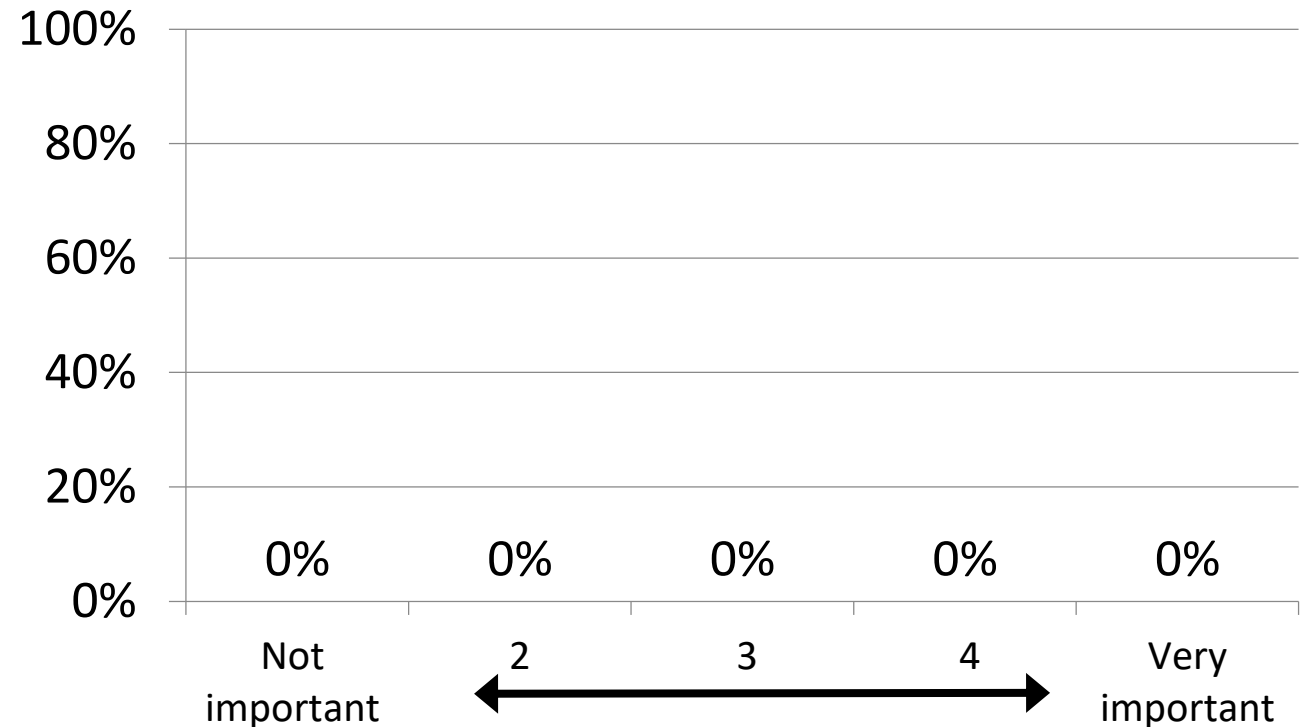
1. Not important
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 5. Very important
- 



Project Purpose Check-in


How important is it that the I-84 Danbury Project reduces congestion on the highway (I-84 and Route 7)?

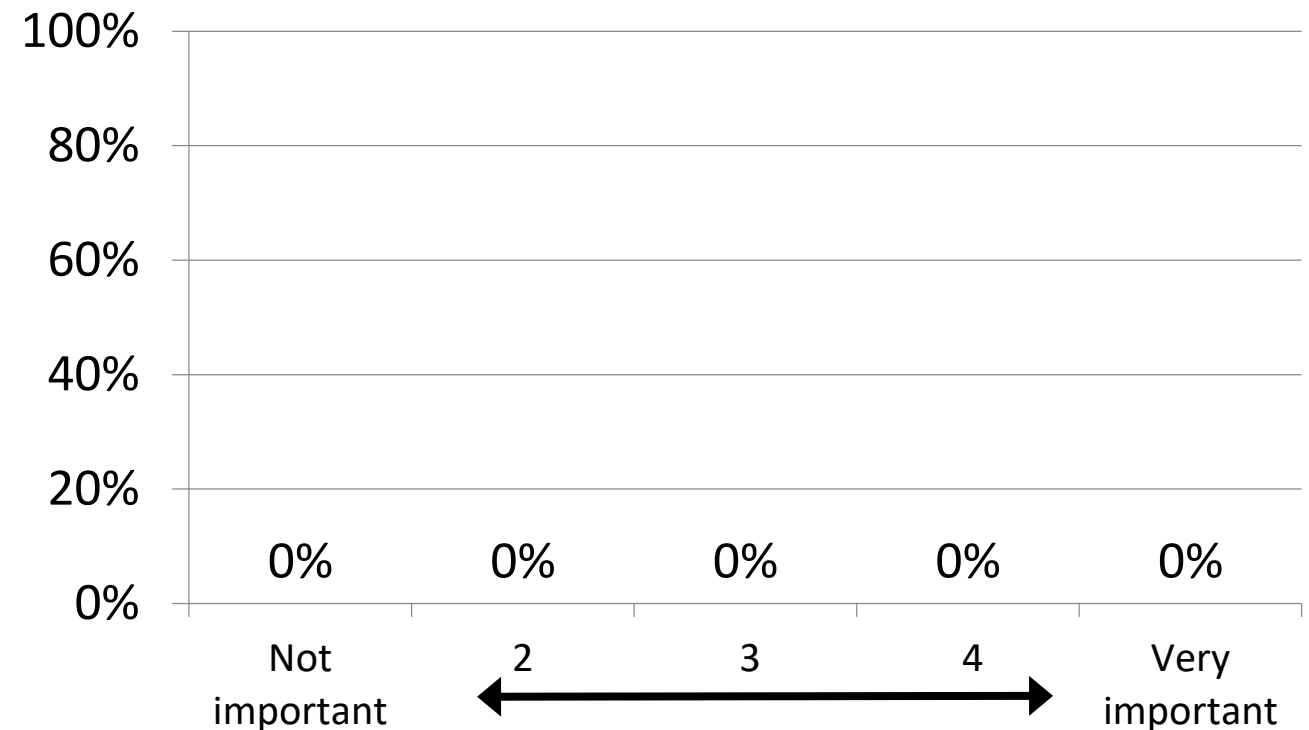
1. Not important
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 5. Very important
- 



Project Purpose Check-in


How important is it that the I-84 Danbury Project reduces congestion on adjacent local roadways?

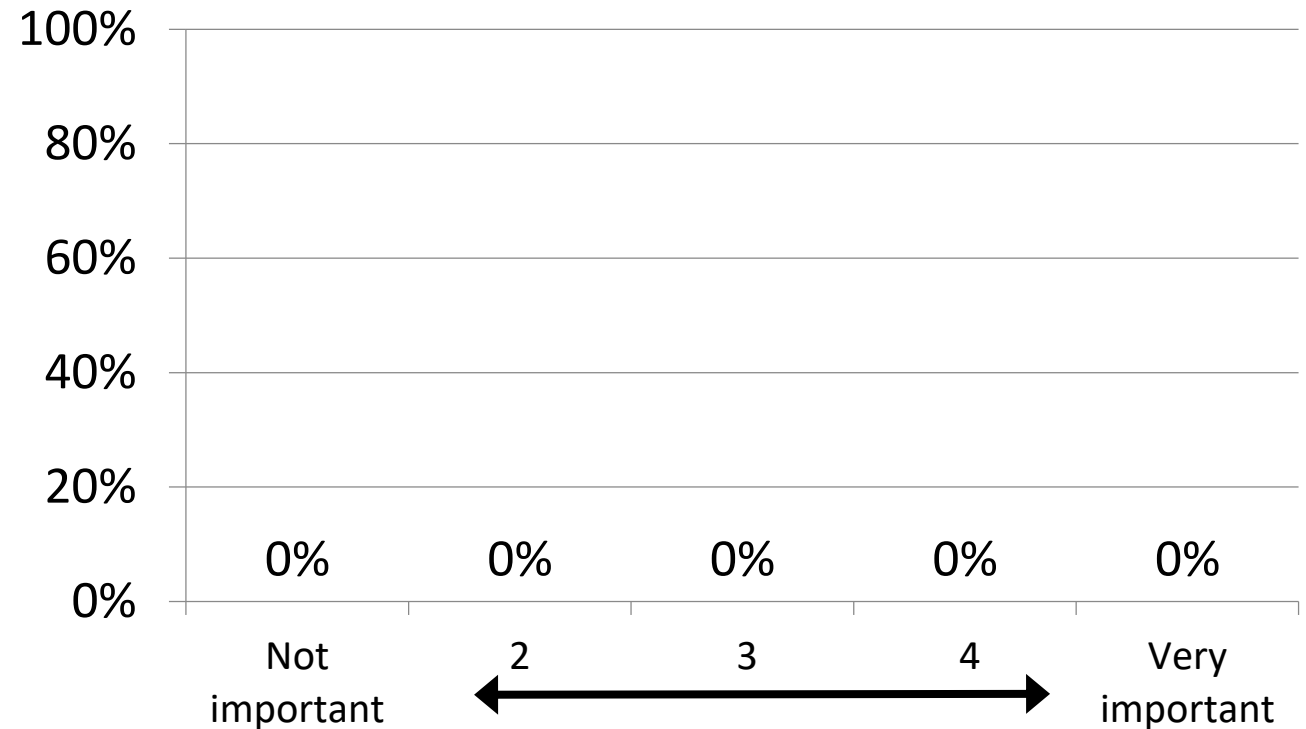
1. Not important
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 5. Very important
- 



Project Purpose Check-in

How important is it that the I-84 Danbury Project reduces crashes?


1. Not important
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 5. Very important
- 

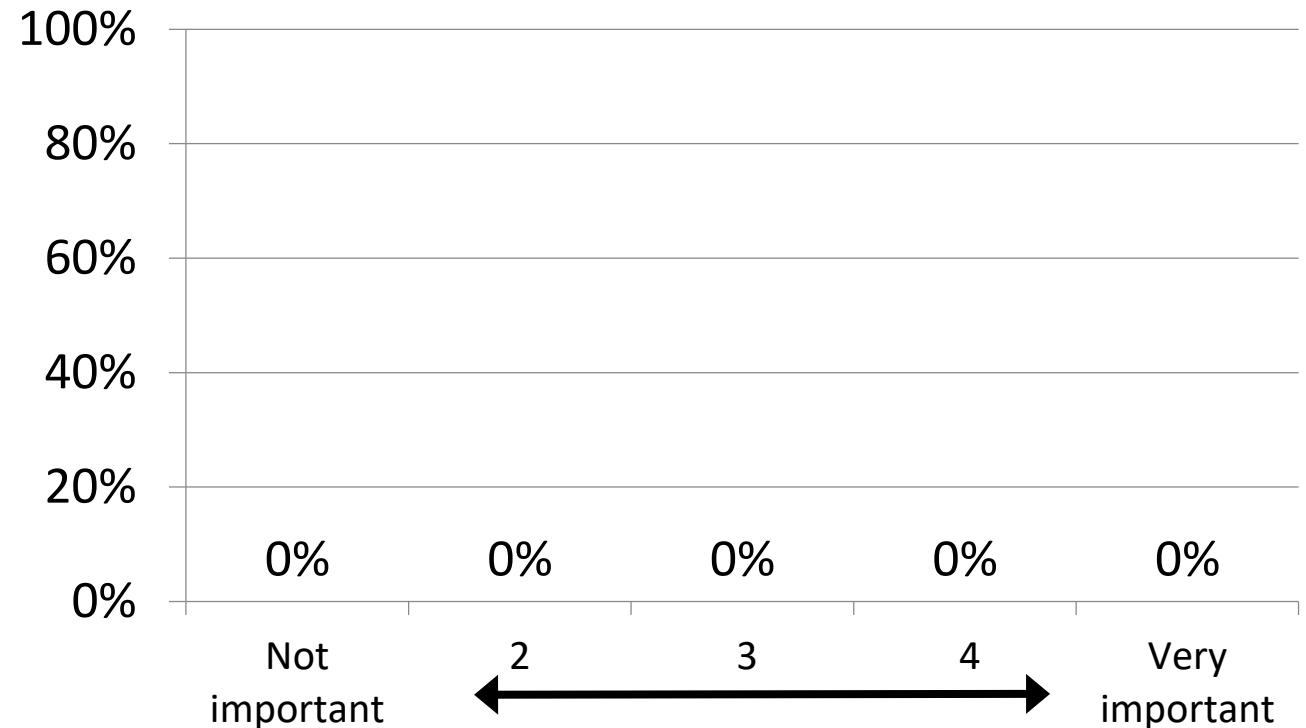




Project Purpose Check-in


How important is it that the I-84 Danbury Project reduces sharp curves and weaving?

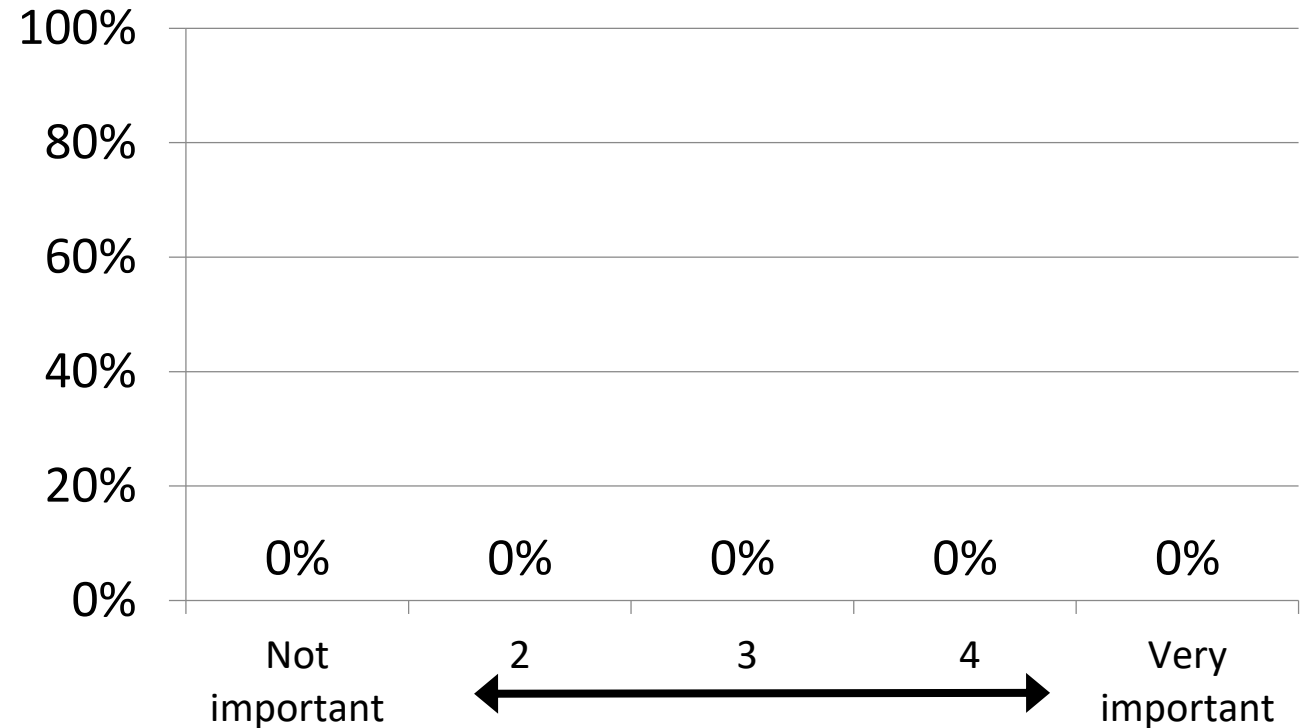
1. Not important
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 5. Very important
- 



Project Purpose Check-in

How important is it that the I-84 Danbury Project improves connections between the highway and Danbury Hospital?


1. Not important
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 5. Very important
- 

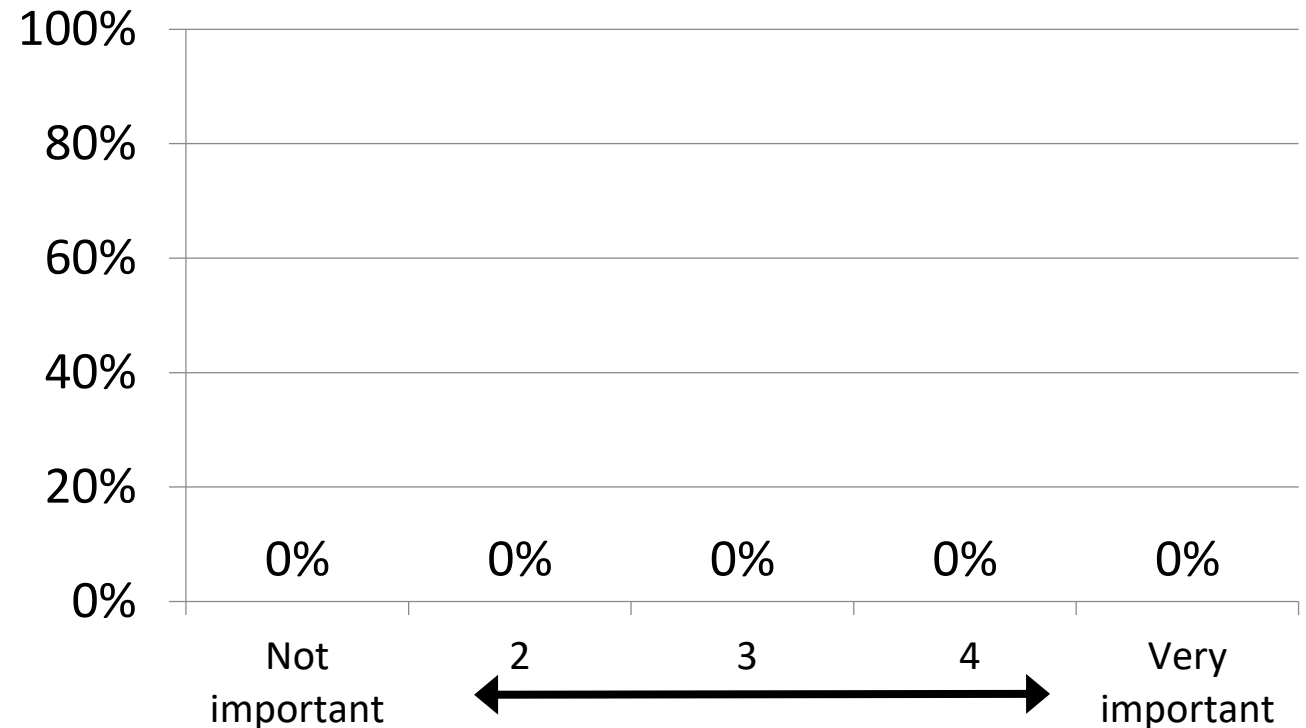




Project Purpose Check-in

How important is it that the I-84 Danbury Project improves connections between the highway and businesses and employers?


1. Not important
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 5. Very important
- 

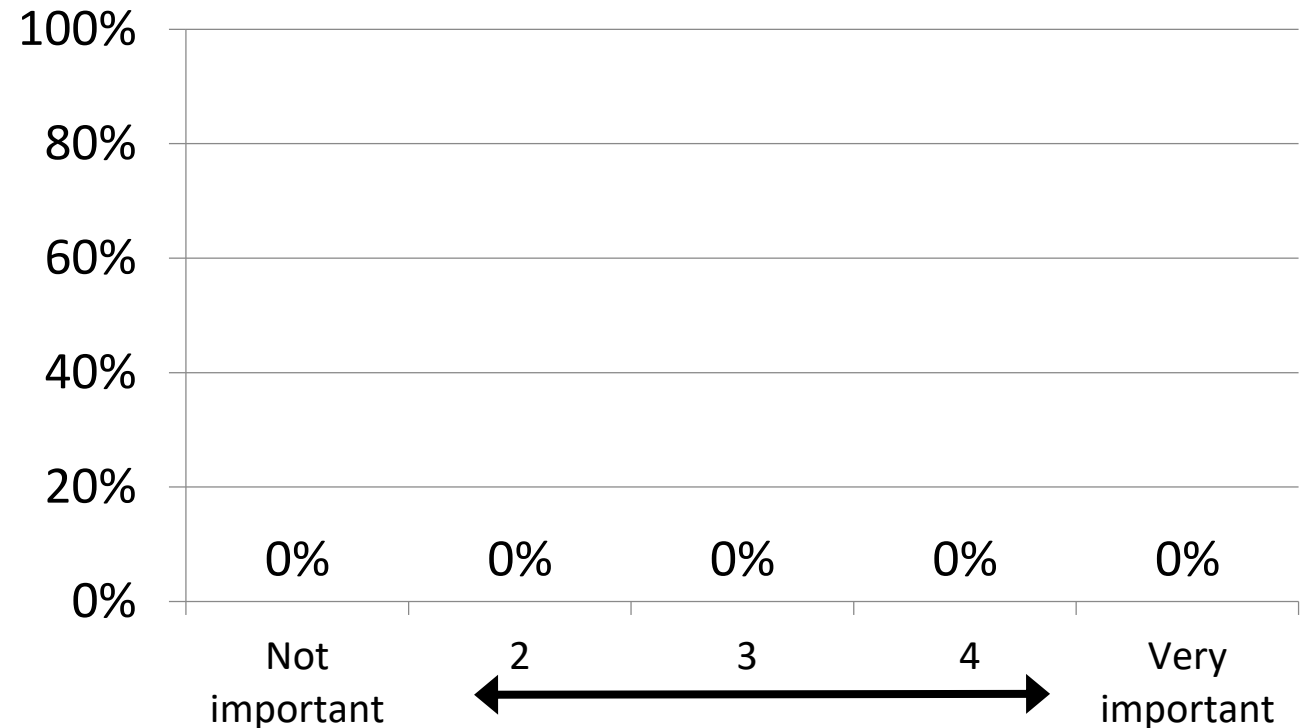




Project Purpose Check-in

How important is it that the I-84 Danbury Project improves bike and pedestrian infrastructure near the highway?


1. Not important
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 5. Very important
- 

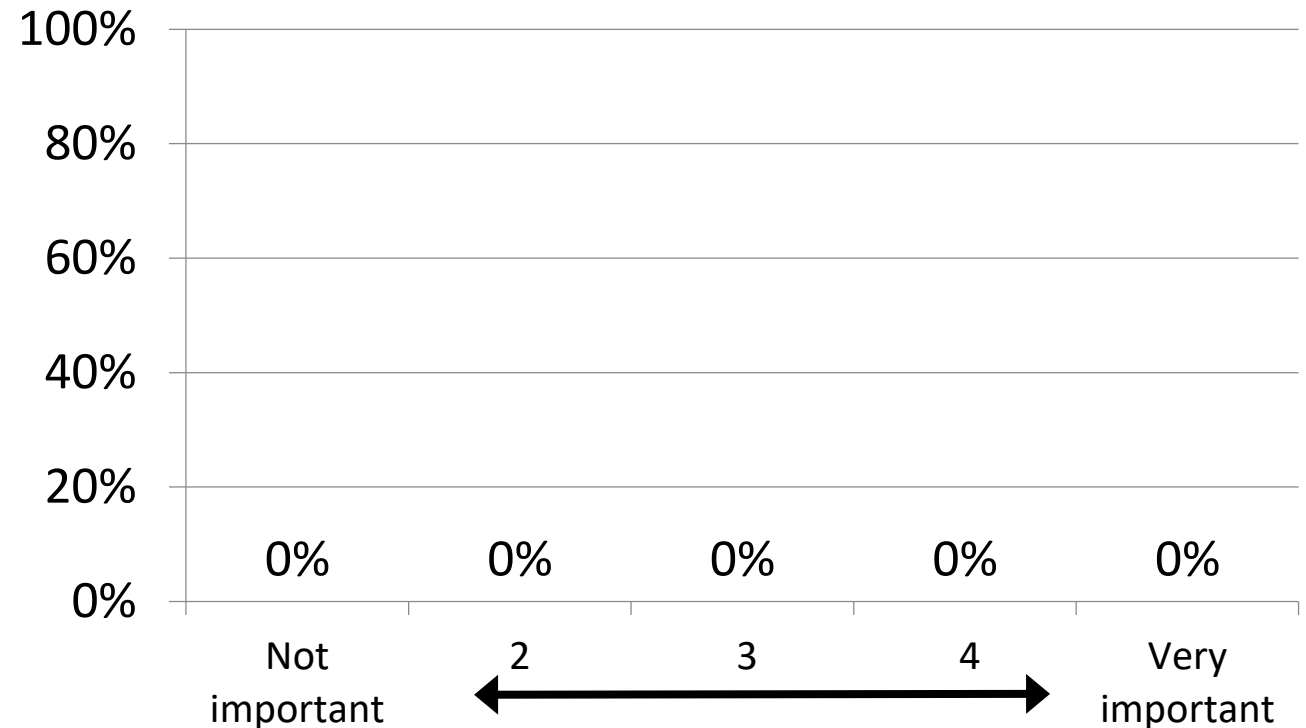




Project Purpose Check-in

How important is it that the I-84 Danbury Project improves rest areas and pull-offs for trucks?

1. Not important
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 5. Very important
- 





Thank you!

Please return your clickers





Next Steps

Next Steps

- Next PAC Meeting #4 on November 20, 2019
 - ✓ Summarize Feedback
 - ✓ Share the Draft Purpose & Need Statement
 - ✓ Concept Development Approach
- Develop and Analyze Concepts
- Determine Range of Alternatives



Anticipated Project Schedule



Community Engagement (Throughout)



Public Meetings



Newsletters



Fact Sheets



Email Blasts



Website



Social Media



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Thank You!