

I-84 Hartford Project Working Session



The I-84 Hartford Project meeting originally scheduled for September 25th took place this past Monday at the Chrysalis Center. It was a very important meeting both for CT DOT and for Asylum Hill, as the main subjects discussed were four areas in the Eastern portion of the project and potential road network opportunities.

The first to be considered was a potential extension of Garden Street through to the proposed Bushnell Park West where the current Broad & Capitol Ave exits & entrances would mostly be relocated. This is expected to reduce the demand on Broad St considerably.

The second area considered are the exits North and East where the West bound traffic will exit into Asylum Hill and East bound will enter. Getting this right will be very important to the Collins, Ashley and Sargeant Sts people as well as other who use Homestead Ave. The third area of focus is the trident at Asylum, Farmington and Broad St. Figuring out how all of the other changes including CT Fastrak and the new Union station will affect traffic in this area and then designing changes to make it better, are a high priority. One option includes eliminating vehicular traffic between Asylum and Farmington at Broad St but still allowing bikes and pedestrians.

The fourth area discussed was the area enclosed by Asylum, Broad, Capitol and the proposed Bushnell Park West. This could include the new Multimodal Union Station along with exit and entrance ramps and still have room for transit oriented development. The second part of the Working Session focused on possible locations and configurations for the Rail and Bus Station.

If nothing else you gain a real appreciation for how complicated this project and how important getting it right will be.

You get a sense of how difficult this can be when someone asked about the future need for parking and one of the presenters referred to a recent conference he was at where planners were trying to factor in the effect of autonomous vehicles on future parking.

Stay tuned. Slides from the presentations should be available on the website soon.