



I-84 Danbury Project



Summer 2021 Newsletter

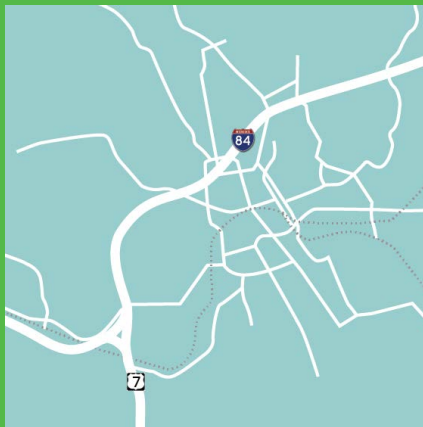
I84Danbury.com



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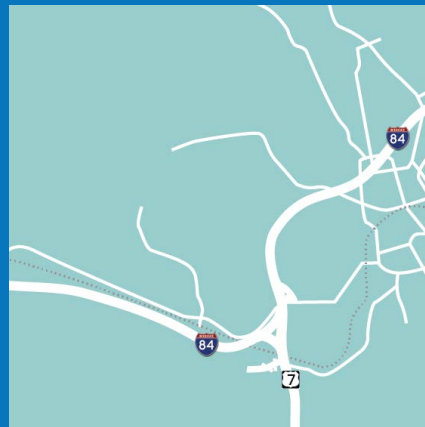
Concept Development

Concept 1



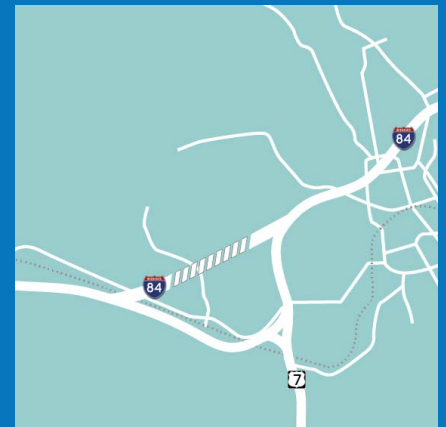
Concept 1 seeks to create lane continuity, eliminate left-hand exit ramps, and, where possible, improve horizontal curvature and vertical geometry.

Concept 6



Concept 6 seeks to improve vehicular travel conditions in the vicinity of Interchanges 3 and 4.

Concept 7



Concept 7 includes a tunnel and open-cut section on the west side of the project corridor.

The concepts page of I84Danbury.com defines elements of the proposed concepts. Color-coding distinguishes between mainline (green), interchange (blue), and non-highway (gray) categories. Concepts will continue to be added.

The I-84 Danbury Project is a Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) initiative to reduce congestion and improve the mobility of people and goods in the I-84 corridor in greater Danbury. We are well into our Concept Study phase, and have developed several concepts intended to

meet project goals.

Each concept is explained and displayed in detail on our new webpage at i84danbury.com/concepts/. This section includes maps and written descriptions of the concepts that are being developed for the I-84 corridor between Interchanges 1 and 8.

Concepts are created by analyzing data and generating designs that meet the project's purpose and need, with input from the Project Advisory Committee (PAC). For more information about the PAC, please visit the PAC [webpage](#).

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Local Business Spotlight

A Sample of Business Operators in Danbury and How COVID-19 Has Affected Them

The I-84 Danbury Project is more than an initiative to reduce congestion in the I-84 Corridor. It aims to serve Greater Danbury by improving the mobility of people and goods. The project understands the importance of accessible and equitable mobility for all. People use the corridor to transport products, travel to work and appointments, and for leisure. Businesses are the core of the Greater Danbury community. They provide goods and services, drive economic vitality, and encourage people to visit the area. The I-84 Danbury Project Team is spotlighting a few of the many hardworking businesses in the community, sharing how COVID-19 has impacted them and what they want to see from the I-84 Danbury Project.

Joel Peralta, owner of Matteo's Multicultural Market (formerly Hat City Market), is a Danbury native who has been in business for five years. Matteo's Multicultural Market offers unique international products and serves the diverse population in Danbury. At the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Peralta said that "business picked up a lot. People were looking for food, and as soon as we got deliveries, they were gone." Peralta put proper safety measures in place to follow Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.

"We were limited in how many people could come in and out of the store." The pandemic brought many new customers who have since stayed to shop at the market. Although it was challenging to keep up with the demand, Peralta continued getting shipments and does his best to help those in Danbury.

Anna Llanos, owner of Mothership Bakery & Café, started her business from humble beginnings. It began in a trailer, expanded into corporate cafeterias, and then opened on Main Street in Danbury. Being a local business, Llanos is very connected to the community. Her business serves people of all ages, ethnicities, and a variety of diverse populations. Llanos said that the COVID-19 pandemic increased stress among the business community.

"We've tried to navigate restrictions and don't know what to expect week-to-week." Amid the uncertainty, Llanos said, "We have to back up and remind ourselves of the part that gives us joy, and that is serving the community."

Llanos and her team compiled a list of at-risk food-insecure families and seniors in Danbury. Mothership Bakery & Café served thousands of meals, as well as groceries, to community members in need.

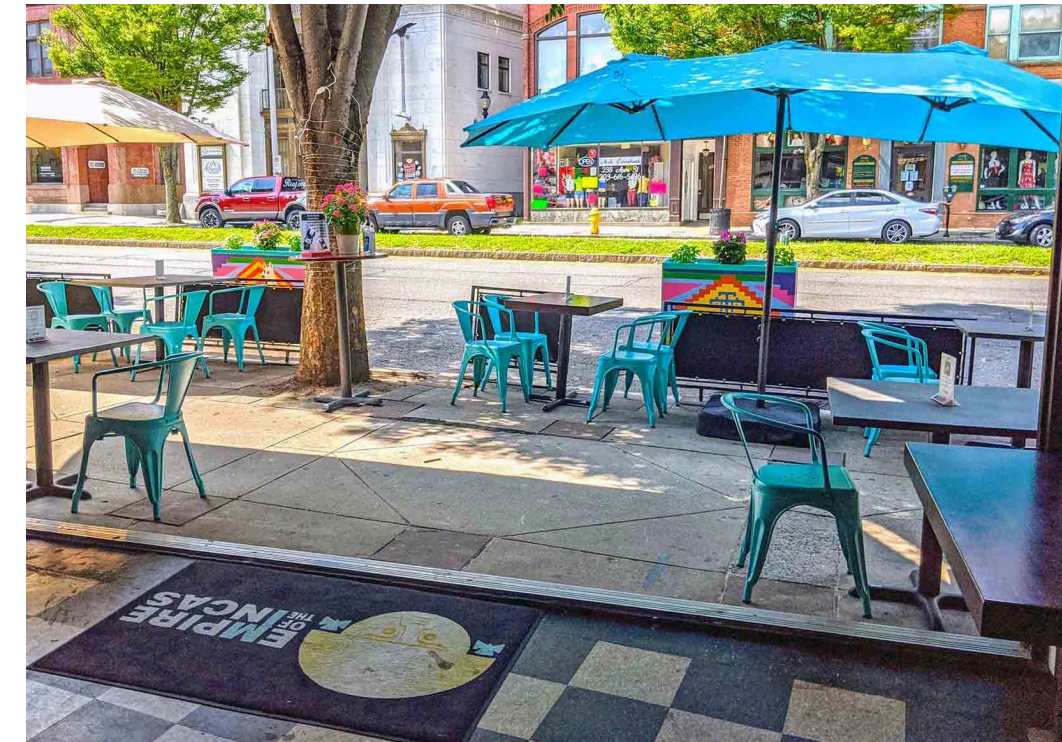
Empire of the Incas is a family-run Peruvian restaurant located in the heart of Danbury with a second location in Bethel. Bryant Aliaga, son of the owner, David Aliaga, said that

"You want to serve the community as much as possible and make sure that people have what they need."

Joel Peralta, Owner, Matteo's Multicultural Market



Matteo's Multicultural Market stocks unique international products, serving Danbury's diverse population.



Fresh food and enjoyable experiences await at Mothership Bakery & Cafe and Empire of the Incas. Photo credits: Mothership (left); Empire of the Incas (right)

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his father is a first-generation immigrant who opened the restaurant almost fifteen years ago.

The pandemic placed many restrictions on businesses, especially restaurants. During this time, Empire of the Incas was the first business to receive a Facade Improvement Grant from the City of Danbury. The grant allowed them to update the inside of the restaurant, add beautiful murals by a commissioned artist, and revitalize the front of their restaurant with a desirable outdoor seating area and plantings.

"You have to be creative about how you can comfortably get people to eat here," said Aliaga. "The grant allowed us to renovate, which increased

traffic at the restaurant. People love to sit outside, eat, and people watch."

When asked about what they wanted to see from the I-84 Danbury Project and how improving the corridor could help businesses, they had similar sentiments. Bryant Aliaga said, "The area is highly trafficked. If it is not as congested and hectic, it would be easier to access Downtown Danbury. People don't want to wait in traffic. Having easier access to Danbury will encourage people to visit more often."

Anna Llanos said that "effecting congestion in a positive way" would help to improve the corridor. Also "doing work at night instead of during the day" would help traffic.

Joel Peralta said, "I hope the highway is expanded to make it easier to travel on I-84. One of my vendors had to cancel my order because they were dealing with traffic on I-84 a few weeks ago." Peralta also mentioned that "Traffic congestion spills into Downtown Danbury."

Improving the congestion in the corridor will help to alleviate some of the traffic. The businesses expressed that many of their employees and vendors travel to and from Downtown Danbury via I-84. Improving congestion in the corridor would help businesses receive shipments, employees travel to work, and encourage people to visit Danbury.



Concept Development

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Concept numbers identify the concept; they do not imply prioritization. The concepts will be released or presented on the website as they are completed, and not necessarily in sequential order.

There may be 20 or more concepts that can be mixed and matched to create an overall series of recommendations to improve the mobility in and around I-84 in Danbury.

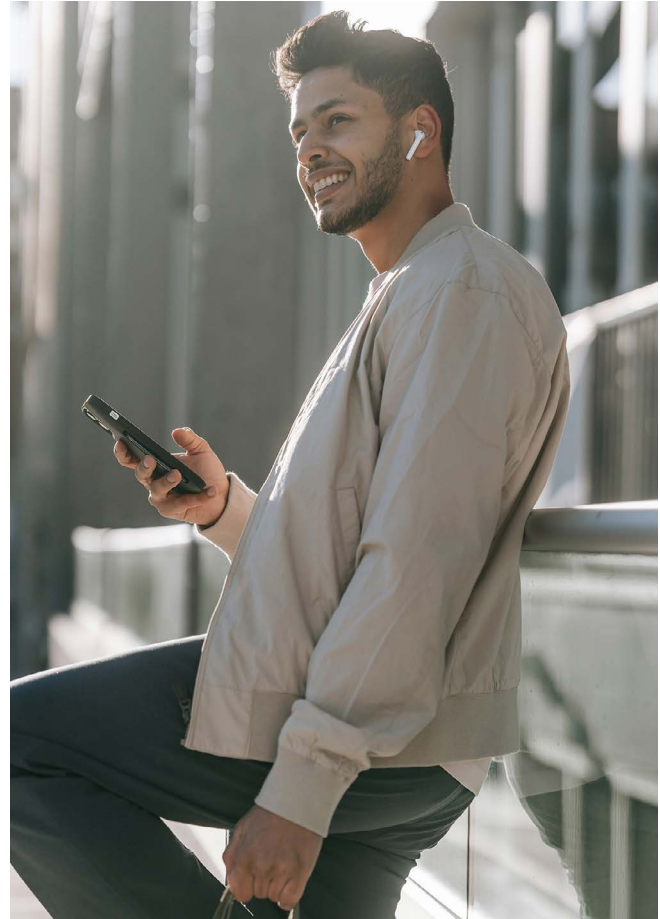
Concepts are sorted into one of three categories: 1) mainline *illustrated in green*, 2) interchange *illustrated in blue*, and 3) non-highway *illustrated in gray*. Website visitors can filter by these categories to explore areas of interest.

Current concept highlights include:

- **Concept 1** is a mainline concept that seeks to create lane continuity, eliminate left-hand exit ramps, and improve horizontal curvature and vertical geometry.
- **Concept 6** improves Interchanges 3 and 4 on I-84 in the eastbound direction with a new off-ramp to Segar Street.
- **Concept 7** includes a tunnel and open-cut section on the west side of the project corridor. (It is recommended that this concept be dismissed from further consideration.)
- **Concept 9** would shift Route 7 into the median section of I-84 as an express facility without local connections between Interchanges 3 and 7.

As we continue to develop and share new concepts, please visit the [website](#), explore, and sign up to receive updates.

The Concept Development phase is expected to be completed by the Fall of 2021.



What do you think of the concepts? Is there one that you like? Dislike? Share your thoughts on our project [comment form](#).

Get Involved!

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