



**The I-84 Hartford Project
Public Advisory Committee Meeting #3
Tuesday, February 11, 2014
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
The Lyceum
227 Lawrence Street, Hartford, CT 06106**

Mike Morehouse, of the I-84 Hartford project team, started the meeting shortly after 8:30 a.m.

Introduction

Morehouse began by reviewing the meeting's agenda and purpose. He said the purpose of this meeting was to provide PAC members with updates from the Purpose and Need Working Group, present information about various rail improvement projects in the corridor, as well as list and summarize other projects related to or that need to be coordinated with the I-84 Hartford Project area. During the meeting, PAC members will also have the opportunity to rate their level of interest on a variety of topics for future PAC meetings.

Morehouse said the I-84 Hartford Project is currently in the "Needs and Deficiencies" phase and has just entered the alternatives analysis portion of the Environmental phase.

Purpose and Need Working Group Update

Morehouse gave an update about the Purpose and Need Working Group, a subcommittee of the PAC. The group has had two meetings to date – the first on December 18, 2013; the second on February 6, 2014. The group's mission is to refine the project's Purpose and Need Statement and to work with the Connecticut Department of Transportation and the project team to help identify project goals and objectives.

So far, the Purpose and Need Working Group has developed a draft Vision Statement and is working on a Purpose and Need Executive Summary. The group is also reviewing a draft set of goals, objectives and performance measures for the I-84 Hartford Project.

Morehouse asked if any members of the Purpose and Need Working Group, who were in attendance, wished to add any comments. Toni Gold, a PAC member and a member of the working group, said Morehouse gave an excellent summary of the group's activities. She added that her summary of the project vision is that I-84 should be a better highway and a better neighbor.

Rail Improvements in the I-84 Corridor

Morehouse went on to talk about how the project would soon enter the phase of developing alternatives. The future of the highway and the rail line in the corridor are intertwined.

Morehouse invited Brett Wallace of the project team to give an overview of the Rail Program.

Wallace said the project team was working with the Connecticut Department of Transportation on the need for rail viaduct replacement and options related to realigning the railroad to the northwest of Interstate 84.

He also gave an overview of the New Haven – Hartford – Springfield Rail Program (NHHS), which is scheduled to open for service in 2016, and how it is intertwined with I-84. Wallace said another element of the future vision of Hartford’s rail program was NEC FUTURE, a conceptual planning effort by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), to evaluate and prioritize future rail infrastructure investments in the Northeast Corridor (NEC).

Gold said it was interesting to see that the project team was planning for the potential of high speed rail even though the implementation of that would be a long way off. She also asked if the high speed rail would be underground. David Stahnke, of the project team confirmed that it would be underground.

Other related projects in the I-84 study area

Stahnke talked about other projects taking place in Hartford that may be related to or affect the I-84 Hartford Project. Some of those projects included railroad and bus service improvements, the Downtown Hartford Transit Circulation Study, CTfastrak, the Intermodal Triangle, iQuilt and other local street projects and development studies.

PAC Member Jennifer Cassidy asked if the City of Hartford and local neighborhood groups would be involved in the Trident project, a local street project at the intersections of Farmington, Broad and Asylum. She said the Connecticut Department of Transportation had shown some preliminary ideas a while ago that the neighborhood had concerns about. Rich Armstrong and Randal Davis, of the Connecticut Department of Transportation, told Cassidy that more information is being developed on this project in response to feedback and that additional coordination with the City and community would happen at a later date.

Possible Future PAC Meeting Topics

Morehouse talked about next steps with the PAC members. He polled PAC members to find out what topics they would like to see at future meetings. He presented a list of possible future topics and PAC members expressed their strength of interest in each, using electronic polling devices. PAC members ranked the initial list of topics in the following order. (Topics of stronger interest are listed first):

- Urban Design Opportunities
- Initial Alternatives
- Needs and Deficiencies
- Tolling and Congestion Management
- Traffic Volume Forecasts
- Highway Safety
- Environmental Process

Morehouse also asked if there were other topics not on this list that are of interest to the PAC so that they can be added to the list of future topics also.

PAC Member Bob Painter asked if there would be an analysis that would be used to identify incompatible alternatives early in the process before they are advanced too far into alternatives analysis. Stahnke said this is part of initial screening process.

Gold asked which of the topics listed included the number and configuration of interchanges. Several members of the project team said the initial alternatives and needs and deficiencies topics would both include that information.

PAC Member Kelly Kennedy said the project team should be talking about policy objectives. This is a topic that may dictate how the project moves forward. She said she did not want to keep doing things in ways that are not sustainable. As an example she said mode shift (getting people to use other transportations modes instead of cars) should be an objective. Davis, of the Connecticut Department of Transportation, said he agreed that policy objectives should be discussed.

Christine Tiernan, of the project team, said funding and finance might be a topic of interest at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Names of those in attendance are marked with an asterisk (*).

PAC Members

- * Tim Bockus, Director of Public Works, Town of East Hartford
- * Jennifer Carrier, Director of Transportation, CRCOG
- * Jennifer Cassidy, Chair, Asylum Hill Association
- * Thomas Deller, Director, City of Hartford Department of Development Services
- * Lynn Ferrari, President, Coalition to Strengthen Sheldon-Charter Oak Neighborhood
- * Jeff Gerlach, Principal, Capital Program Development, Amtrak (via telephone)
- * Toni Gold, Representative, West End Civic Association
- * Kelly Kennedy, Executive Director, Bike Walk Connecticut
- * Aaron Kupec, Public Affairs Manager, AAA
- * Michael Marshall, Head of Global Asset Management, Aetna
- * Robert Painter, Chair, HUB of Hartford
- * Liz Rotavera, Senior Planning Associate, St. Francis Hospital
- * Vicki Shotland, Executive Director, Greater Hartford Transit District
- * Michael Zaleski, Executive Director, Hartford Business Improvement District
- Robert Benzinger, Assistant Vice President Capital Projects, The Hartford
- Frank Hagaman, Executive Director, Hartford Preservation Alliance
- Jackie McKinney, ArtSpace Residents Association
- Doug Moore, Director of Management Services, Facilities Management Division
- State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services
- David Morin, President, Parkville Revitalization Association
- Mark Riley, President, Connecticut Motor Association

- Ron Van Winkle, Town Manager, Town of West Hartford
- David Corrigan, Chair, Frog Hollow Neighborhood Revitalization Zone
- David Corrigan, Program Manager, Northside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance
- Oz Griebel, Executive Director, Metro Hartford Alliance
- Anne Hayes, Director of Parking, Traveler's (permanent replacement for James Scannell, Senior Vice President of Administrative Services, Travelers)
- Charles Hunter, General Manager, Southern Connecticut Railroad
- Hans Keck, Safety and Security Manager, Hartford Courant
- Marcia Leclerc, Mayor, Town of East Hartford
- Msgr. John McCarthy, Chancellor, Archdiocese of Hartford
- Paul Mutone, Vice President for Finance and Operations, and Treasurer, Trinity College
- Bimal Patel, Vice President of Operations, Hartford Hospital
- Erin Pollard, Executive Director, Business for Downtown Hartford
- Don Soja, CT Division General Manager, Peter Pan Bus
- Hyacinth Yennie, Chair, Maple Avenue Revitalization Group

Others:

- * Matt Byrne, Representing Archdiocese of Hartford
- * Julio Concepcion, of Metro-Hartford (substitute for PAC Member Frank Hagaman)
- * Jeff Corimer, City of Hartford
- * Khara Dodds, City of Hartford
- * Thomas Doyle
- * David Fichandler, Director of Public Safety, Hartford Hospital (substitute for PAC Member Bimal Patel, Vice President of Operations, Hartford Hospital)
- * Maryellen Thibodeau, Bikewalk
- * Lia Yim, CRCOG
- * Drew Galloway, Amtrak (via phone)
- * Harry Garforth, Amtrak (via phone)

Federal Highway Administration

- * Michelle Herrell
- * David Nardone
- * Kurt Salmoiraghi

Connecticut Department of Transportation

- * Rich Armstrong
- * John Bernick
- * Jose Catalan
- * Randal Davis
- * Steve DelPapa
- * John Dudzinski
- * Thomas Maziarz
- * Brian Natwick

Consultant Team

- * Muhammad Ammad, TranSystems Corp.
- * Jill Barrett, Fitzgerald and Halliday, Inc.
- * Ruth Fitzgerald, Fitzgerald and Halliday, Inc.
- * Julie Gorges, A. DiCesare Associates
- * Stacy Graham-Hunt, Fitzgerald and Halliday, Inc.
- * Debbie Hoffman, Fitzgerald and Halliday, Inc.
- * Deborah Howes, AECOM
- * Mike Morehouse, Fitzgerald and Halliday, Inc.
- * Tony Moretti, Parsons Brinckerhoff
- * Tim Ryan, TranSystems Corp.
- * David Spillane, Goody Clancy
- * David Stahnke, TranSystems Corp.
- * Kristen Stiff, Parsons Brinckerhoff
- * Christine Tiernan, AECOM
- * Brett Wallace, Parsons Brinckerhoff
- * Rob Yirigian, Parsons Brinckerhoff