Building A Better I-84 In Hartford
Multimodal and Transit Summit
November 19, 2018
Where is the I-84 Hartford Project?
Project Background

- Rail line built in 1830s
- Proposed East-West Expressway in 1940s
- I-84 constructed in 1960s
  - Designed to avoid rail
  - Built prior to NEPA
  - Planned to carry 55,000 vehicles per day by 1975
“The impact of the I-84 freeway upon the physical environments into which it was introduced has been both dramatic and overwhelming.”
- CTDOT & FHWA, 1970
Why Is It Needed?

- Bridge structural deficiencies
- Operational and safety deficiencies
- Mobility deficiencies
I-84 Runs Through A Very Tight Area

I-84 is neighbor to:
- Amtrak trains
- CTrail Hartford Line trains (May 2018)
- CTfastrak
- Local roads
- Homes
- Businesses
- Culture and history

I-84 crosses over the railroad in two places
Tailor the Message to the Audience
Building Bridges in the Community

- School / youth programming
- Community-based organizations (CBO)
School and Youth Outreach

- Broad and diverse populations
  - Students, faculty, families, trainees
- Geographic reach
Example Activities

- Classroom learning
- Bulletin boards
- Backpack distribution
- School family events
Target Your Audience
Why Is It Needed?

- Bridge structural deficiencies
- Operational and safety deficiencies
- Mobility deficiencies
What’s wrong with the highway?

- Very old
- Lots of accidents
- Bad traffic
Some highways have bridges
Bridges
Let’s build!
What are bridges & tunnels made out of?
Pervious Concrete

Materials
- Aggregate Base
- Water
- Cement

Uses
- Parking lots
- Sidewalks
- Roads
BUILDING DEFINITIONS

infrastructure - Traditional system of
in water management: concrete, curbs, gutters
pipes

infrastructure - Approaches to mimic natural
flow

permeable / Pervious - Allows water to pass
through

impermeable / Impervious - Water runs off the
surface and is channeled somewhere else
Bulletin Boards
MOVING VEHICLES
Predicting and managing traffic could help improve air quality. Air pollution is common where auto engines run idle, or where there is heavy stop-and-start traffic. Roadways that efficiently manage the flow of vehicles can limit air pollution.

IMPACTS: AIR
Air pollution is caused by many human activities. In our cities, cars and trucks are often the biggest offenders! Although fuel-efficient vehicles are on the rise, when vehicles burn gas, they emit pollutants. Pollutants contribute to poor air quality, which can harm public health and the environment. However, smart highway design can limit air pollution.

THE VALUE OF TREES
Trees are essential to cleaning our air. They convert harmful gases into oxygen. By removing pollutants such as carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide, healthy trees help reduce the risk of asthma, cancer, and heart disease.
Impacts – Water

**PERMEABLE SURFACES**
The previous I-84 exhibit looked at asphalt, an ancient substance now commonly used to bind together various materials to make our roadways. Technological advances have produced materials that better manage stormwater.

**TRADITIONAL SOLUTIONS**
Impervious surfaces like concrete asphalt can't absorb or filter water. Instead, these surfaces channel water into sewers and storm drains, often draining directly into rivers and other waterways, along with the oils and pollutants they carry.

**PERMEABLE PAVERS**
Permeable pavers allow water to naturally seep into the ground below the roadway and sidewalk. The earth then filters the precipitation before it flows into storm sewers.

**BIOSWALES**
Biowales are roadside plant beds that channel water into the ground, rather than directly into storm drains or other waterways.

These stormwater management techniques that green our streets are considered low-impact design. They beautify the streetscape and aid our natural environment. Drywell Street in Nashville, Tennessee, is a prime example of low-impact design.

**PERMEABLE ASPHALT**
Unlike traditional asphalt concrete, permeable asphalt concrete allows water to infiltrate into the earth, rather than streaming into storm drains, carrying litter, oil, and other pollutants into our waterways.
Community-Based Programs

- Classroom learning
- Intern tasks
- Other activities
What Are We Looking At?

- Legends

![Map Diagram]

**ROADWAY**

- BRIDGE
- RAIL
- POTENTIAL IMPACTED BUILDING
What Makes A Good Comment?

- Complete all contact fields
- Be specific!
  - Who?
  - What?
  - Where?
  - When?
  - How?

I think this project would be good for drivers and pedestrians. Less traffic and more ways to walk are things that people need. What is sad is the buildings that might be demolished in the process. However, if the bridges need to be replaced then this is something that should be done. I wonder where is the money coming from though?
What Would the Lowered Highway Mean For You?

Job Opportunities

I-84 reconstruction will require **thousands** of jobs:

- Bricklayers
- Carpenters
- Electricians
- Plumbers
- Laborers
- Heavy Equipment Operators
- Ironworkers
- Truck drivers

*Image: Atlanta Black Star*
What skills are necessary for these careers?

- High school math
- Reading
- Writing
- Public presentation
- High school diploma / GED
What Matters

- Desire to reconnect parts of the City
- Desire for a better, more locally supported alternative
  - Requires involving Hartford’s public
- Consensus can mean fewer delays / stops in the project
Thank you for your time. We appreciate your commitment to helping us reach the best possible solution for the State of Connecticut, the Capitol Region, and the City of Hartford.

-Your I-84 Hartford Project Team