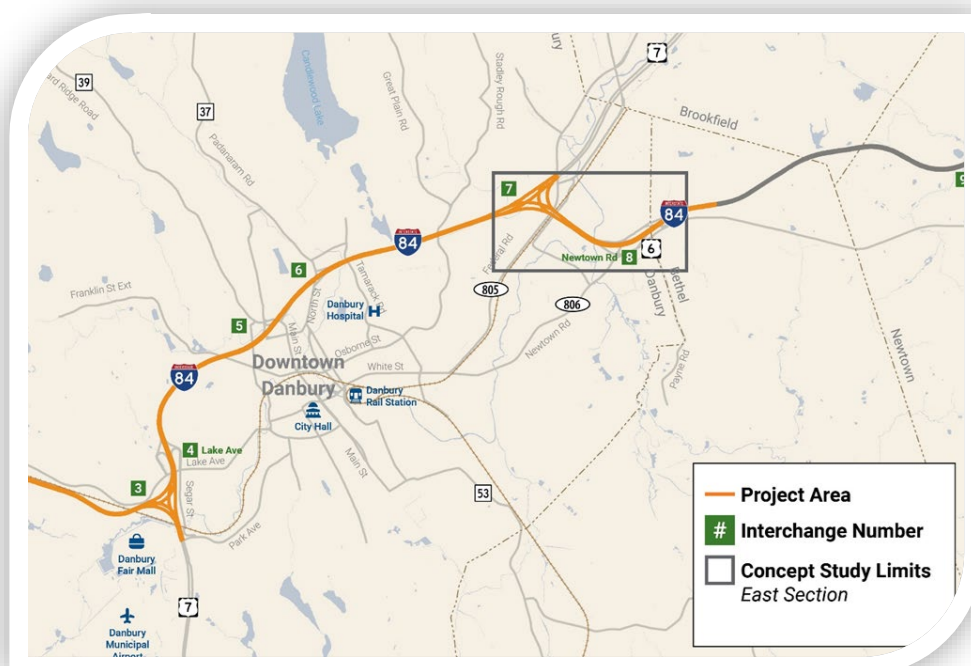


Concept 20 Summary: New Interchange 8 with White Turkey Road Connection - East

DESCRIPTION

Concept 20 seeks to provide improvements in the east section of I-84 within the project corridor. A new Interchange 8 is proposed with a north-south connection to White Turkey Road Extension. This concept provides automobile traffic on Newtown Road and U.S. Route 6 access to Route 7 via White Turkey Connector without getting on I-84. Specific elements of Concept 20 include:

- I-84 will remain in its current alignment and will be three lanes in each direction between Interchanges 7 and 8.
- The new interchange at Interchange 8 is proposed as a Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI).
- No changes are proposed on Route 7 at Interchange 7.
- The proposed north-south roadway (referred as White Turkey Connector) is approximately 1.0 mile in length and will consist of one travel lane in each direction between Interchange 8 and White Turkey Road Extension.
- Light vehicle traffic traveling to/from points east of Interchange 8 can use Interchange 7 or 8 and connect with Route 7 towards Brookfield and New Milford.
- Heavy vehicle, such as truck, traffic will be directed towards Interchange 7 due to the steep grade on the north-south roadway.
- Acceleration and deceleration lanes will be designed to meet standards at Interchange 8.
- Local street improvements are proposed on Newtown Road (SR 806) and U.S. Route 6.
- 2 new bridges.



PROS

- Light vehicle traffic on Newtown Road and U.S. Route 6 can access Route 7 via White Turkey Connector without getting on I-84.
- Typical construction methods could be used.
- Construction can occur while maintaining existing traffic flow on I-84.
- Acceleration and deceleration lane lengths are improved at Interchange 8.
- There are no anticipated impacts to known historic resources.
- There are no anticipated impacts to known 4(f) properties.
- There are no anticipated impacts to cemetery properties.

CONS

- Does not reduce congestion or improve highway mobility.
- Significant property impacts during construction of White Turkey Connector.
- Significant rock excavation is required to construct White Turkey Connector.
- Does not improve access to the Danbury Hospital and downtown.
- Does not improve pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit options.
- Significant property impacts.
- Anticipated noise and aesthetic impacts due to proposed connector road from Interchange 8 to White Turkey Road Ext.
- The proposed improvements in this concept would perpendicularly cross the natural gas transmission pipeline in the vicinity of an undeveloped area south of Riverview Drive.
- The proposed improvements in this concept would extend through currently undeveloped land in Bethel between Route 6 and the town boundary that is planned as future Business Park, as shown in the Future Land Use Plan in the Bethel Plan of Conservation and Development adopted in December 2019.

RECOMMENDATION

This concept does not reduce congestion or improve mobility within the limits of the concept. This concept will have constructability challenges and will impact multiple properties. Impacts associated with this concept would disrupt some commercial and residential properties to the north and south of the proposed Interchange 8. Impacts would occur within currently undeveloped areas connecting White Turkey Road Ext to the I-84 mainline in the vicinity of Interchange 8. Some of this land is planned as future Business Park in the Bethel Plan of Conservation and Development. In addition, potentially significant impacts could occur because of crossing the natural gas transmission pipeline to the south of Riverview Drive.

This concept should be evaluated further to demonstrate if the potential benefits outweigh the environmental impacts.