



# ***THE I-84 HARTFORD PROJECT***

# **Public Information Meeting and Open House**

**June 17, 2014**



# THE I-84 HARTFORD PROJECT



# Welcome!



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway Administration**



**CRCOG** **CAPITOL REGION  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
*Working together for a better region.*



# Agenda

## 1. What is the I-84 Hartford Project?

- Project description
- History and background
- Why is the project needed?

## 2. Project status

- Where are we now?
- Next steps

## 3. What we want from you?

- Get involved
- Share your thoughts with us
- Stay informed



# Agenda

## 1. What is the I-84 Hartford Project?

- Project description
- History and background
- Why is the project needed?

## 2. Project status

- Where are we now?
- Next steps

## 3. What we want from you?

- Get involved
- Share your thoughts with us
- Stay informed



# Where is the Project?

Approximately from Flatbush Avenue to I-91





# I-84 Hartford Project Mission

With **active engagement** of the public, **evaluate** all reasonable options for the replacement of I-84 through Hartford and to **build** the resulting project.





# First, a little history...

- Rail line built in 1830s
- I-84 built in 1960s
  - Designed to avoid impacting rail
  - Resulting design is mostly elevated





## A product of its time...

- I-84 was conceived prior to NEPA / Federal regulations
- Soon after it was built, many realized that its effect on Hartford was not all positive



*“The impact of the I-84 freeway upon the physical environments into which it was introduced has been both dramatic and overwhelming.” - 1970 CTDOT & FHWA*

- The I-84 Hartford Project provides an opportunity to rethink the previous design





## Prior studies

- CTDOT previously evaluated a viaduct replacement
- 2010 “HUB study” looked at additional concepts
  - Significant public input gained
  - **Concepts only – no engineering**
- CTDOT committed to evaluate additional solutions that have the potential for win-win outcomes





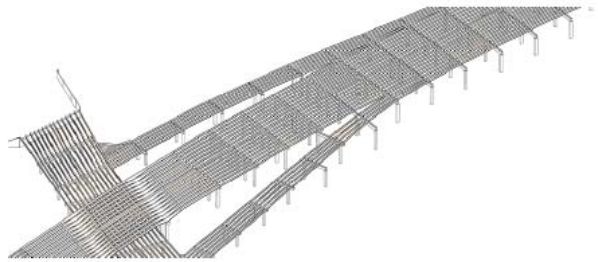
# Why is the I-84 Hartford Project needed?

- Bridge structural deficiencies
- Traffic operational and safety deficiencies
- Traffic congestion
- Community challenges





# Bridge structural deficiencies



- Many of these bridges are reaching the end of their intended lifespan
- CTDOT spent over \$60M on repairs since 2004
- Bridges are safe to drive over but deterioration will continue

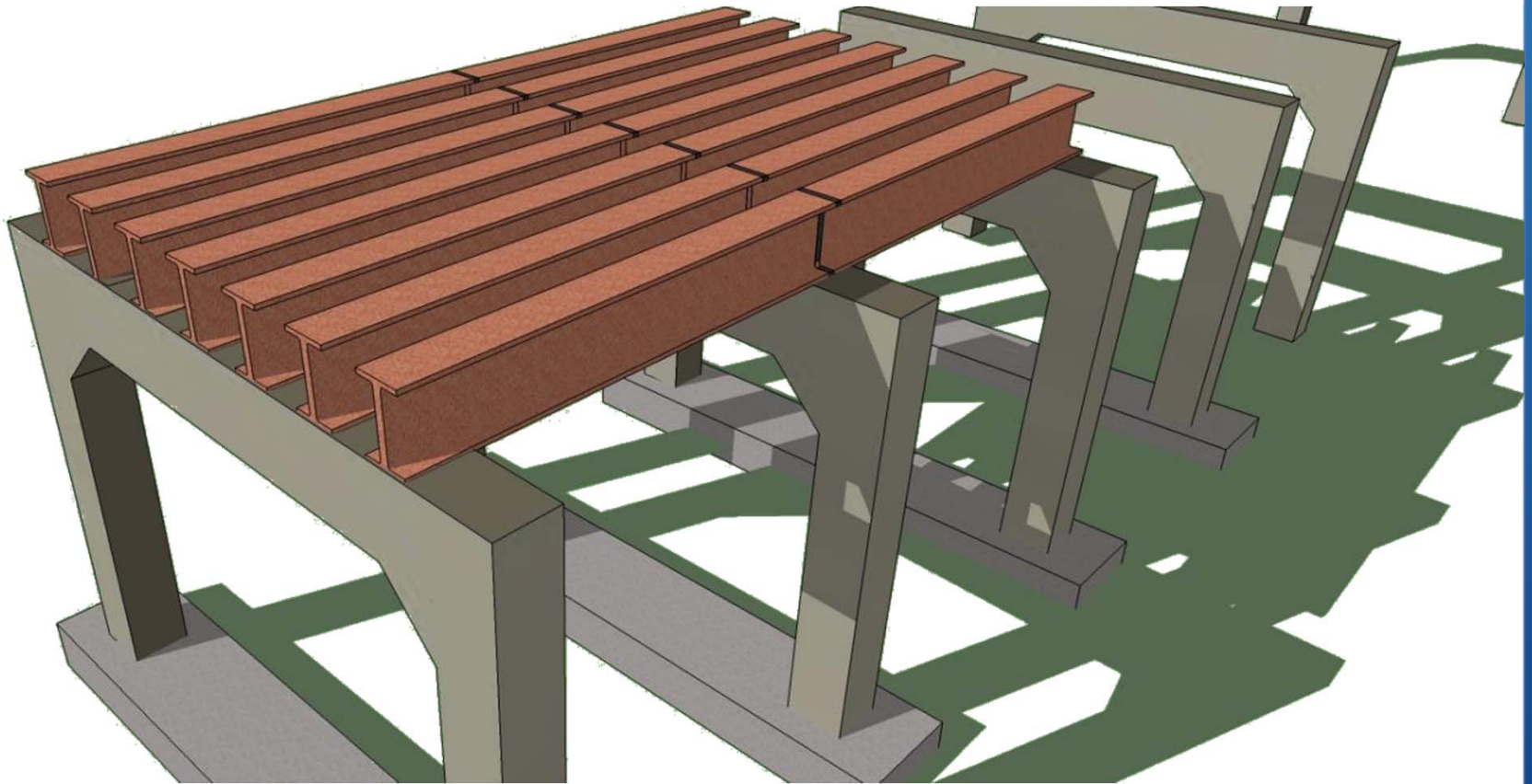


## Bridge elements defined



Deck: The portion of the bridge that carries traffic.

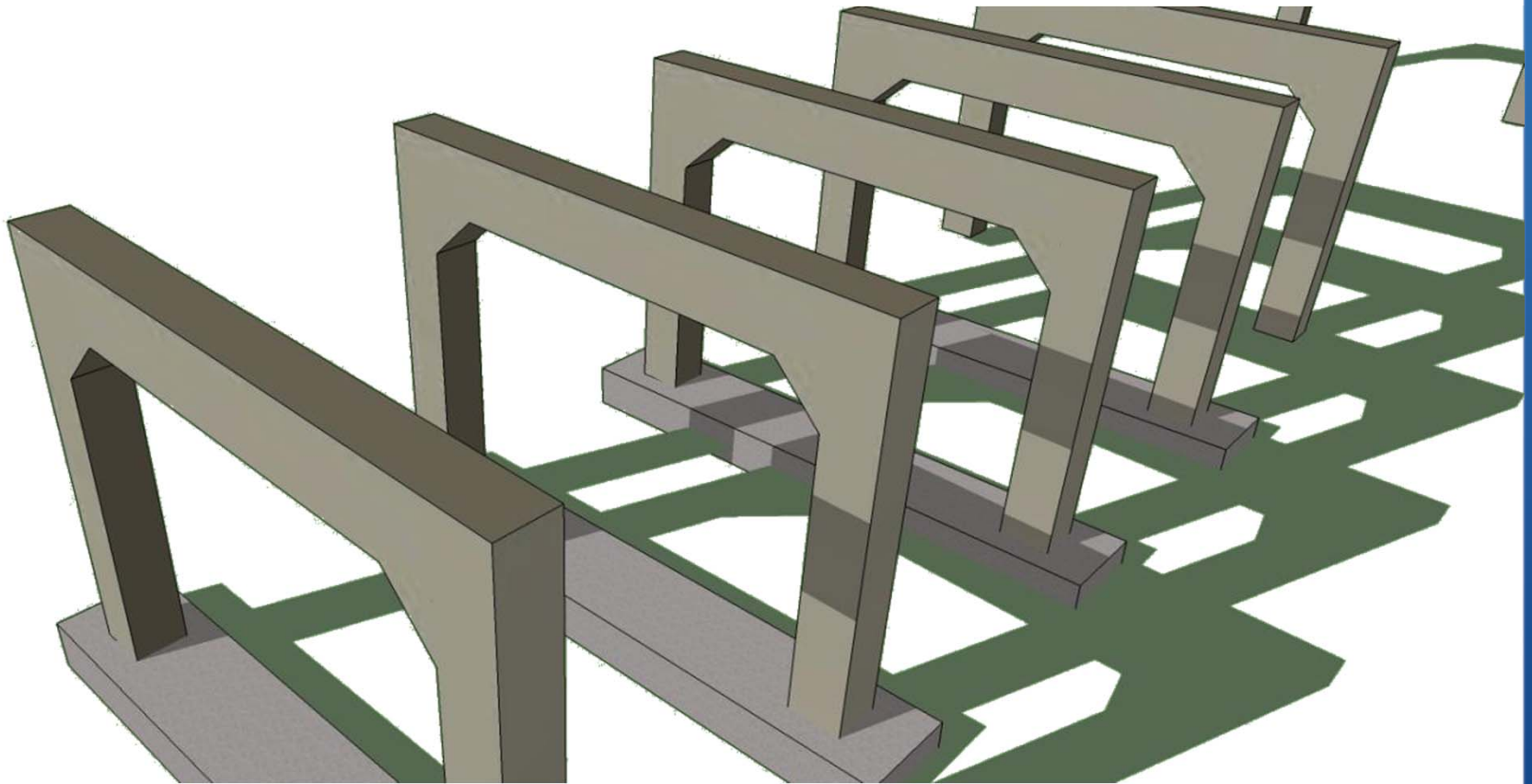
## Bridge elements defined



**Superstructure:** The portion of the bridge that supports the deck and connects one substructure element to another.



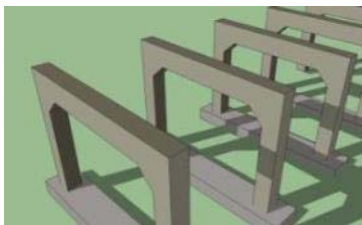
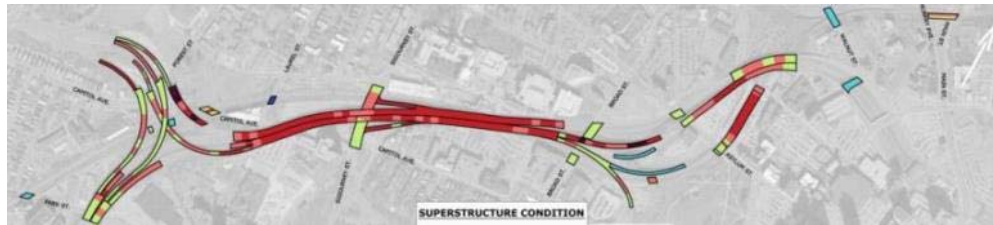
## Bridge elements defined



Substructure: The portion of the bridge that supports the superstructure



# Rating of bridge elements



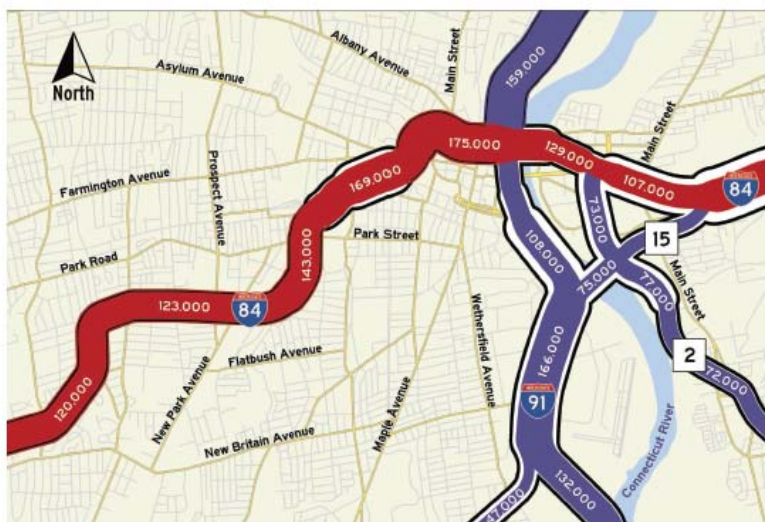
## National Bridge Inventory Rating

Very Good (8)		Fair (5)	
Good (7)		Poor (4)	
Satisfactory (6)		Serious (3)	

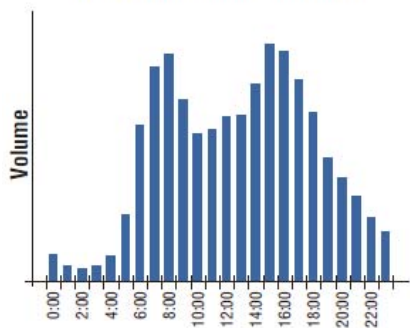


# Traffic flow

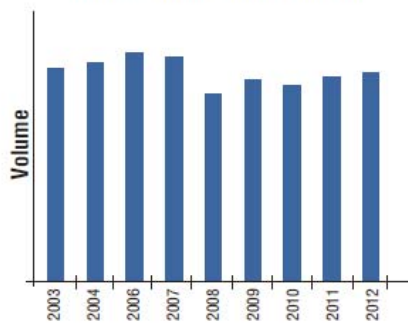
I-84 is a critical transportation link with limited bypass options



Hourly Volume Variations on I-84



Annual Volume Variations on I-84

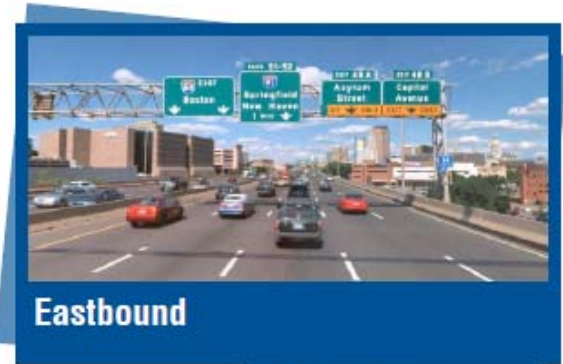




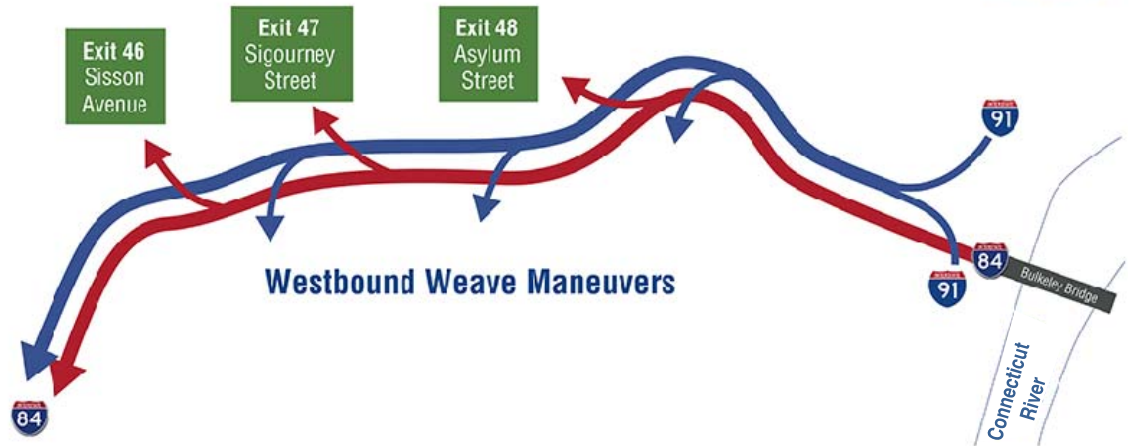


# Operational deficiencies

- Left-hand on- and off-ramps
- Multiple lane drops (“exit only”)
- Weave sections
- 8 full or partial interchanges in less than 3 miles



Westbound





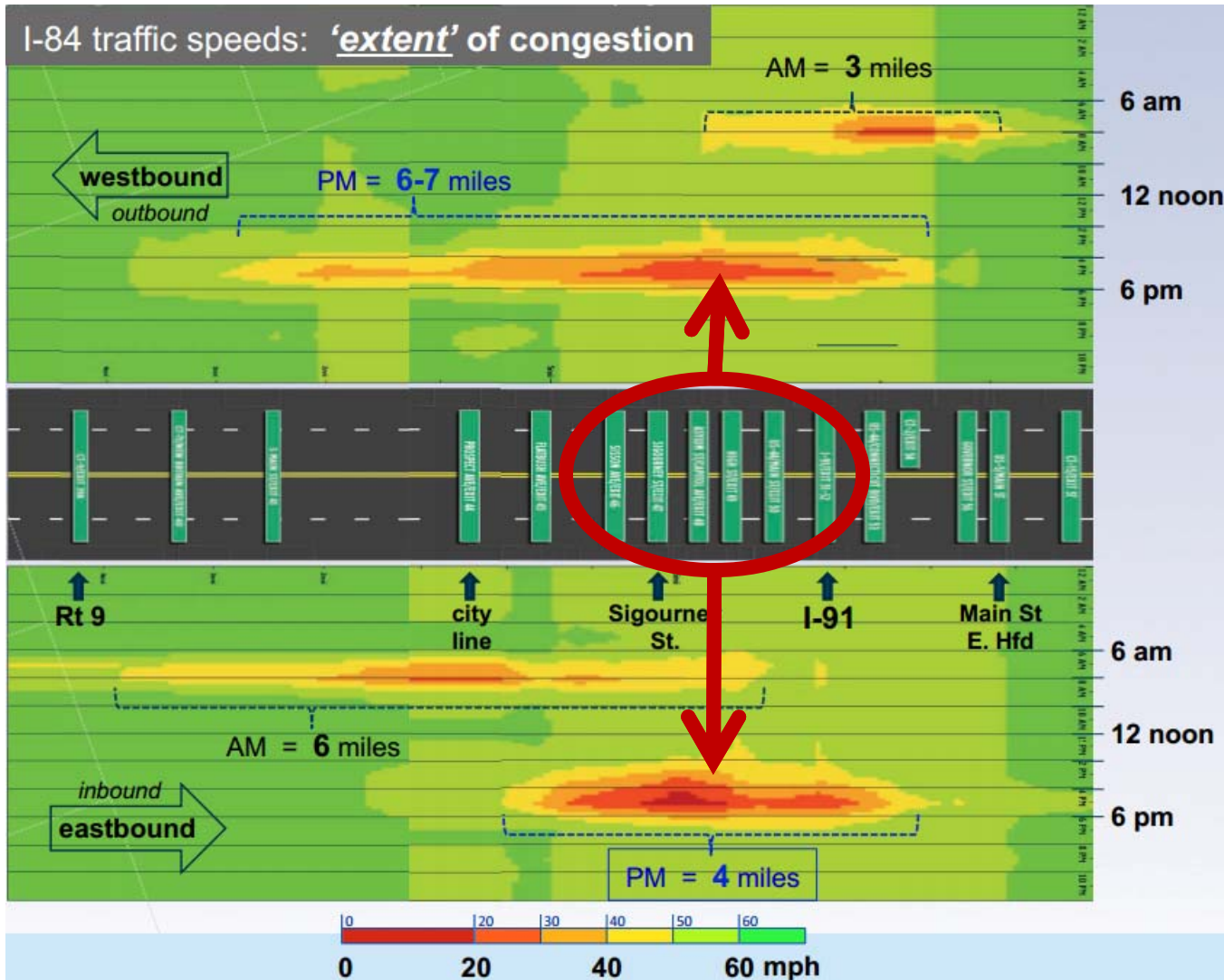
## Traffic congestion

- 175,000 = daily traffic volume (higher than I-95)
- 6-7 mile traffic jams
  - Most congested of Hartford freeways (nearly 50% of region's congestion)
  - Less congestion than I-95, but still a problem



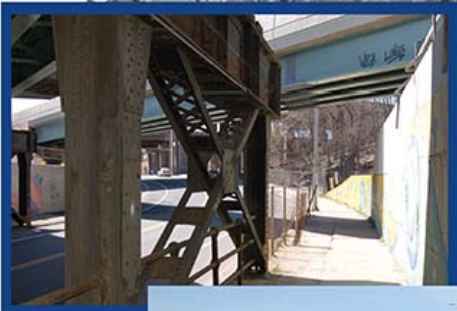


# Traffic congestion





# Safety deficiencies



— Accident rate four times the state average

- Narrow shoulder widths
- Nearly two accidents per day
- Significant traffic delays
- Poor pedestrian and bike accessibility on local streets



# Community challenges

- Connectivity between places
- Aesthetics and viewsheds
- Social and economic impact
- Historic preservation



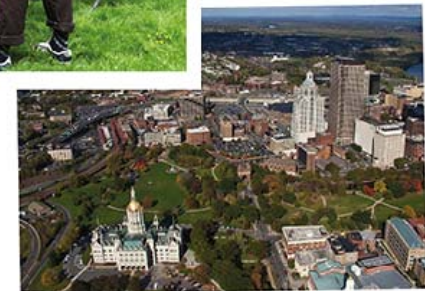
Image courtesy of Barbara Steele



Image courtesy of Archives and Special Collections, UConn Library



Image at/elt and top left courtesy of Heather Brandon





## ...And many complexities

- Rail line interwoven with I-84
- **CTfastrak**
- New Haven-Hartford-Springfield rail program
- Densely developed urban landscape (very constrained corridor)
- How to build it and how to pay for it?





# Agenda

## 1. What is the I-84 Hartford Project?

- Project description
- History and background
- Why is the project needed?

## 2. Project status

- Where are we now?
- Next steps

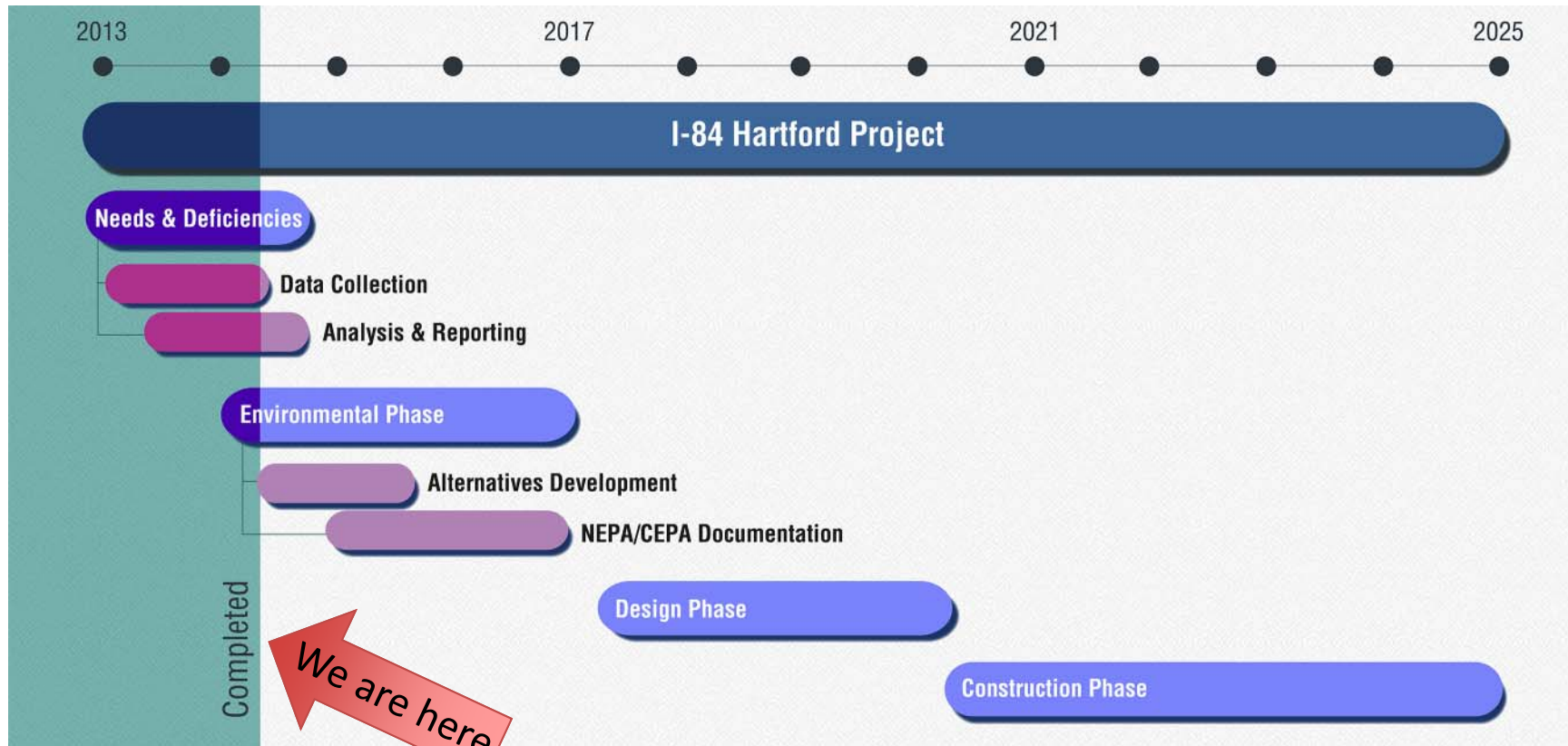
## 3. What we want from you?

- Get involved
- Share your thoughts with us
- Stay informed



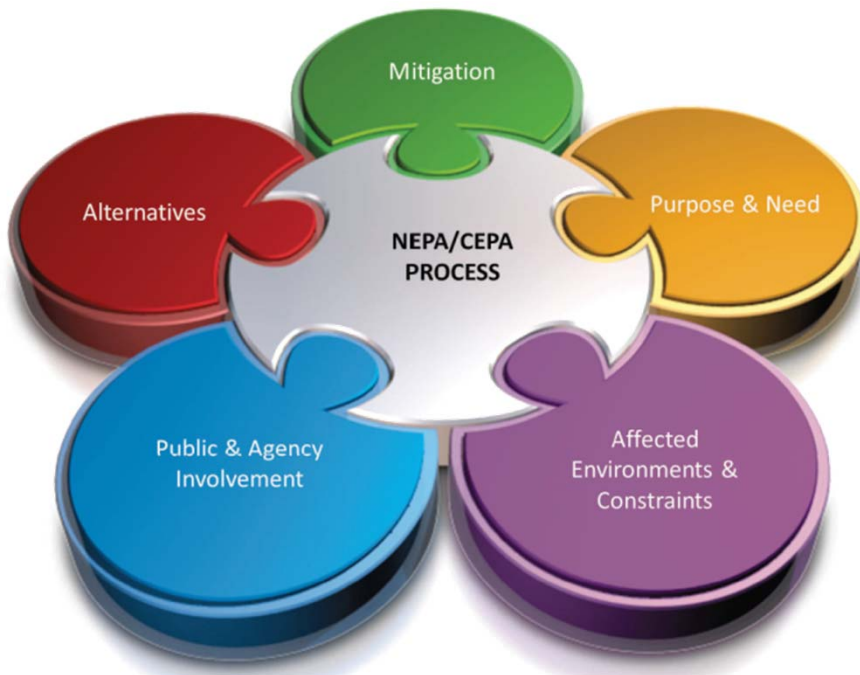
# Where Are We Now?

- Long-term project
- 4 major project phases





# What is NEPA/CEPA?

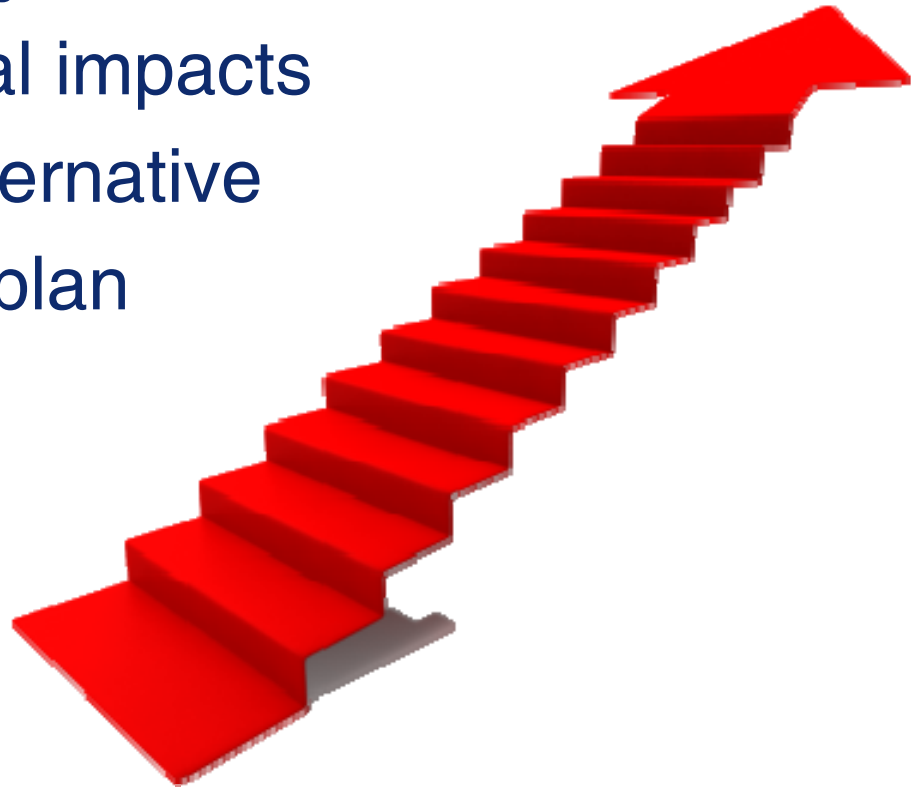


- Decision-making process
- Clear statement of purpose and need
- Reasonable range of alternatives
- Impact assessment
- Avoidance or mitigation of impact



## Where do we go next?

- Finalize Needs & Deficiencies Report
- Develop and test Project alternatives
- Assess environmental impacts
- Select a preferred alternative
- Determine financing plan





# Range of transportation alternatives

- I-84 on structure
- I-84 at-grade
- I-84 below grade
- Modified interchanges
- Managed lanes
- Local road and intermodal connections



The final solution will likely involve many elements



## Solutions will be context-sensitive...

“a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that **involves all stakeholders** in providing a transportation facility that ***fits its setting***. It is an approach that leads to ***preserving and enhancing*** scenic, aesthetic, historic, community, and environmental resources, while improving or maintaining safety, mobility, and infrastructure

*In support of livable communities and sustainable transportation*

CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

*Primer*





# Agenda

## 1. What is the I-84 Hartford Project?

- Project description
- History and background
- Why is the project needed?

## 2. Project status

- Where are we now?
- Next steps

## 3. What we want from you?

- Get involved
- Share your thoughts with us
- Stay informed



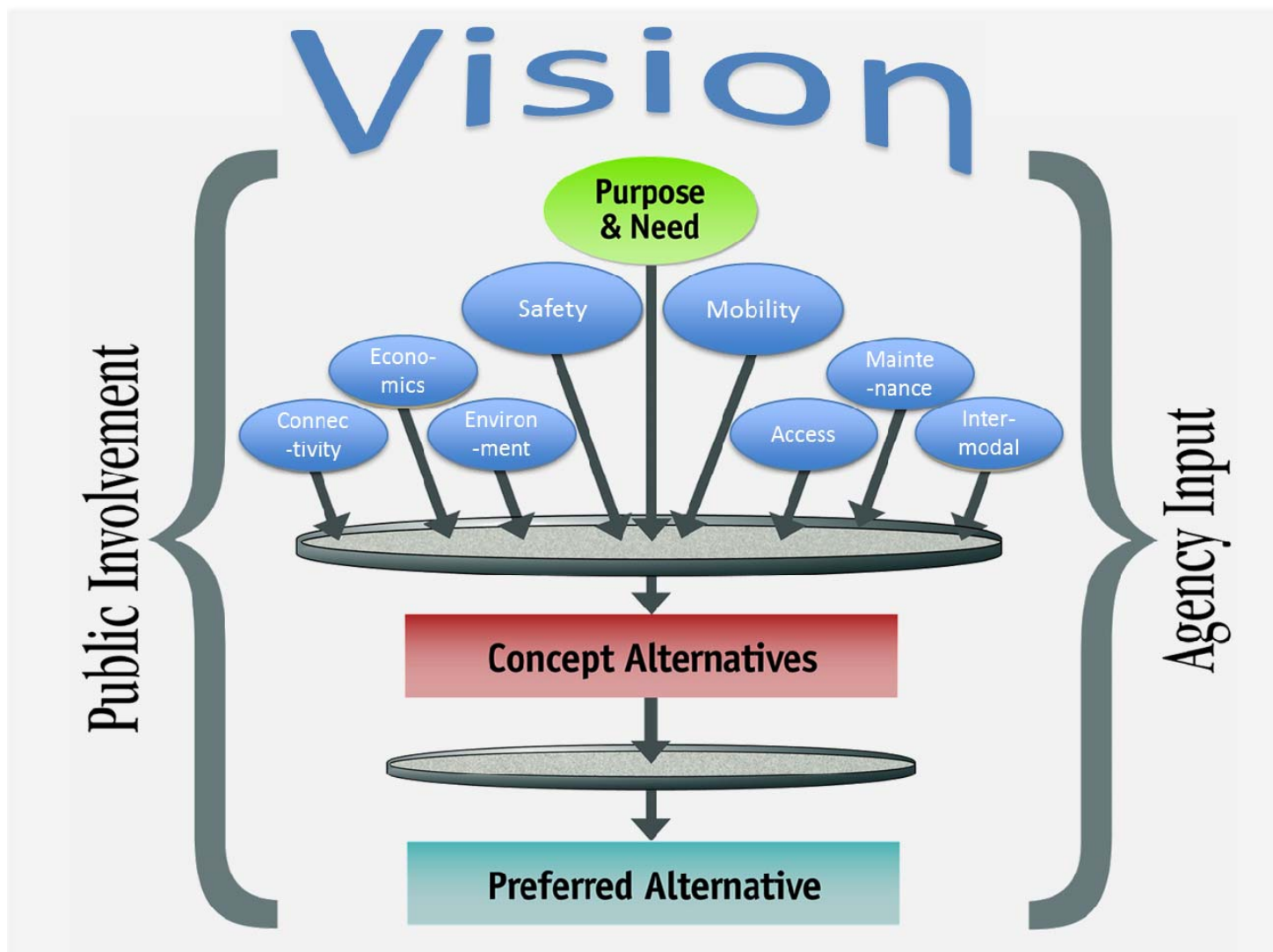
# How to stay informed and involved

- Project website [www.i84hartford.com](http://www.i84hartford.com)
  - Updated frequently
  - Add yourself to contact list
  - Submit comments
- Social media
- Newsletters
- E-bulletins
- Meetings
- Public Advisory Committee (PAC)





# Input is essential for success...





## A few closing thoughts...

- We're here for the long haul...
- We hope you will:
  - Stay informed
  - Get involved
  - Share your thoughts

[www.i84hartford.com](http://www.i84hartford.com)

### Get Involved

Visit the [The I-84 Hartford Project website](#) for up-to-date project information or to submit a comment or question.

### Join Our Contact List







# Thank You!

Thank you for coming. We deeply appreciate your time and 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***



# THE I-84 HARTFORD PROJECT



Questions? Comments?



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway Administration**



**CRCOG** **CAPITOL REGION  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
*Working together for a better region.*