



The I-84 Hartford Project

# Public Advisory Committee Meeting #1

October 16, 2013



# Purpose of This Meeting

1. Getting acquainted
2. Clarifying the PAC's role and process
3. Clarifying the project mission
4. Reviewing the basics together

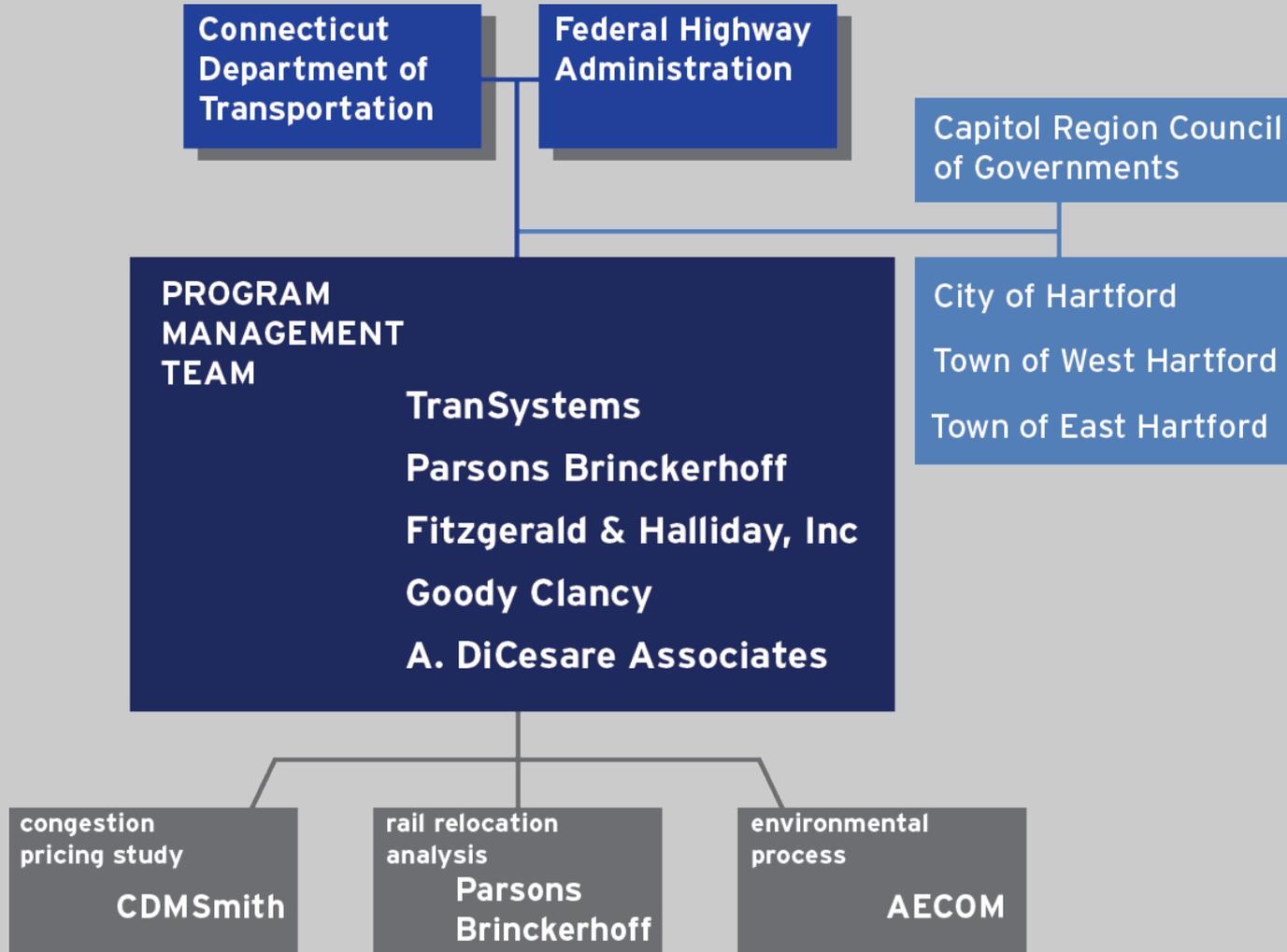


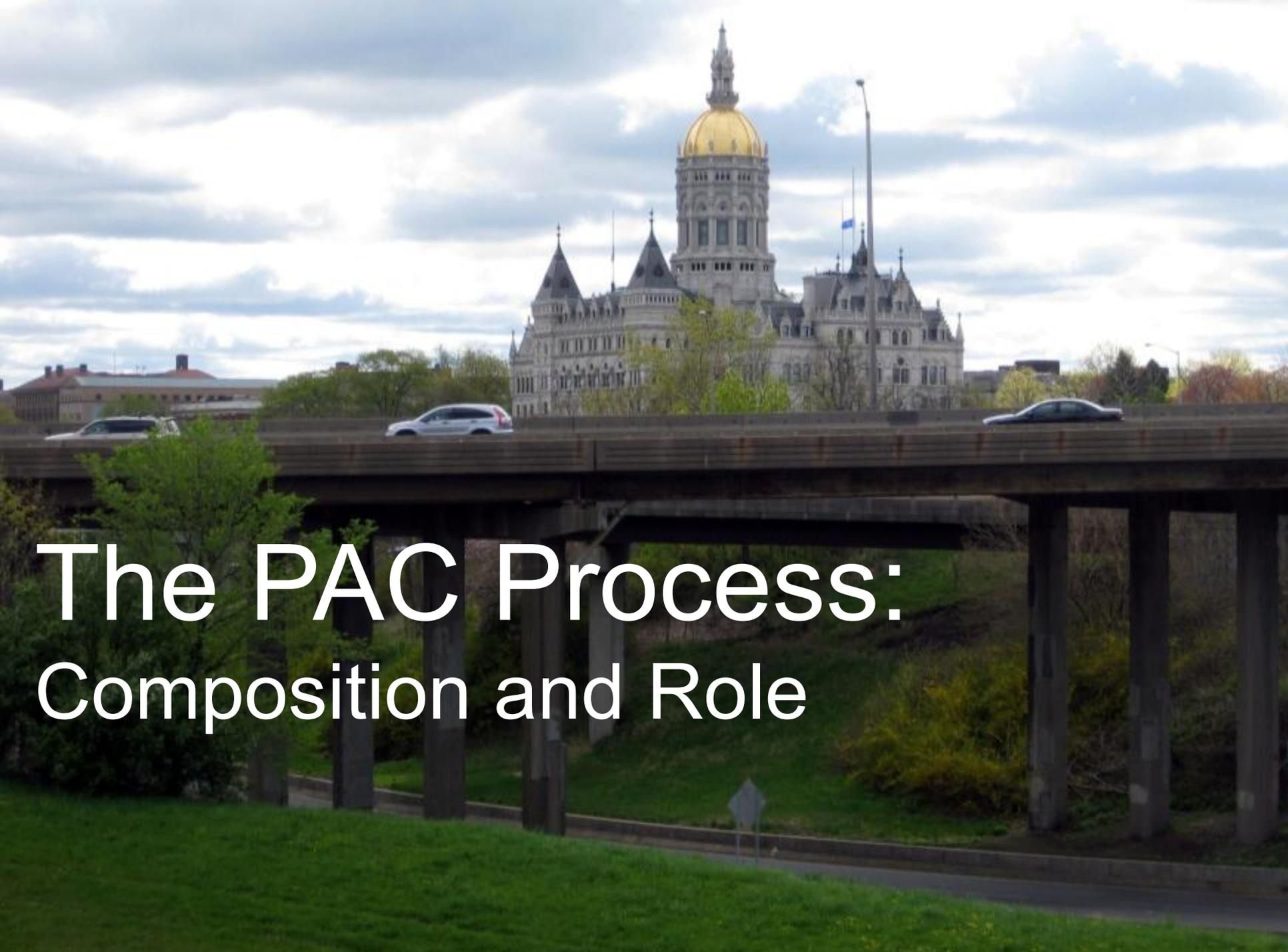


# Getting to Know Each Other



# Project Team

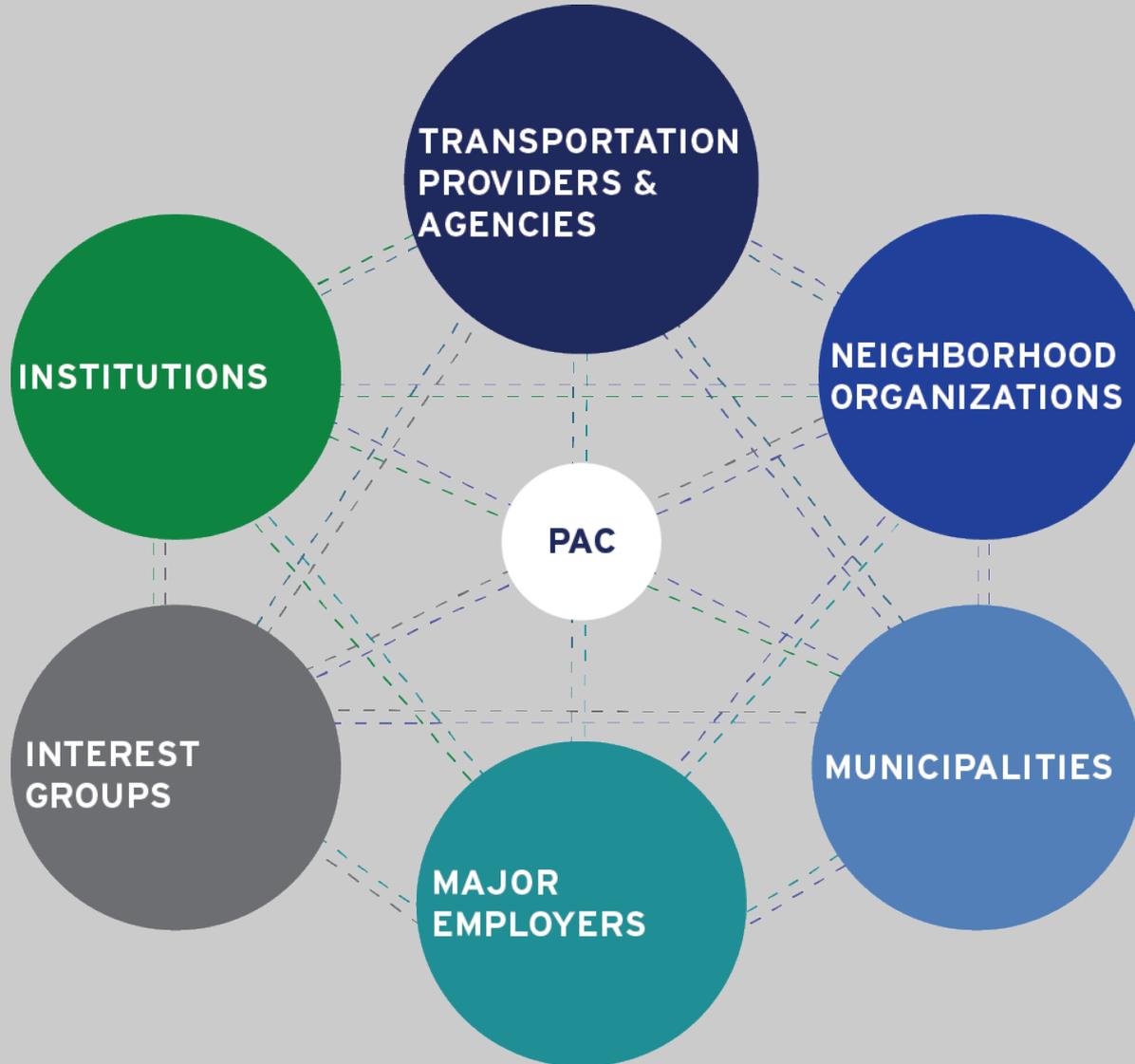




# The PAC Process: Composition and Role



# PAC Composition



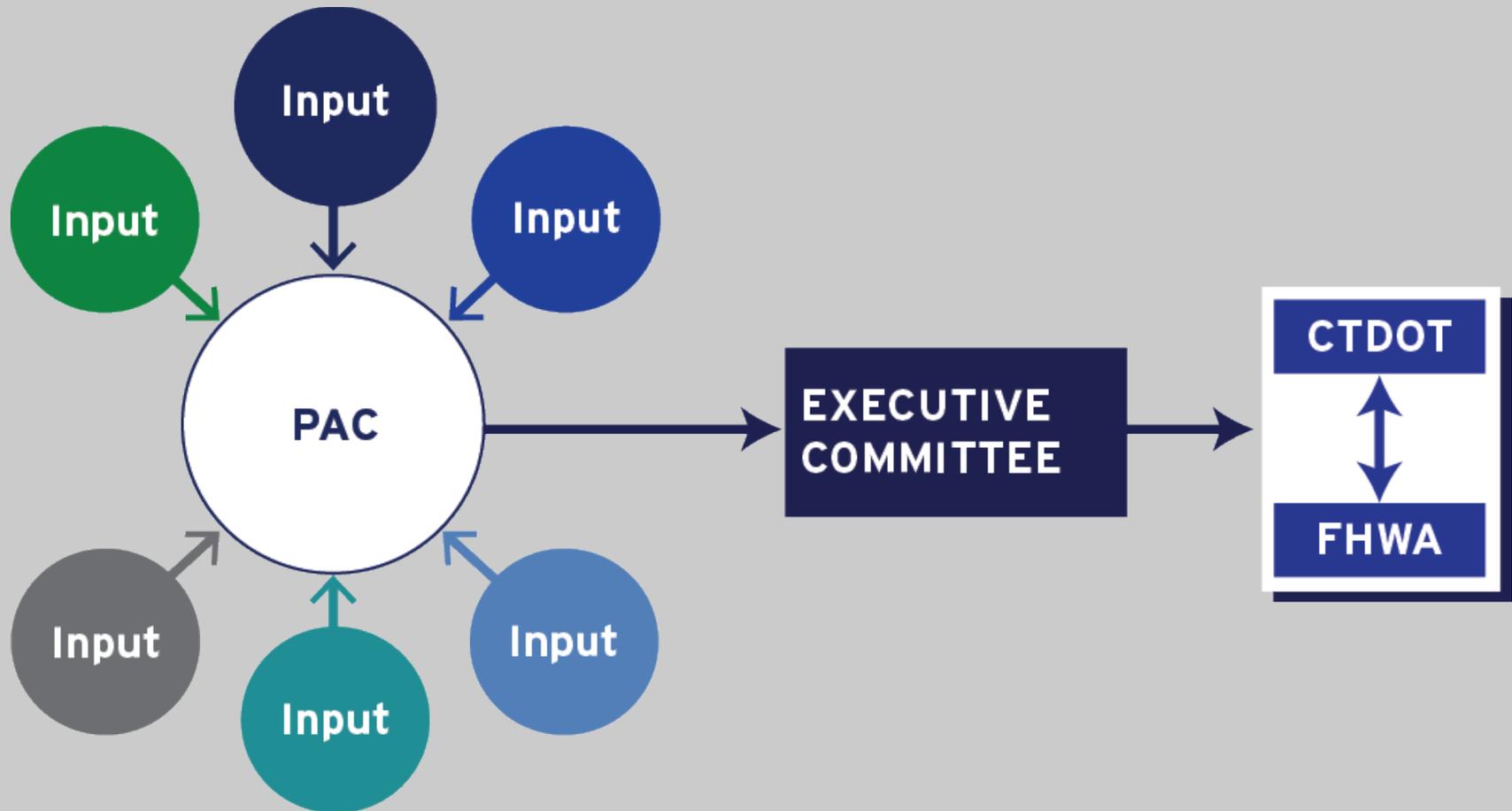


# PAC Membership

- AAA
- Aetna
- Amtrak
- Archdiocese of Hartford
- ArtSpace
- Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association
- Bike Walk Connecticut
- Business for Downtown Hartford
- City of Hartford
- Coalition to Strengthen Sheldon/Charter Oak Neighborhoods
- Conference of Churches
- Connecticut Motor Transport Association
- Frog Hollow Neighborhood Revitalization Zone
- Greater Hartford Transit District
- Hartford Courant
- Hartford Hospital
- Hartford Preservation Alliance
- HUB of Hartford
- Metro Hartford Alliance
- Northside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance
- Parkville Revitalization Association
- Peter Pan Bus
- Saint Francis Hospital
- Southern Connecticut Railroad
- State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services
- The Hartford
- Town of East Hartford
- Town of West Hartford
- Travelers
- Trinity College
- West End Civic Association



# PAC Process

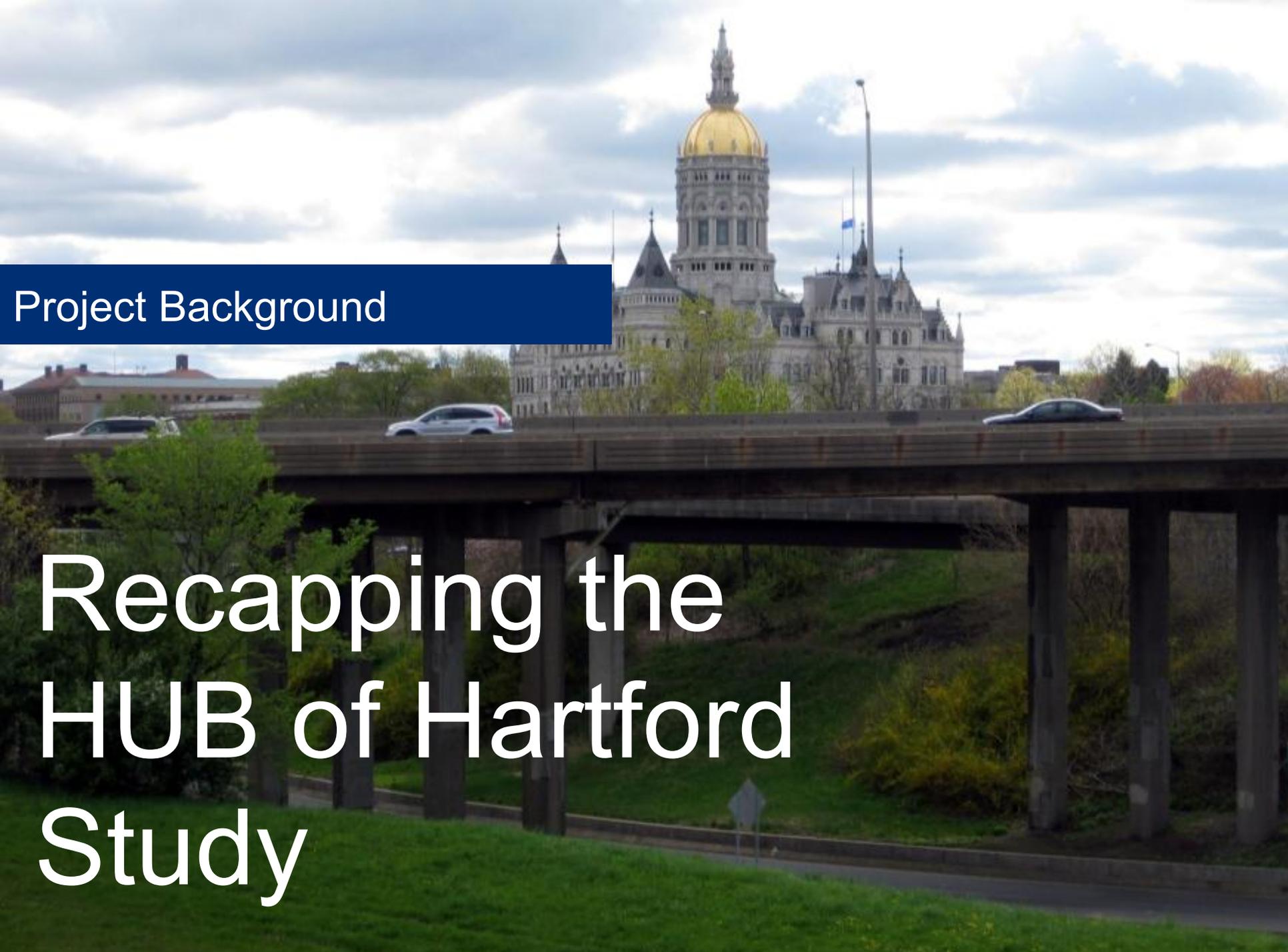




# Role of the PAC

To be instrumental in helping to craft a successful outcome, by:

1. Attending meetings, reviewing material and educating yourself on the issues
2. Sharing viewpoints and ideas in project dialog
3. Being a link between the study team and the community--in both directions
4. Helping reach consensus on project issues and alternatives—while honoring differences in opinion and perspective
5. Supporting the consensus of the PAC



Project Background

# Recapping the HUB of Hartford Study



# Project Background

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

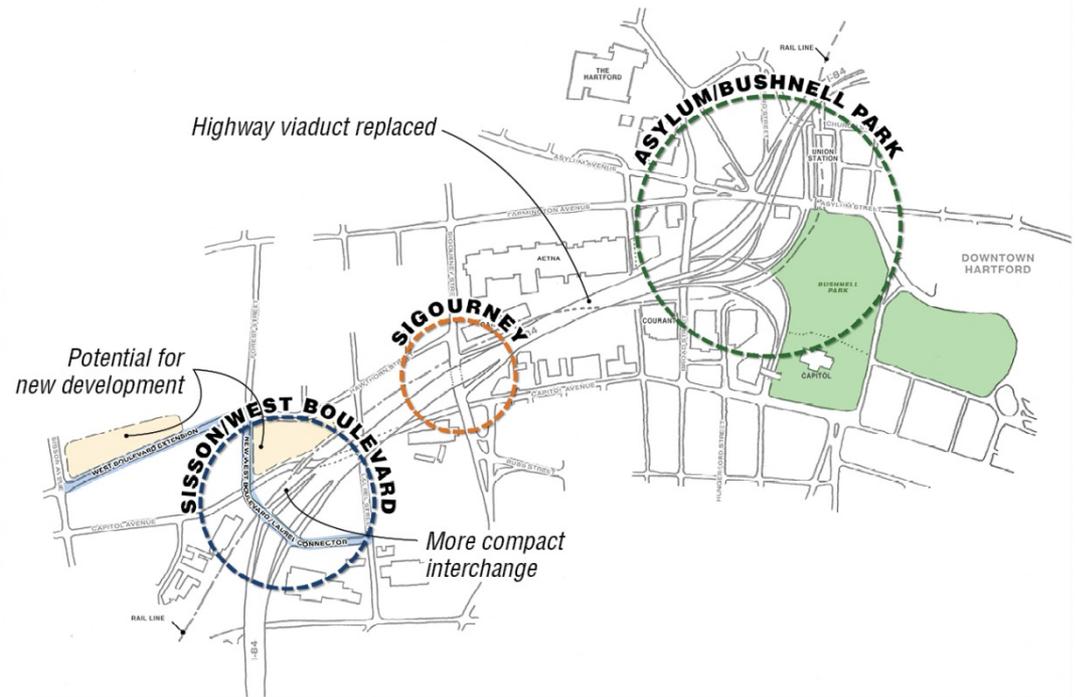
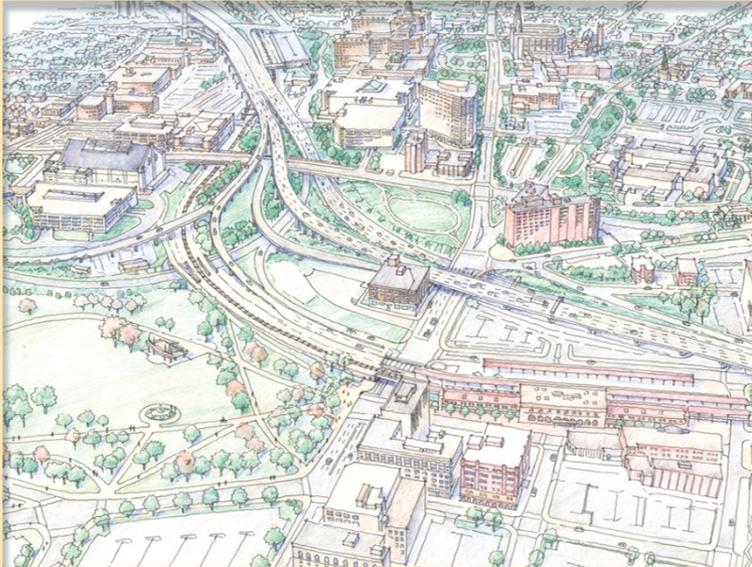




# HUB Concepts

## BASELINE—ENHANCED VIADUCT

Highway replaced with enhanced viaduct structure



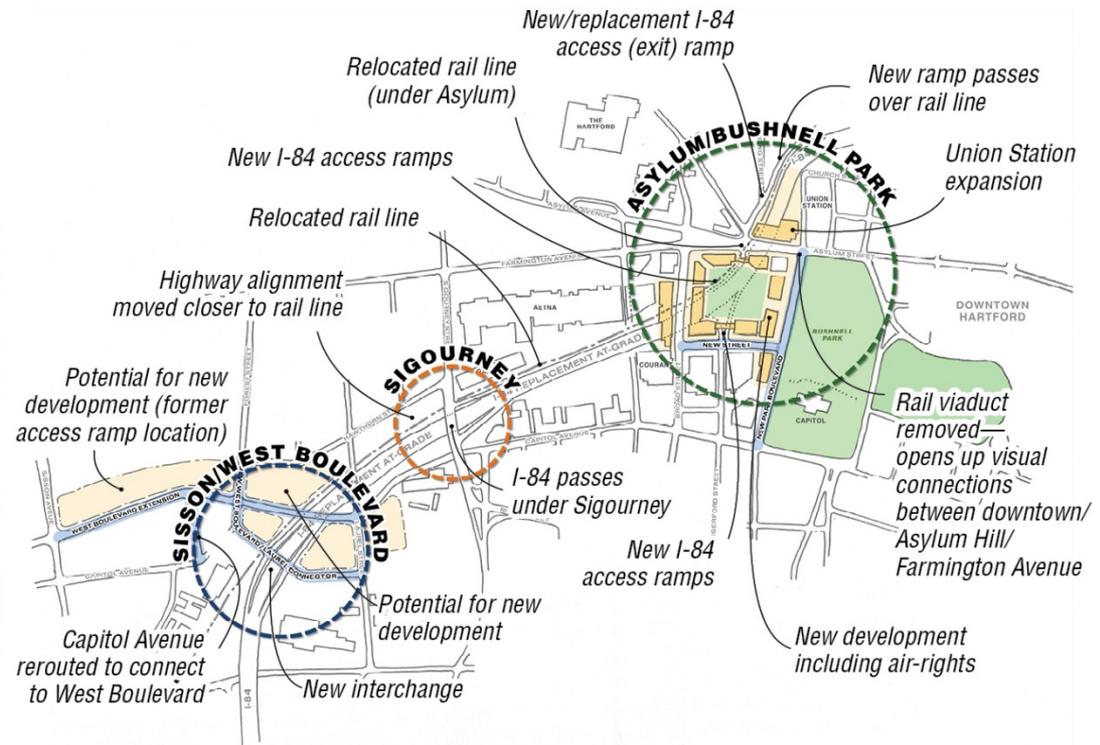




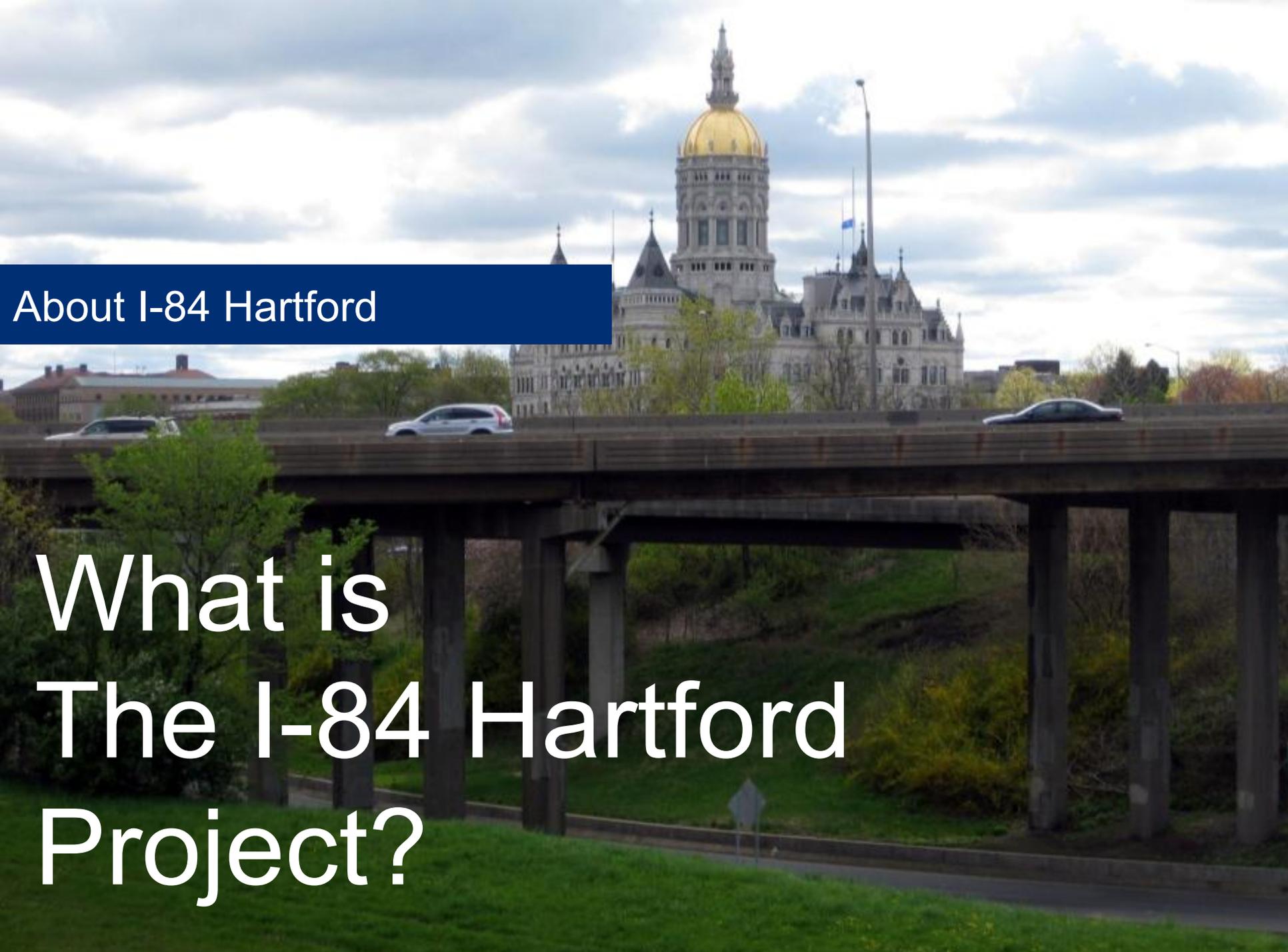
# HUB Concepts

## ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT 2

Viaduct replaced with surface roadway;  
rail line relocated to north side of I-84;  
city reconnected across highway







About I-84 Hartford

What is  
The I-84 Hartford  
Project?



# What is the Project?

## Mission:

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

## Phases:

- I. Data collection and analysis
- II. Development of design alternatives
- III. Environmental documentation
- IV. Design
- V. Construction



# Where is the Project?

- Study area and project limits still being defined
- Project analysis from Flatbush Avenue to I-91
- Impact analysis area fluctuates for each resource





# Why Do We Need It?

- Bridge Structure Deficiencies
- Traffic Operational and Safety Deficiencies
- Mobility Deficiencies





# Bridge Structure Deficiencies

- Viaducts were built in 1960s
- Poor condition overall due to age
- 80% of highway is supported by viaducts (30 acres)
- Maintenance costs are very high





# Operational and Safety Deficiencies

- Originally designed for 55,000 vehicles/day
- Closely spaced entrance and exit ramps
- Mainline weaving maneuvers / Lane Continuity
- Lack of shoulders





# Mobility Deficiencies

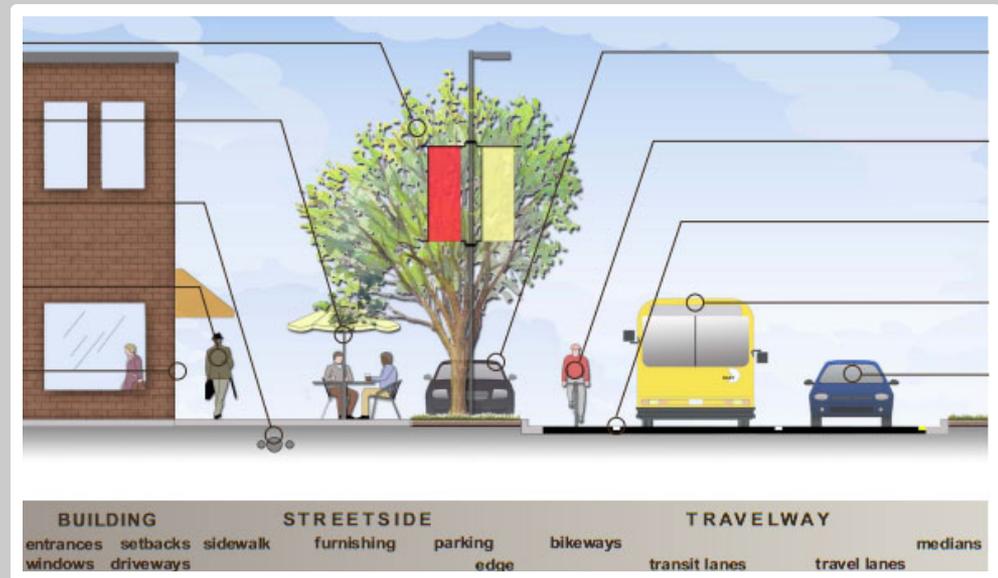
- Significant traffic delays
- Pedestrian environs
- Bicycle connections





# Opportunities

- Economic development
- Neighborhood ambience and connectivity
- Enhanced mobility
  - Bicycle
  - Pedestrian
  - Transit
  - Vehicular
- Synergies with other regional, state, and local projects

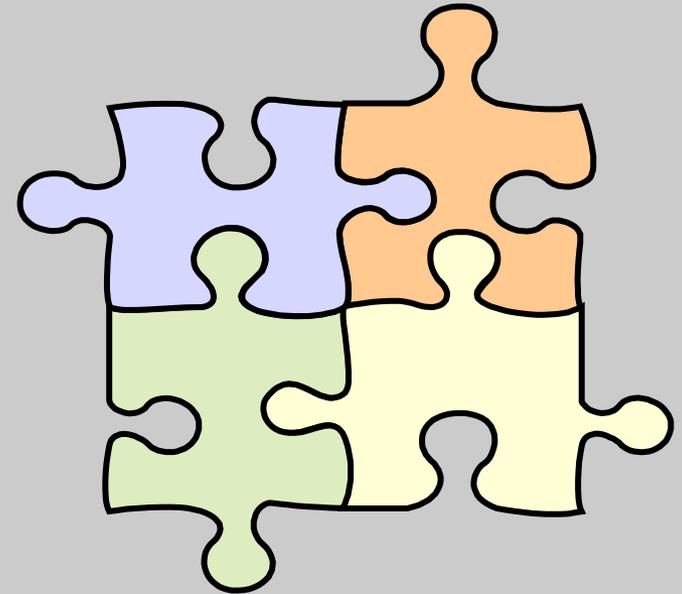




# Project Complexities

## Many complexities and interrelated efforts:

- Very constrained corridor
- Multiple travel needs
- Many modes in corridor
  - East Coast Greenway
  - CT*Fastrak*
  - Commuter rail
- Environmental impact evaluation
- How do we pay for it?
- Possible relocation of railroad through Hartford





# Project Schedule

PROJECT DURATION  
(approximately 14 years)

DATA  
GATHERING

DEVELOPMENT of  
ALTERNATIVES

ENVIRONMENTAL  
DOCUMENTATION

DESIGN

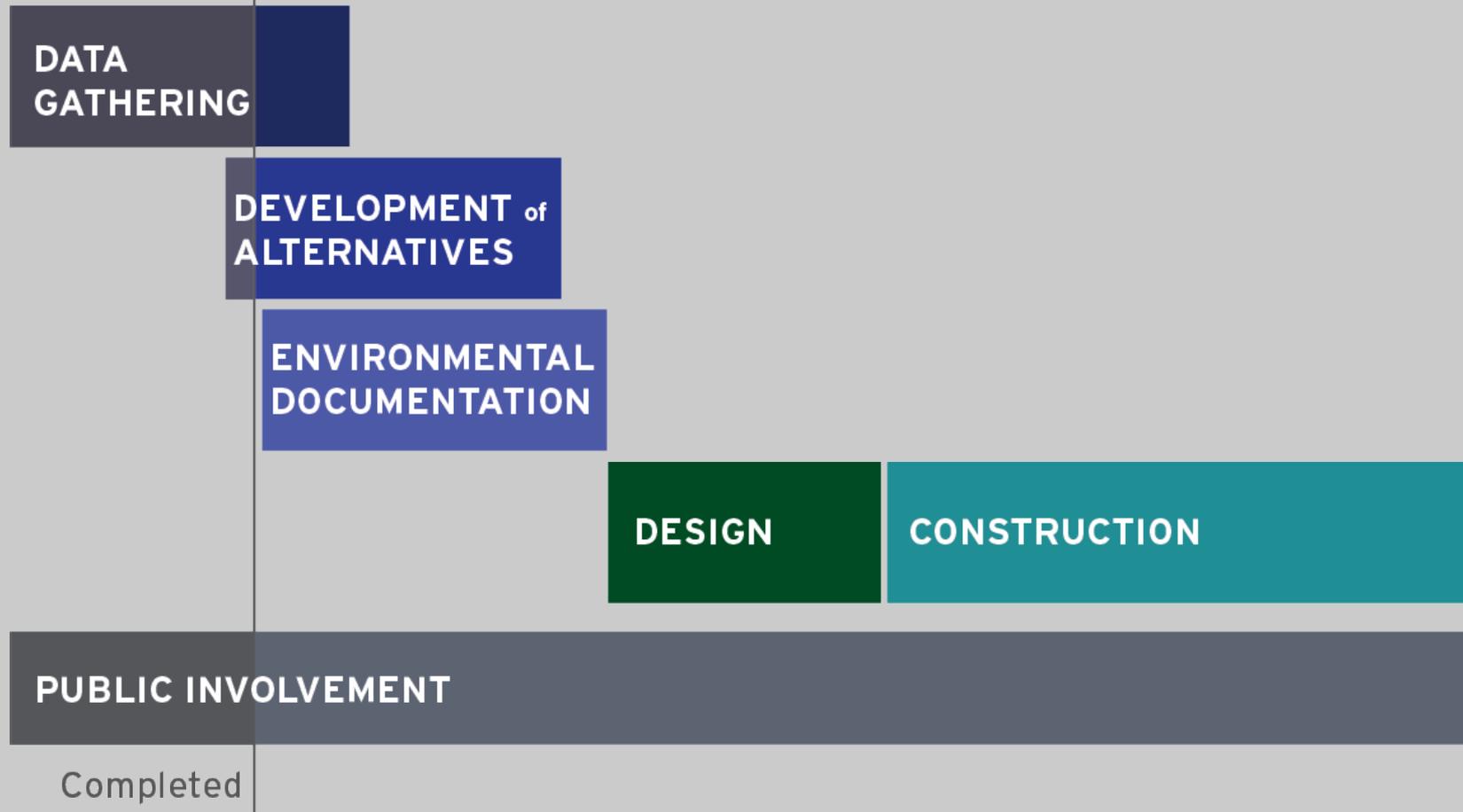
CONSTRUCTION

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



# Where Are We Now?

PROJECT DURATION  
(approximately 14 years)





Keys to Success

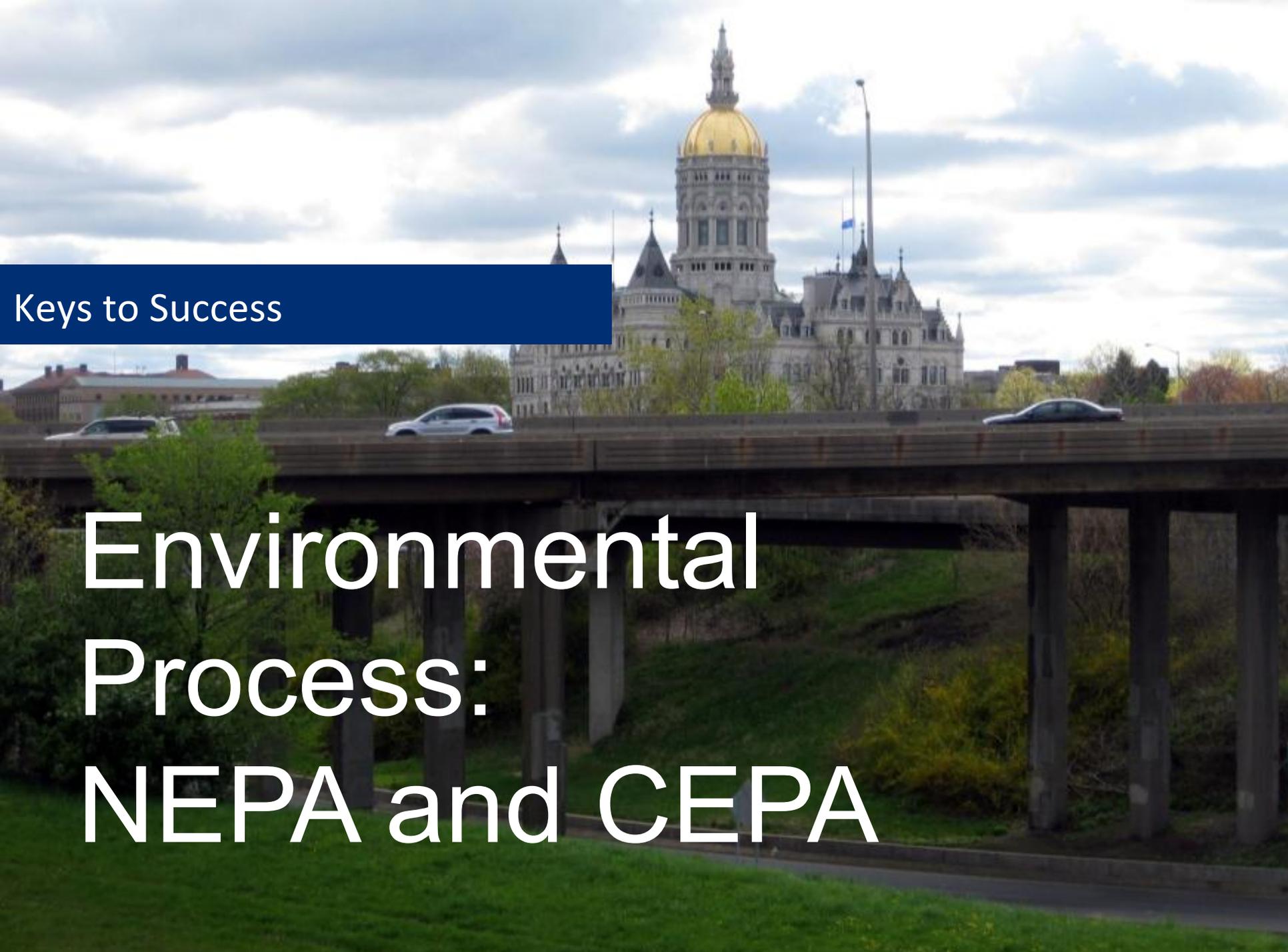
# A Few Keys To Success



# Keys to Success

**ALL** aspects of the project are important, but a few are particularly critical to keep the project moving along smoothly. These include:

1. Fulfilling the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA).
2. Actively engaging stakeholders and listening to their comments and concerns
3. Careful evaluation of alternatives



Keys to Success

# Environmental Process: NEPA and CEPA



# Environmental Process

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA - 1969)

Connecticut Environmental Policy Act  
(CEPA - 1971)

Purpose: To promote better decision-making by  
ensuring

- That a full set of reasonable alternatives is evaluated
- That the impacts (and to whom they accrue) are understood before decisions are made
- That impacts are avoided, minimized or mitigated



# Environmental Process: First Steps

1. Baseline Environmental Conditions
2. Purpose & Need
3. Scoping





# What is Purpose & Need?

- Describes the transportation problems we're trying to solve
- Limits the range of alternatives that are “reasonable, prudent and practicable”
- Assists with the eventual selection of a preferred alternative
- Is clear, well-justified, specific and comprehensive
- **P&N is the foundation for the selection of a course of action**



# What is Scoping?

- Scoping is the formal process where agency and public input is sought on 2 key NEPA/CEPA elements:
  - Range of alternatives
  - Key issues to be evaluated
- Agency Scoping Meeting
- Public Scoping Meeting
- Scoping Summary Report



Keys to Success

# Hearing & Responding to the Public



# Public Involvement Goals

To **engage** many...

To **actively** solicit input using many methods...

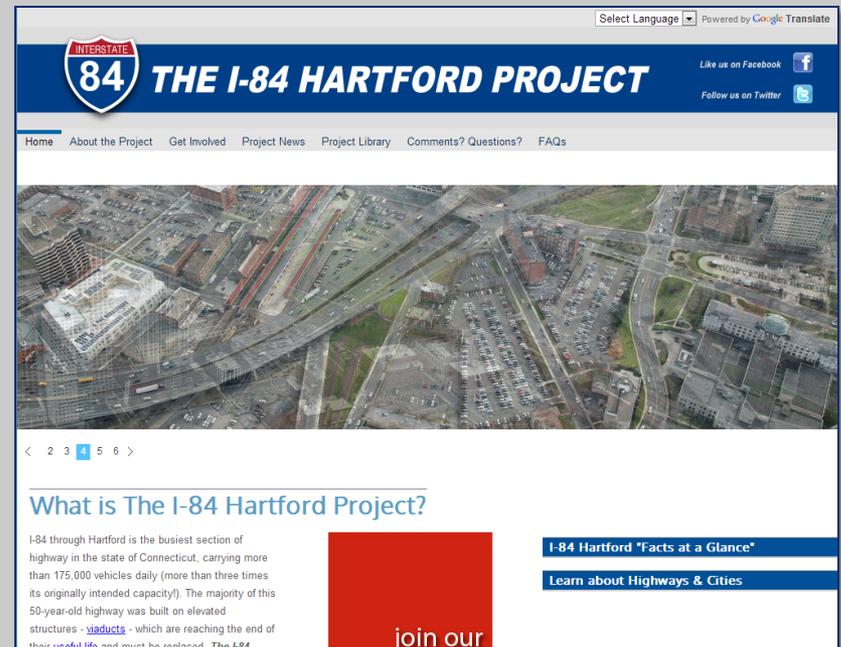
To **use** this input in the development of win-win solutions...





# Outreach Methods

- Stakeholder interviews
- PAC
- Website: [www.I84Hartford.com](http://www.I84Hartford.com)
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter)
- Newsletters
- E-bulletins
- Public meetings





# What We've Heard...

SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS DURING CONSTRUCTION

WHAT IS THE PROJECT'S PRIORITY?

ASSESSING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

TRAFFIC OVERFLOW ONTO LOCAL STREETS

WHEN WILL CONSTRUCTION START?

KEEP UNION STATION

CONNECTED TO DOWNTOWN

HOW TO DEFINE PROJECT SUCCESS?

INCLUDE EAST COAST GREENWAY PREVENT

PEDESTRIAN & BIKE SAFETY

NOISE

FUNDING & TOLLS

UNCOVER PARK RIVER

POLLUTION

ECONOMIC

ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

DEVELOPMENT

ACCESSIBLE PROJECT TEAM

STAKEHOLDER  
INTERVIEW  
THEMES

EMERGENCY

STREAMLINE TRUCKING

VEHICLE

HIGHWAY'S NEW FOOTPRINT

INCLUDE  
RAMP METERING

ACCESS

WHAT BECOMES OF STATE LAND?

LEARN FROM SIMILAR PROJECTS

PRESERVE HISTORIC BUILDINGS

CROSS-CORRIDOR CONNECTIVITY

IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSIT OPTIONS

COLLABORATION WITH HIGH SPEED RAIL

MAKE NEW STRUCTURES AESTHETICALLY PLEASING

DISCOURAGE VEHICLE USE

CHANGING ON/OFF RAMPS

COLLABORATION WITH CTFASTRAK

RELOCATING RAILS WEST OF I-84

PROJECT FUNDING

RING ROADS TO ALLEVIATE CONGESTION

PARKING BENEATH THE VIADUCT

PREDICTING FUTURE TRAFFIC VOLUMES

MAKE GREEN DECISIONS



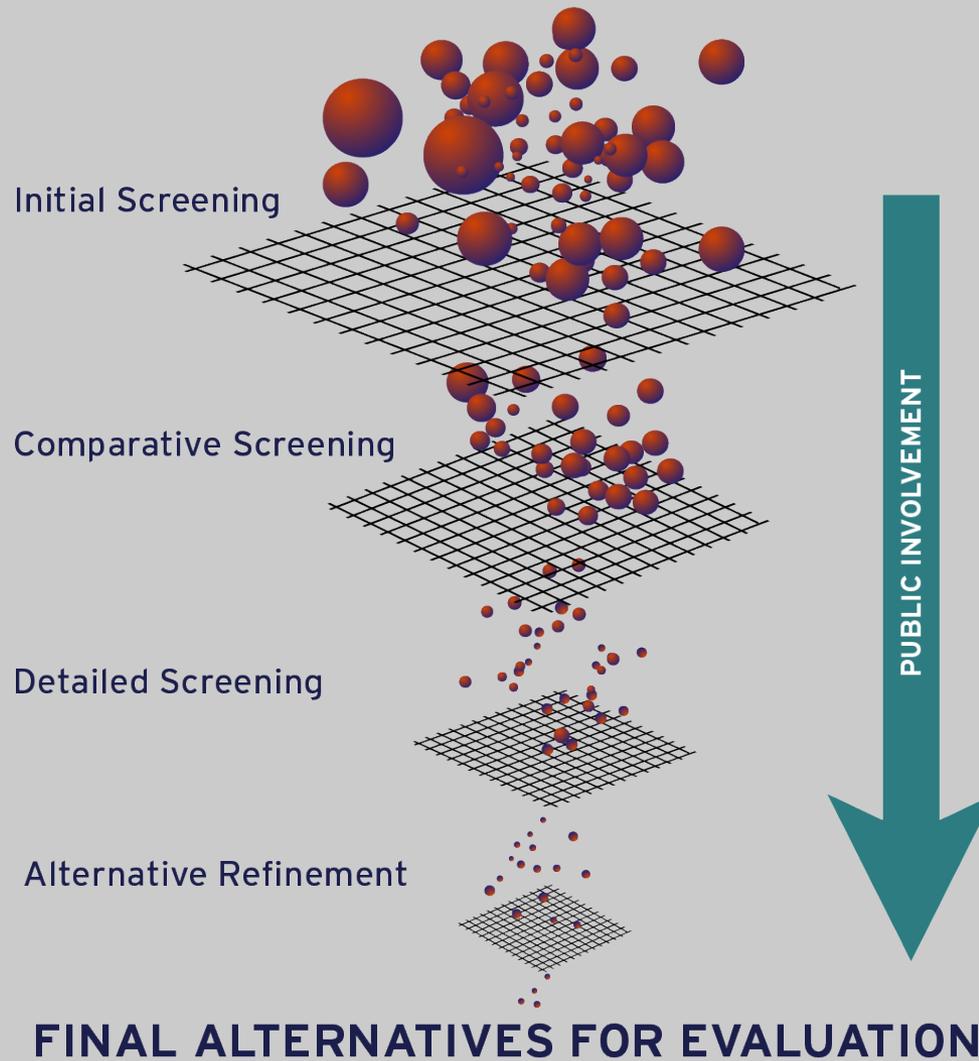
Keys to Success

# Getting to the Right Alternatives



# Screening of Alternatives

## FULL RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES





# How Will Decisions Be Made?

- CTDOT and FHWA have legal and regulatory mandate to make project decisions in the public interest
- We must also comply with all applicable laws and regulations—of which there are MANY
- We are also charged to actively engage stakeholders to help define issues, alternatives and the public interest

***We will depend on PAC and other stakeholder input, along with the various technical analyses, to help us determine the best overall public interest and the best possible solution for the future of I-84 through Hartford.***

In Closing...

Next Steps



# Next Steps

- Next PAC meeting(s)
  - Dates
  - Times
  - Location
- Future PAC agenda items
  - What does the data show?
  - What transportation issues need to be solved?  
("Needs and Deficiency Analysis")
  - NEPA/CEPA process:
    - Discussion of "Purpose and Need"
    - Scoping process and results
  - Preliminary set of alternatives



# Thank You!

We deeply appreciate your time and your commitment to helping us reach the best possible solution for the State, the region and the City.

*Your I-84 Hartford Project Team*