

Appendix I Concept Figures

I-84 Danbury PEL Study

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Appendix I Concept Descriptions and Figures

Appendix I presents detailed concept descriptions for Concept 1 through Concept 26, followed by a drawing which presents conceptual layouts and highlights of each concept.

Concept 1 – Lane Continuity (Mainline)

Concept 1 (Figure I-1) creates improved lane continuity, eliminates left-hand ramps, and, where possible, improves horizontal curvature and vertical geometry along the mainline section of I-84 within the PEL Study Area. This concept proposes to maintain the current alignment of I-84 and stay within the existing ROW to the greatest extent possible. The primary component of this concept is the addition of eastbound and westbound travel lanes to provide at least three lanes of travel in each direction. Improvements are proposed at interchanges 3, 4, and 7 on I-84. No interchange improvements are proposed at the remaining interchanges on I-84.

Concept 2 – Collector Distributor Road (Center)

Concept 2 (Figure I-2) proposes eastbound and westbound collector distributor (CD) roads in the center section of I-84 within the PEL Study Area. The CD roads would improve local access to both downtown and the Danbury Hospital, and would remove local traffic from I-84, thus improving congestion on the mainline. This concept eliminates the existing interchanges at Main Street and North Street, with the CD Road connecting to Main Street, North Street, Madison Avenue, and Tamarack Avenue.

Concept 3 – Hospital Access – Tamarack Avenue (Center)

Concept 3 (Figure I-3) provides a full interchange at Tamarack Avenue (i.e., ramps connect to and from I-84 in both directions with Tamarack Avenue). This interchange would improve access to Danbury Hospital and Downtown in the center section of the PEL Study Area.

Concept 4 – Transit Option (Mainline)

Concept 4 (Figure I-4) identifies potential transit options that would improve mobility and increase transportation options for the traveling public in the I-84/US-7 corridor in Danbury and neighboring towns. These options reduce congestion on the highway and local roads, improve mobility along the corridor and in the region, provide better access for transit-dependent communities, complement existing transit services, and support economic and transit-oriented development opportunities. After studying travel and auto-ownership in the Danbury Region, the following regional and local transit options were identified:

- 1. New Milford Danbury Park-and-Ride (P&R)-Norwalk Express Bus Provides a north-south regional peak express service.
- 2. Southbury Danbury P&R Brewster Rail Station Shuttle Bus Provides an east-west inter-town express service and access to the Metro North Harlem Line.
- 3. Danbury Circulator Shuttle Bus Provides a local circulator shuttle route offering regional bus/shuttle riders access to major attractions in Danbury.
- 4. Danbury P&R/Express Connector Provides a connection between the new Express Bus stop/P&R and the existing Pulse Point, which allows access to more locations in Danbury. Minor changes to the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HARTransit) Route 1 headways could be required.
- 5. Maybrook Line Rail Shuttle The Maybrook Line is an unutilized railroad ROW between Danbury and Metro-North's Southeast Station in Brewster, New York. As part of the evaluation of this option, a new station in Danbury is proposed between Southeast and the existing Danbury rail



station. This option would provide a connection between Danbury and Metro-North's Southeast Station in Brewster, New York using the unutilized railroad.

These transit options could complement several of the highway options being considered.

Concept 5 – Left to Right Hand Ramps (Mainline)

Concept 5 (Figure I-5) replaces left hand ramps with right hand ramps at the I-84 and US-7 interchanges. This concept maintains the current alignment of I-84 and stays within the existing ROW to the greatest extent possible. A total of nine (9) new bridges, two (2) bridge replacements, and five (5) bridge removals are part of this concept.

Concept 6 – Interchanges 3 and 4 - Segar Street Eastbound (West)

Concept 6 (Figure I-6) proposes a new off-ramp from eastbound I-84 to Segar Street. In this concept, a median barrier would be installed to prohibit I-84 eastbound traffic from using the Lake Avenue exit (Interchange 4). This eliminates the current weaving condition between I-84 eastbound traffic using the Lake Avenue exit ramp and US-7 northbound traffic merging onto I-84 eastbound.

Concept 7 – Tunnel (West)

Concept 7 (Figure I-7) proposes a tunnel and open-cut section on the west side of the PEL Study Area within the vicinity of Interchanges 2 and 4. This concept straightens the current horizontal alignment on I-84 to achieve a consistent travel speed in the corridor and reduce the slowdowns caused by sharp curves. The proposed new alignment of I-84 would have two lanes of travel in each direction. The existing portion of I-84 referred to as the I-84 spur would remain to serve US-7 and Lake Avenue.

Concept 8 – I-84 under Collector Distributor Road (Mainline)

Concept 8 (Figure I-8) lowers I-84 below grade between Interchanges 2 and 8. I-84 would have no local access between Interchanges 3 and 7. All local traffic travelling towards Interchanges 4, 5, and 6 would use a CD Road. At Interchanges 3 and 7, there would be connections between I-84, US-7, and the CD Road. The feasibility of lowering I-84 was explored using the following methods of construction:

- 1. Open Cut
- 2. Cut and Cover
- 3. Mined Tunnel
- 4. Bored Tunnel

Concept 9 – U.S. 7 Median (Mainline)

Concept 9 (Figure I-9) creates lane continuity, eliminates left-hand ramps, and, where possible, improves horizontal curvature in the mainline section of I-84 within the PEL Study Area. This concept maintains the current alignment of I-84 and separates US-7 vehicles from those on I-84. The primary component of this concept is that US-7 would be shifted into the median section of I-84 and would be an express facility with no local connections between Interchanges 3 and 7. Improvements are only proposed at I-84 Interchanges 3, 4, 7, and 8. No improvements are proposed at the remaining interchanges on I-84.

Concept 10 – U.S. 7 Ramp-Westbound (East)

Concept 10 (Figure I-10) provides a new two-lane on-ramp from US-7 southbound to I-84 westbound at the vicinity of Interchange 7, replacing the current single lane on-ramp. Prior to the US-7 southbound merge with I-84 westbound, the on-ramp from Federal Road merges with the US-7 southbound ramp and creates a lane drop condition in a very short distance. The proposed improvement addresses this lane drop condition through minor widening along the US-7 southbound on-ramp increasing the on-ramp from one to two lanes. The improvement would result in changing the ramp configuration for the US-7 southbound on-ramp to eastbound I-84, specifically by changing from an exit-only ramp to an exit ramp.



Concept 11 – Collector Distributor Road Grade Separated (Center)

Concept 11 (Figure I-11) proposes a CD road, similar to Concept 2, to improve local connectivity and reduce mainline congestion. The existing interchanges at Main Street and North Street are eliminated and the CD Road provides connection to Main Street, North Street, and Tamarack Avenue.

Concept 12 – Interchanges 3 and 4 Collector Distributor Road (West)

Concept 12 (Figure I-12), proposes a CD Road along I-84 eastbound, starting at the merge of the Lake Avenue off-ramp and the US-7 northbound on-ramp at Interchange 3 and ending at the merge with I-84 eastbound at Interchange 4 (about 1,200 feet in length). In this concept, the off-ramp to Lake Avenue will be on the CD Road and a median barrier (about 1,500 feet in length) would be installed to prohibit I-84 eastbound traffic from using the Lake Avenue exit ramp. This would eliminate the current weaving condition between I-84 eastbound traffic with the US-7 northbound traffic that merges onto I-84 eastbound.

Concept 13 – Great Plain Road (Center)

Concept 13 (Figure I-13) proposes a new partial interchange on I-84 at Great Plain Road in the center section of the corridor. The Great Plain Road interchange would improve access between I-84, the Danbury Hospital, and points west of the Hospital.

Concept 14 – Collector Distributor Road Eastbound (East)

Concept 14 (Figure I-14) creates lane continuity, eliminates left-hand ramps, and, where possible, improves horizontal curvature. A CD Road is provided in the eastbound direction between Interchanges 7 and 8 to eliminate the weaving condition. In the westbound direction, the weave would remain between Interchanges 7 and 8. Under this concept, no improvements are proposed at the remaining interchanges on I-84.

Concept 15 – Collector Distributor Road (East)

Concept 15 (Figure I-15) creates lane continuity, eliminates left-hand ramps, and, where possible, improves horizontal curvature. CD roads are provided in each direction between Interchanges 7 and 8. Improvements are only proposed at I-84 Interchanges 7 and 8. Under this concept, no improvements are proposed at the remaining interchanges on I-84.

Concept 16 – Interchange 6 – Collector Distributor Road (Center)

Concept 16, (Figure I-16) proposes CD roads between North Street and Tamarack Avenue on the north and south sides of I-84. This concept eliminates the existing North Street interchange (Interchange 6) and replaces it with ramps from I-84 connected to CD roads using J-shaped ramps in each direction.

Concept 17 – I-84 Realigned with Collector Distributor Road (Center)

Concept 17 (Figure I-17) proposes CD roads in each direction between west of Franklin Street Extension and east of Tamarack Avenue. This concept realigns I-84 to improve horizontal curvature, which maintains a more consistent design speed in the corridor. The Main Street interchange (Interchange 5) would be shifted north to meet the new I-84 alignment. The existing North Street interchange (Interchange 6) would be eliminated and replaced with a new interchange at Tamarack Avenue.

Concept 18 – I-84 Realigned with Collector Distributor Road Eastbound (East)

Concept 18 (Figure I-18) proposes a CD road in the eastbound direction between Interchanges 7 and 8 to eliminate the weaving condition. This concept does not address the weave in the westbound direction between these interchanges. Existing left-hand ramps between I-84 and US-7 at Interchange 7 would be replaced with right-hand ramps. This concept realigns I-84 in the east section to improve the horizontal curvature, which maintains a more consistent design speed in the corridor. The US-7 interchange



(Interchange 7) would be shifted to the south and the US-6/Newtown Road interchange (Interchange 8) would be shifted north to meet design standards for horizontal curvature.

Concept 19 – I-84 Realigned with Collector Distributor Road (East)

Concept 19 (Figure I-19) proposes CD roads in each direction between Interchanges 7 and 8 to eliminate the weaving condition. Existing left-hand ramps between I-84 and US-7 at Interchange 7 would be replaced with right-hand ramps. This concept realigns I-84 in the east section to improve the horizontal curvature, which maintains a more consistent design speed. The US-7 interchange (Interchange 7) would be shifted slightly to the south and the US-6/Newtown Road interchange (Interchange 8) would be shifted farther north to meet design standards for horizontal curvature.

Concept 20 – Interchange 8 with White Turkey Road Connection (East)

Concept 20 (Figure I-20) proposes a new Interchange 8 with a north-south connection to White Turkey Road Extension. This concept provides access to US-7 via White Turkey Connector for automobile traffic on Newtown Road and US-6 without getting on I-84.

Concept 21 – I-84 with Collector Distributor Road to Great Plain Road (East)

Concept 21 (Figure I-21) proposes a CD road in both directions between Great Plain Road and Newtown Road (Interchange 8). This concept shifts I-84 slightly to the south to maintain a more consistent design speed in the corridor. Existing left-hand ramps between I-84 and US-7 at Interchange 7 would be replaced with right-hand ramps.

Concept 22 – I-84 Expressway (Mainline)

Concept 22 (Figure I-22) creates lane continuity, eliminates left-hand ramps, and, where possible, improves horizontal curvature in the mainline section of I-84 within the PEL Study Area, while maintaining its current alignment. This concept proposes express lanes in both directions in the median section between Interchanges 3 and 8. A barrier would separate the median express lanes of I-84 from US-7 to its right, therefore, prohibiting direct access between these roadways and between I-84 and the local interchanges along the express segment. This concept provides access from I-84 to US-7 with the introduction of two exit ramps: one in the eastbound direction, located on I-84 west of Interchange 3 and the other in the westbound direction, located east of Interchange 8. US-7 would then provide connections to the local interchanges.

Concept 23 – Transportation System Management and Operations (Mainline)

Concept 23 (Figure I-23) is comprised of a set of strategies focused on operational improvements to increase mobility and reduce congestion with minimal modifications to the existing roadway. A variety of TSMO strategies were evaluated, including dynamic lane use, traffic incident management, arterial management, and travel demand management (TDM) (see Appendix L, CDM Smith, Concept 23: TSMO Strategies, Engineering White Paper, November 2022). These strategies have the potential to reduce congestion and improve mobility on I-84. The dynamic lane use strategy was shown to be effective and could be implemented in a short time frame (0-5 years). This strategy involves reallocating road space in response to changes in demand and uses existing infrastructure more efficiently. In this case the existing inside shoulder, next to the median of I-84, would be used as an additional travel lane during the peak traffic demand. As this peak demand is directional, the westbound dynamic lane would only be open in the morning, while the eastbound dynamic lane would only be open in the afternoon.

Concept 24 – Starr Avenue - Interchange 5 (Center)

Concept 24 (Figure I-24) improves local access to downtown and improves congestion on I-84 by providing an alternative for local traffic use instead of the interstate. Concept 24 proposes a CD road in the eastbound direction between Main Street (existing Interchange 5) and North Street (existing



Interchange 6). In the westbound direction, the existing westbound ramps at Interchange 5 (Main Street) are eliminated and a new, full Interchange 5 is proposed on Starr Avenue. Additionally, a new on-ramp is introduced at North Street in the westbound direction, which makes Interchange 6 on North Street a full interchange.

Concept 25 – Three Lane Collector Distributor Road (Center)

Concept 25 (Figure I-25) proposes a 3-lane CD road improving local access to both downtown and the Danbury Hospital and improving congestion on I-84 by providing an alternative for local traffic use instead of the interstate. This concept eliminates the existing interchanges at Main Street and North Street and the CD road provides connection to Main Street, North Street, Madison Avenue, and Tamarack Avenue.

Concept 26 – North Street On-Ramp Interchange 6 (Center)

Concept 26 (Figure I-26) improves local access to downtown and improves congestion on I-84 by providing an alternative for local traffic use instead of the interstate. Concept 26 proposes a one-way, two-travel lane CD Road in the eastbound direction between Main Street (Interchange 5) and North Street (Interchange 6). This concept adds an auxiliary lane on I-84 westbound between the North Street on-ramp and Main Street off-ramp. The existing westbound ramps at Interchange 5 (Main Street) would remain and a new on-ramp would be introduced to North Street, giving it full access to I-84.





















































