



# I-84 Danbury Project



Winter 2020 Newsletter

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I-84 Danbury Project



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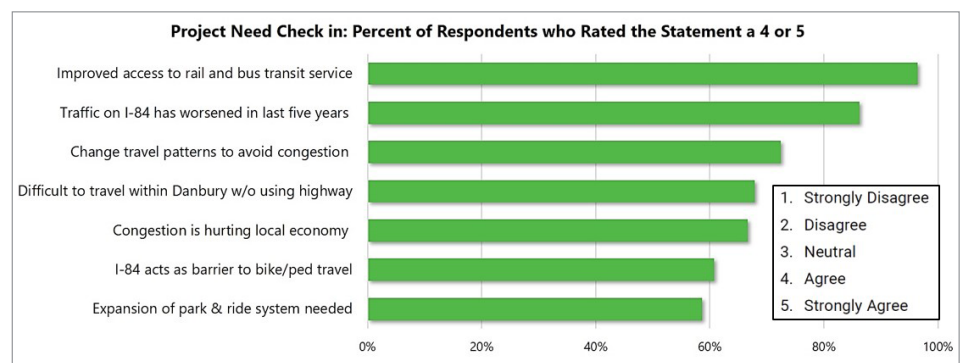
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## Using the Project's Purpose to Guide Concept Development

The project team is crafting a Purpose Statement for the I-84 Danbury Project. This Purpose Statement is important because it defines what problems the Project seeks to address, and what the Project wants to achieve. The Purpose Statement also provides the framework to develop and evaluate a wide range of concepts.

**The purpose of the I-84 Danbury Project is to reduce congestion and improve the mobility of people and goods in the I-84 corridor in greater Danbury.**

At the third Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting in September, committee members were asked a series of questions about needs for the I-84 corridor in greater Danbury. The exercise provided the Project team with local insights and input towards



Sample of questions asked at PAC meeting.

the Project's Purpose. View sample questions and their answers from the exercise above.

Questions included whether PAC members change their travel patterns or behavior to avoid congestion on I-84, with most answering that they did.

PAC members were also asked if they felt that congestion has gotten worse over the last five years, and whether congestion on I-84 was hurting the local economy. The consensus for both questions was yes! PAC members also agreed that improved access to commut-

er rail, bus transit, and Park & Ride areas would be beneficial.

Reducing congestion and crashes, and improving safety overall, were identified as important to the Project's purpose. PAC members also chimed in on bike and pedestrian amenities, connectivity within the city, and rest areas and pull-offs for trucks on I-84.

I-84 through Danbury is important because it is a major commuter and freight route near large employers in one of the fastest growing regions of the state, so addressing issues of congestion

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### What's Inside

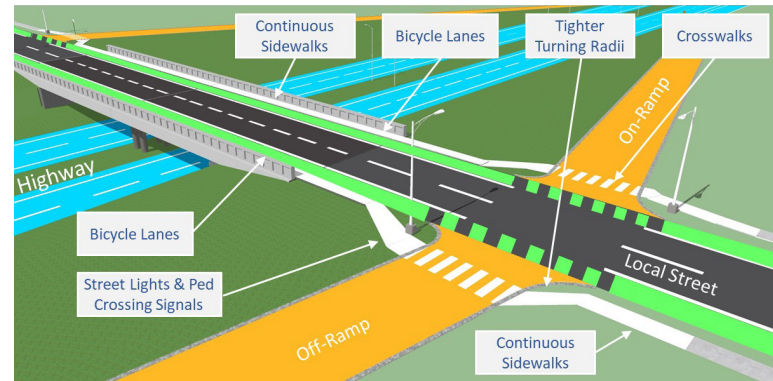
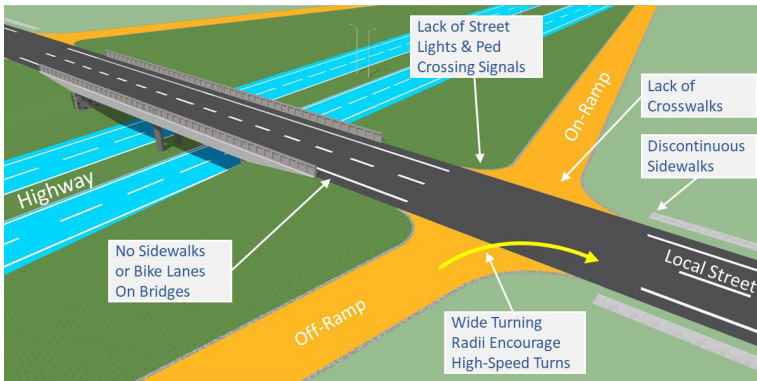
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# Multimodal Planning in the I-84 Danbury Corridor



Multimodal planning near a highway ramp can involve creating continuous sidewalks, safer crossings, and better lighting to improve travel for all users in the corridor. The graphic on the left displays a ramp with poor multimodal connections. The graphic on the right displays a ramp with improved multimodal connections.

## Multimodal Planning - A Primer

Multimodal planning considers many types of transportation including cars, buses, trains, bicycles, and pedestrians, as well as the connections between those various travel modes. People have different needs and preferences when it comes to how they move about and travel. A transportation system is more successful when travelers and commuters can use different modes to reach their destinations.

There are many ways to implement multimodal planning. Multimodal planning can include creating bike lanes on a road so that cyclists can travel next to automobiles. It can include building accessible sidewalk ramps and crossing signals so that users with disabilities can travel more easily in an area. It can improve access to and frequency of transit service. Simply put, multimodal planning considers much more than just

how drivers will travel through an area.

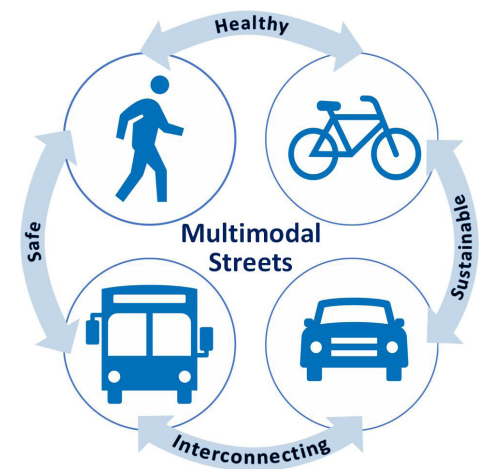
The benefits of multimodal planning are substantial. Improving these more sustainable forms of travel can encourage their use, ease congestion on the highway itself, reduce environmental impacts, and improve overall quality of life.

## Incorporating Multimodal Planning into the I-84 Danbury Project

While the focus of the I-84 Danbury Project is largely on the highway itself, the Project will also consider other elements such as potential impacts to transit stops /service and ramp connections to local streets. Several stakeholders have already asked the Project team to consider pedestrian safety improvements at the highway's many underpasses. To address these concerns, the Project team will consider lighting, ADA-compliant

ramps, and improved crosswalks and signals where appropriate.

To share your thoughts on the planning process, please visit the Project website at [www.i84danbury.com](http://www.i84danbury.com) and [leave a comment](#) for the project team.





# Local Spotlight

Welcome to the Local Spotlight, profiles of noteworthy people, organizations, or places within the study area

## Danbury Museum & Historical Society

The Danbury Museum & Historical Society has existed under various names for more than 75 years, with the goal of preserving and protecting Danbury's history. The Museum maintains several historic buildings within the city, including the John and Mary Rider House, the Dodd Hat Shop, the Marian Anderson Studio, the old King Street Schoolhouse, the Little Red Schoolhouse, and the Charles Ives Birthplace. The Museum also includes a modern exhibit building that houses its offices and a research library.

Brigid Guertin, Executive Director of the Museum, states that the Museum exists, "So we can all best understand the past and use that information to plan for the future."

The Museum hosts two exhibits each year. A winter exhibit typically focuses on art, culture, community collections, and how they impact residents. This season's winter exhibit opened in early February and presents the Great Danbury State Fair, which began as an agricultural fair in 1821 and ran through 1981. The Museum has received a fantastic, previously unseen, collection of photos and materials from Jack Stetson, a community member who



The Danbury Museum & Historical Society provided this picture of the construction of I-84 in the 1960s.

was close with the fair owner. "We're grateful that he chose the Museum," Guertin said.

The Museum's main exhibit typically runs from June through November. In 2019, *Driving Danbury Forward*, explored how cars and other modern modes of transport have changed everyday life in the city.

The Museum uncovered photographs focusing on transportation in the city over time, including during the construction of I-84 in the late 1950s to early 1960s. The I-84 Danbury Project has

partnered with the Danbury Museum & Historical Society to post some of these wonderful images across the project's social media channels.

The Museum, however, is more than just exhibits! They also partner with the Danbury Schools, Parks and Recreation Department, and the Danbury Library to provide programming in the city. In addition, the Museum has hosted "Cursive Camp," for two weeks in the summer to teach children the art of cursive writing. The experience of Cursive Camp is tactile, with glitter and paint, and the children even learn to make their own ink. While the camp is a fun experience, it also serves a serious purpose: to read historic documents or work as a historian, being able to read and write cursive is essential.

"We're making history accessible for the next generation through cursive," Guertin said.

For more information about the Museum, visit their website at [www.danburymuseum.org](http://www.danburymuseum.org), or follow them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

**Brigid Guertin, Executive Director of the Museum, states that the Museum exists, "So we can all best understand the past and use that information to plan for the future."**



#### USING THE PROJECT'S PURPOSE TO GUIDE CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and mobility are crucial. Based on the PAC's input, an in-depth review of the Project's *Needs and Deficiencies Study*, and review of comments provided by the public and stakeholders on-line and at numerous outreach events, the project team prepared and discussed the following draft purpose statement with the PAC:

***The purpose of the I-84 Danbury Project is to reduce congestion and improve the mobility of people and goods in the I-84 corridor in greater Danbury.***

In the coming months, the Project team will begin developing concepts

that could meet the purpose of the Project. They will bring their first concept to the PAC in the Spring 2020 for review and discussion. This meeting will be a workshop where the PAC can provide feedback to the Project team. A variety of additional ideas and concepts, on the highway and local road connections, are likely to be developed as a result of feedback from this PAC workshop. These ideas and concepts will be made available to the public on the Project website at <http://www.i84danbury.com/>.

Help shape the future of Danbury by checking these out and providing your thoughts too!



PAC members participate in the exercises and discuss key aspects of the project purpose.

## Get Involved!

-  Attend a meeting
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-  Follow us on Instagram: [@I84Danbury](#)
-  Visit [I84Danbury.com](#) and sign up for project updates