

I-84 Hartford Project Updates



On April 20th, CT DOT held their 12th Open Planning Studio both to update citizens about progress on the project, and to continue to look for feedback. The project currently has three distinct but connected areas of focus.

The first is the viaduct area of I-84 from Sisson Ave past Union Station. Design work continues on this project and several of the original options have been abandoned with the ground level/decked over version looking most favorable.

The second area of focus is on Union Station. Since it is increasingly likely that the rail line will be moved away from its current location, and that the buses will continue to use this historic building, other uses for much of the space is being contemplated.

The third area of focus is I-84 and I-91 east of the viaduct, often referred to as Representative Larson's proposal. It focuses on the area of I-91 along the river and the advantage of burying the highway there to gain valuable riverfront property that could serve to improve the quality of life for both Hartford and East Hartford.

The challenge here becomes one of complexity. With all three of these areas of focus being studied and planned for, changes in one necessarily have an effect on the others, which need to be considered.

Add to this mix, the Springfield to New Haven rail line which is likely to be operational fairly soon, and CT Fastrak, which based on its success so far would likely be expanded across the river, and you now have five balls to keep in the air. It's a daunting task for the planners and even more difficult for the average citizen to understand and keep track of all these parts and pieces.

But the real advantage is that they are all being considered at the same time so that none of them are likely to be constructed in such a way as to create unintended consequences for any of the others. This is why it's so important for as many of us as possible to go to these planning studios and stay involved. Our children and grandchildren will be living with the results for a long time to come.

More photos of the studio are available at <https://goo.gl/photos/LpC5mAvznBQ5cZKE8>

Details of the presentation can be found at:

http://www.i84hartford.com/documents/ops_materials/OPS-april-2017/OPS_Apr2017.pdf