

DANBURY AND NEW FAIRFIELD

CORRIDOR STUDY



Welcome: the presentation will begin soon!



Innovative Planning
BETTER COMMUNITIES

JUNE 2020 VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

AGENDA

1. Welcome / Workshop Logistics
2. Team Introductions
2. Study Purpose and Goals
3. Deliverables and Project Schedule
4. Existing Conditions Findings
5. Next Steps

WELCOME

- Workshop will be less than one hour
- Workshop is live and recorded
- Recording, with captions and translations, will be posted to the study website shortly after the workshop
- All participants will remain muted throughout the workshop

VIEWING TIPS

- Presentation includes a series of corridor maps
- Maps will display:
 - 😊 Best on a computer screen
 - 🙂 Okay on an iPad
 - 😞 Not great on a smart phone

PROVIDING FEEDBACK

1. Answer poll questions
 - You will be asked questions throughout the presentation
 - Please answer the questions as prompted
2. Offer a comment / question in the Q + A sidebar
 - Moderator will take regular breaks during the presentation to rephrase comment / question and ask the presenter to respond
3. Please enter your name to have your question acknowledged

Q + A SIDEBAR

Teams Live Example

Need help? Leave

Turn on Q =+ A sidebar

Locations of these controls may be different depending on the device and screen you are using

6/11/2020

|| 🔊 (x) LIVE

Q + A SIDEBAR

Click here to see questions/comments

Operating Teams Live

Need help?

Leave

Toggle between questions/comments YOU have asked and questions OTHERS have asked

Locations of these controls may be different depending on the device and screen you are using

Not all questions/comments will be addressed during the workshop but they will be recorded

Enter your name here

Type your question/comment here



Live event Q&A ?

Featured My questions



Ask a moderator

Questions won't be visible to everyone until a moderator approves them

Your name (optional)

Ask a question

Post as anonymous

Submit here



CLOSED CAPTIONS AND TRANSLATION

Operating Teams Live

Need help?

Leave

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Live event Q&A ?

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Featured

My questions

Most recent ▾

Change Closed Caption language

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Playback Speed | 1.0x |
| Captions / Subtitles | English |
| Captions / Subtitles settings | |
| Quality | Auto |

Volume control

Turn on Closed Captions

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🔴 LIVE

CC

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Ask a question

Locations of these controls may be different depending on the device and screen you are using

PROJECT TEAM

- Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) is sponsoring
- Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG), in partnership with the City of Danbury and Town of New Fairfield, is administering
- Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. (FHI) is doing the analysis and reporting
- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), consisting of representatives from Danbury and New Fairfield municipal staff, CTDOT representatives, HARTransit, and WestCOG, is providing input and guidance

MANAGING TODAY'S WORKSHOP



- Two presenters:
 - Marcy Miller, AICP, Senior Project Manager, Associate (FHI)
 - Parker Sorenson, Senior Engineer (FHI)
- One moderator will assist with the polling and comments posted in the Q + A side bar
 - Nick Campbell, Transportation Engineer (FHI)

STUDY PURPOSE AND GOALS

Reduce congestion during peak hours

Improve safety at problem intersections

Improve pedestrian amenities and connections

Consider bicycle amenities and connections

Assess the feasibility of a trail

PROJECT DELIVERABLES




- Study webpage
- Existing Conditions Report
- 2 virtual public workshops
- 3 Transportation Advisory Committee meetings
- Transportation Improvement Alternatives Report
- Concept Plan for improvements
- 1 public meeting



PROPOSED SCHEDULE

| Task | Month | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---|------------|------------|----------|---------------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| | 1 October | 2 November | 3 December | 4 January | 5 February | 6 March | 7 April | 8 May | 9 June | 10 July | 11 August | 12 September | 13 October | 14 November | 15 December | 16 January | 17 February | 18 March |
| 1A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1B | | | | | | | | | | TAC #1 | | TAC #2 | | | | | TAC #3 | |
| 2 | | Study Webpage | | | Stakeholder Meetings (4) and Phone Calls (6) | | | | Public Workshop (2) | | | | | | Public Meeting | | | |
| 3A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Key Deliverables:

-  Existing Conditions Technical Report
-  Draft Transportation Improvement Alternatives
-  Preliminary Report and Concept Plan
-  Final Report and Public Presentation (2 presentations) Delivery

LET'S GET STARTED



WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO KEEP YOURSELF OCCUPIED DURING THIS PANDEMIC?

PLEASE ANSWER IN THE Q + A PANE TO THE RIGHT OF YOUR SCREEN





Multi-Modal Transportation



Land Use



Environmental Preservation

STUDY AREA

- Route 37 between the I-84 westbound Exit 6 off-ramp in Danbury to 0.2 mile north of Route 39 in New Fairfield



SEGMENTS OF THE CORRIDOR

Three distinct segments have been identified:

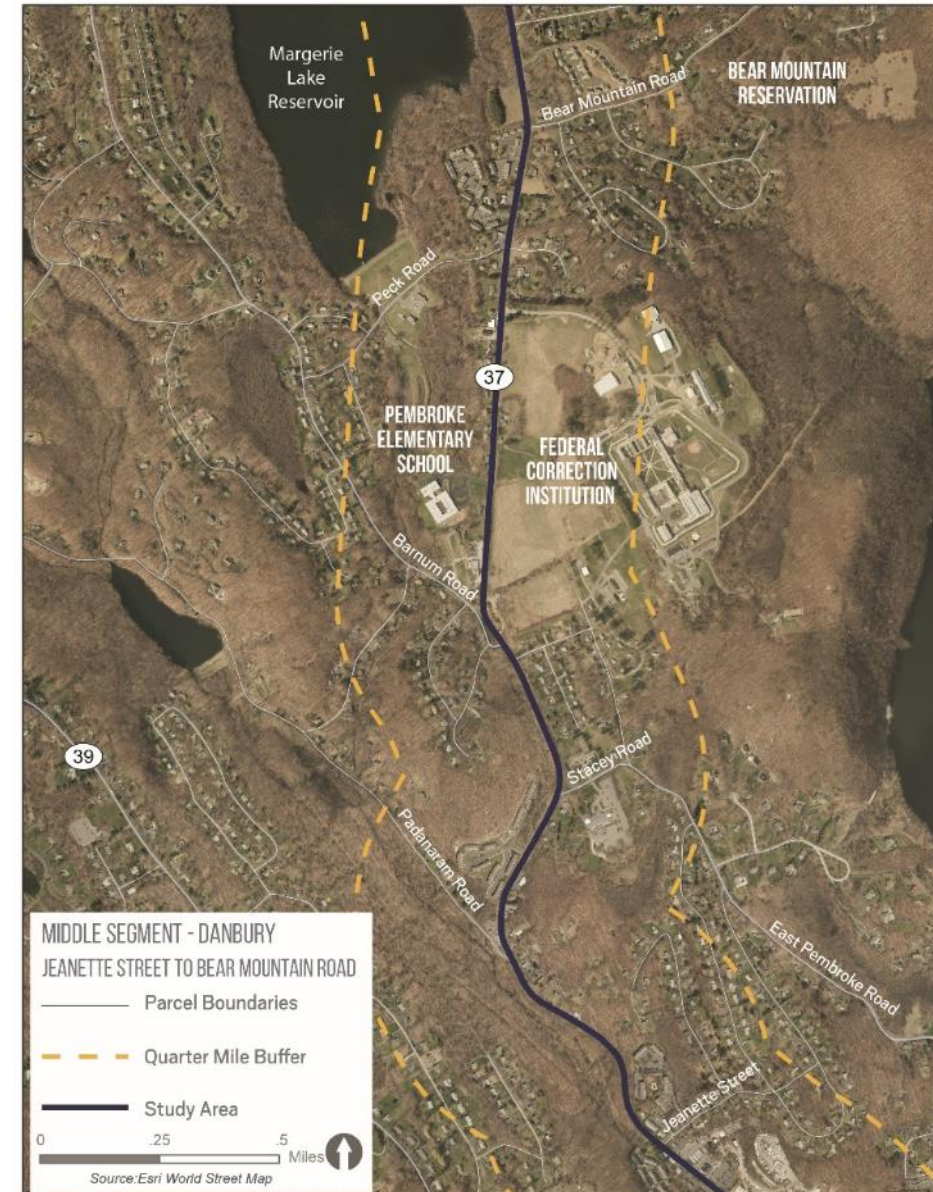
1. **Southern Segment:** from I-84 Westbound Off-ramp to Jeanette Street
 - Widest roadway in the corridor with four lanes at some locations
 - Highest traffic volumes: 19,000 to 27,000 vehicles per day
 - Commercial in nature with many driveways and curb cuts
 - Limited pedestrian amenities



SEGMENTS OF THE CORRIDOR

2. Middle Segment: from Jeanette Street to Bear Mountain Road

- One travel lane in each direction
- Traffic volumes: 14,000 to 16,000 vehicles per day
- Small scale retail businesses, single-family and multi-family residential
- Limited pedestrian amenities



SEGMENTS OF THE CORRIDOR

3. Northern Segment: from Bear Mountain Road to New Fairfield Center

- One travel lane in each direction
- Traffic volumes: 10,000 to 12,000 vehicles per day
- High traffic speeds
- Primarily single-family residential until New Fairfield Center
- No pedestrian amenities until New Fairfield Center



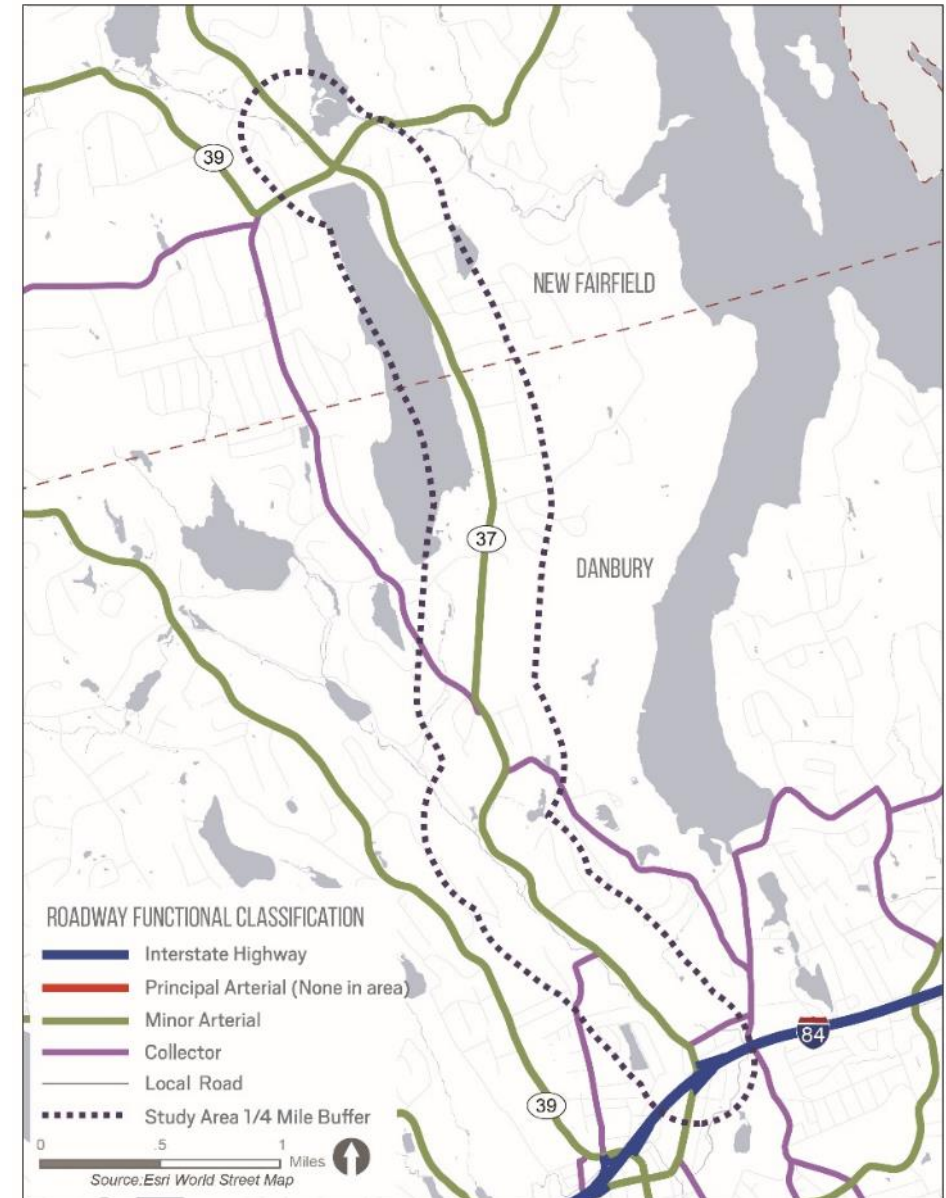
EXISTING CONDITIONS FINDINGS

Route 37 serves many purposes including:

- Regional shopping destination
- Local and regional truck traffic
- Local residential access
- Employment commuting
- Local business access
- Access to Western Connecticut State University, Danbury Hospital and other major destinations
- Northern route to New Fairfield, Route 7, and other points north

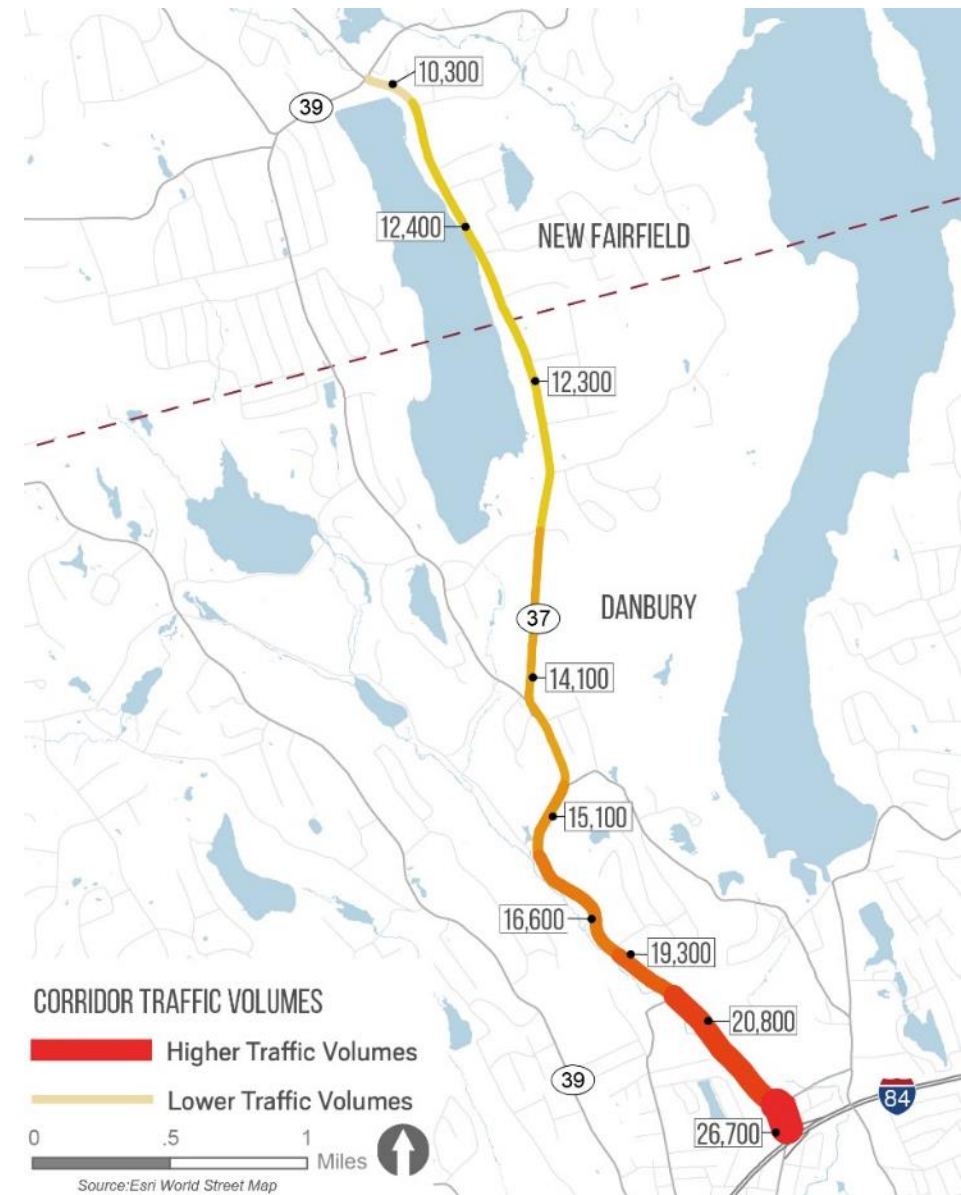
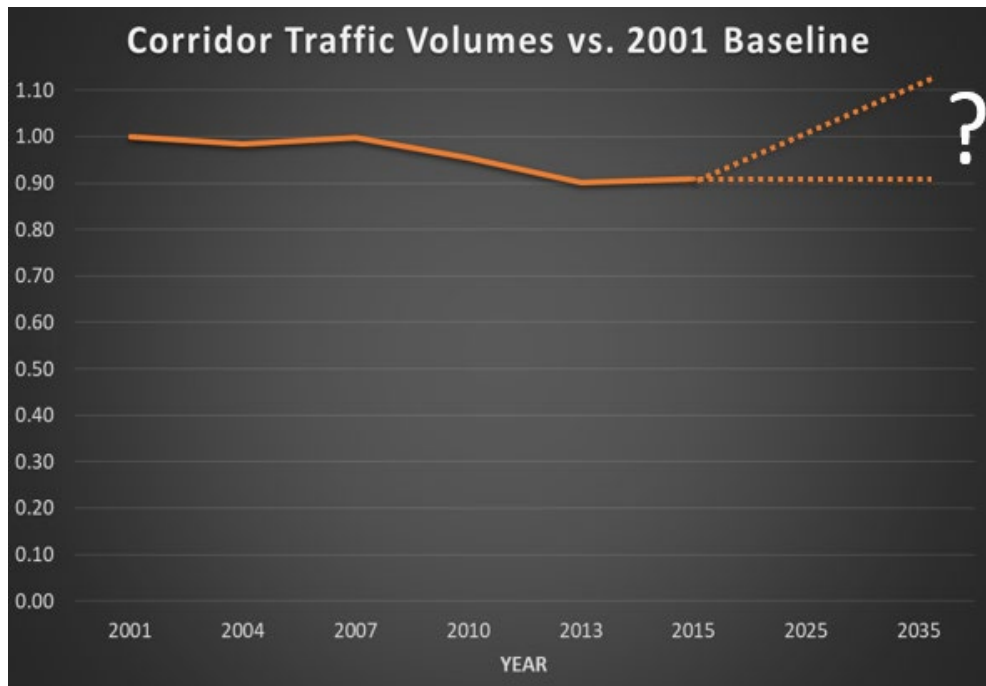
EXISTING CONDITIONS — ROADWAY FUNCTION

- Route 37 is classified a minor arterial
- In the study area, it is a two-or four lane roadway
- Serves north-south travel between I-84 and adjacent municipalities
- Travel conditions allow for relatively high speeds and minimal interference



EXISTING CONDITIONS FINDINGS - TRAFFIC

- Traffic volumes range from 10,300 to 26,700 vehicles per day
- Volumes have been stagnant throughout the last 20 years



A photograph of a multi-lane road with traffic lights. Several cars are visible on the road. In the background, there are buildings, including a McDonald's, and bare trees. The sky is overcast. The image has a blue tint.

ARE YOU SURPRISED THAT TRAFFIC VOLUMES HAVE BEEN STAGNANT IN THE CORRIDOR?

PLEASE ANSWER IN THE Q + A SECTION ON THE RIGHT OF YOUR SCREEN

EXISTING CONDITIONS FINDINGS - TRAFFIC

Concerns regarding traffic congestion have been expressed:

- **Intersection Levels of Service (LOS)** - a rating system that ranks intersections according to function and traffic flow on a scale of LOS A – F:
 - LOS A-C is favorable with limited delays and queues at intersections
 - LOS D and E are acceptable with added delays
 - LOS F is failing
- Analyzed at AM, mid-day, PM, and weekend (Saturday) time periods



EXISTING CONDITIONS FINDINGS - TRAFFIC

- All signalized intersections perform at a LOS C or better in all time periods
- However, queue lengths may be of concern at:
 - Jeanette Street
 - Golden Hill Road
 - Saw Mill Road



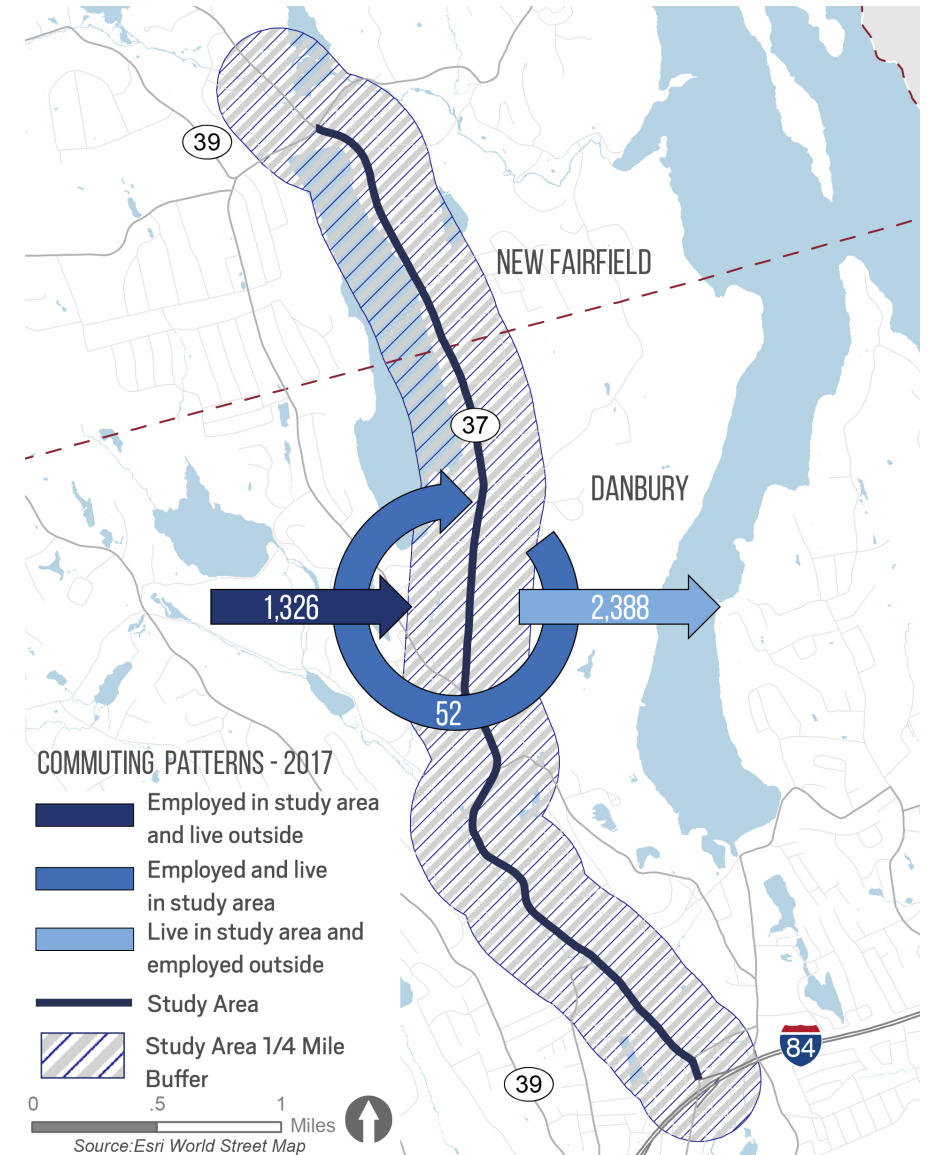
**DO YOU AGREE THAT LOS (OR TRAFFIC DELAY)
IS ACCEPTABLE IN THE CORRIDOR?**

PLEASE ANSWER IN THE Q + A SECTION ON THE RIGHT OF YOUR SCREEN



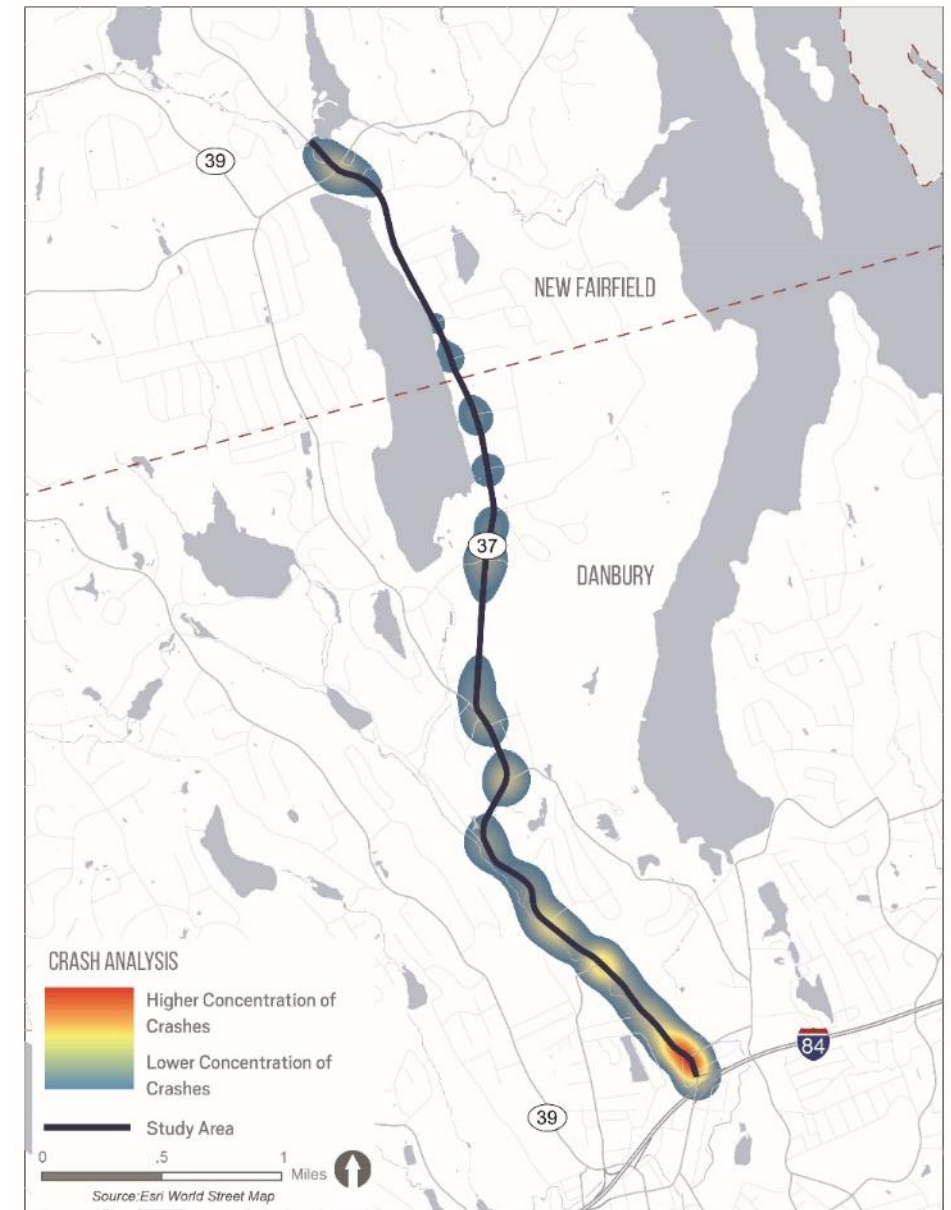
EXISTING CONDITIONS FINDINGS — COMMUTING

- Commuters into the study area have decreased since 2002
- In 2017, 1,326 commuters came to the study area for work, while 2,388 residents left the study area for work
- Top employment destinations for study area residents include Danbury, Stamford, New York City, Norwalk, and Bethel
- Workers are commuting into the study area from locations such as Danbury, Bethel, Waterbury, Bridgeport, and Stratford



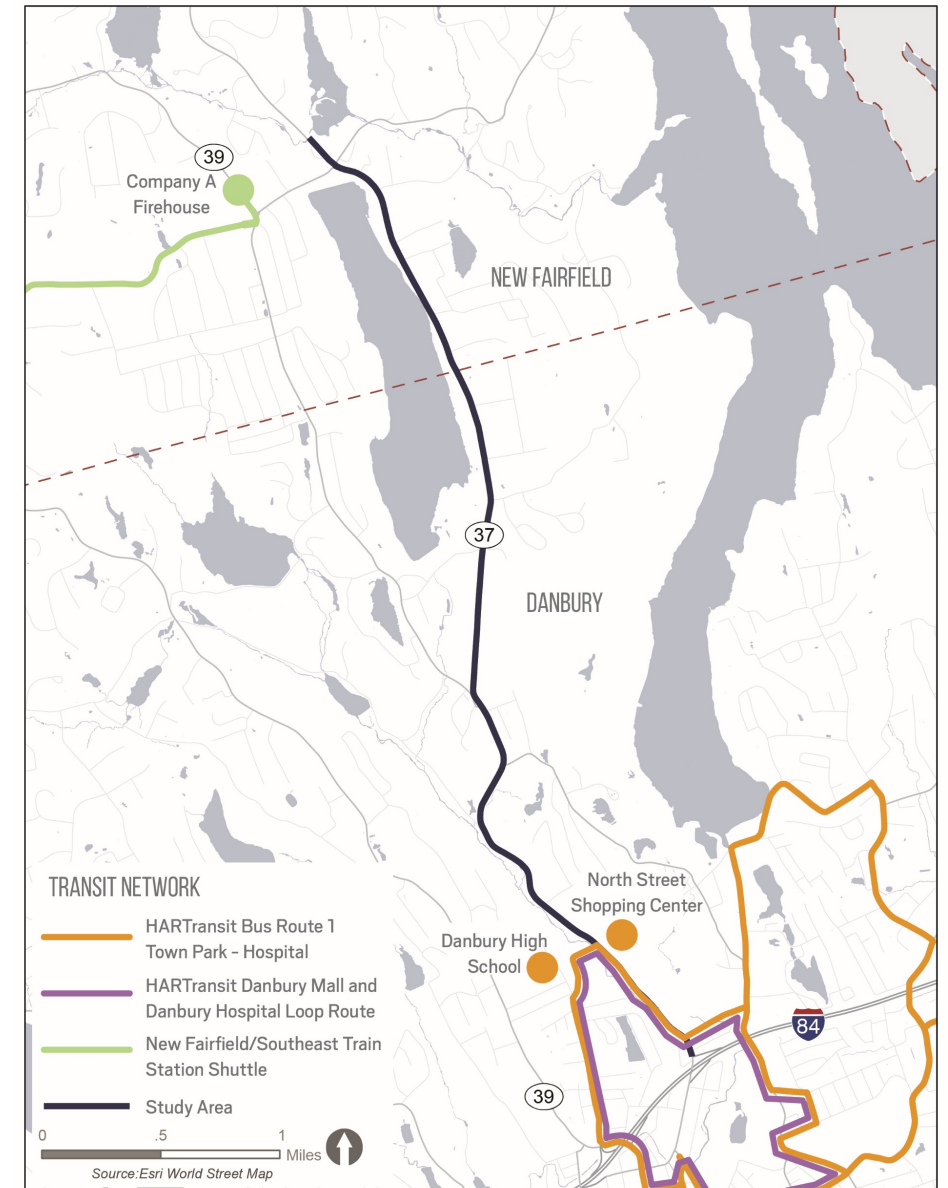
EXISTING CONDITIONS FINDINGS — CRASHES

- Crash data was analyzed for the three-year period between 2017 – 2019.
 - 454 crashes
 - One fatal crash
 - One crash resulting in at least one suspected serious injury
 - 34 crashes resulting in at least one suspected minor injury
 - 76 crashes resulting in at least one possible injury
 - 342 crashes resulting only in property damage
- Crashes are concentrated near intersections



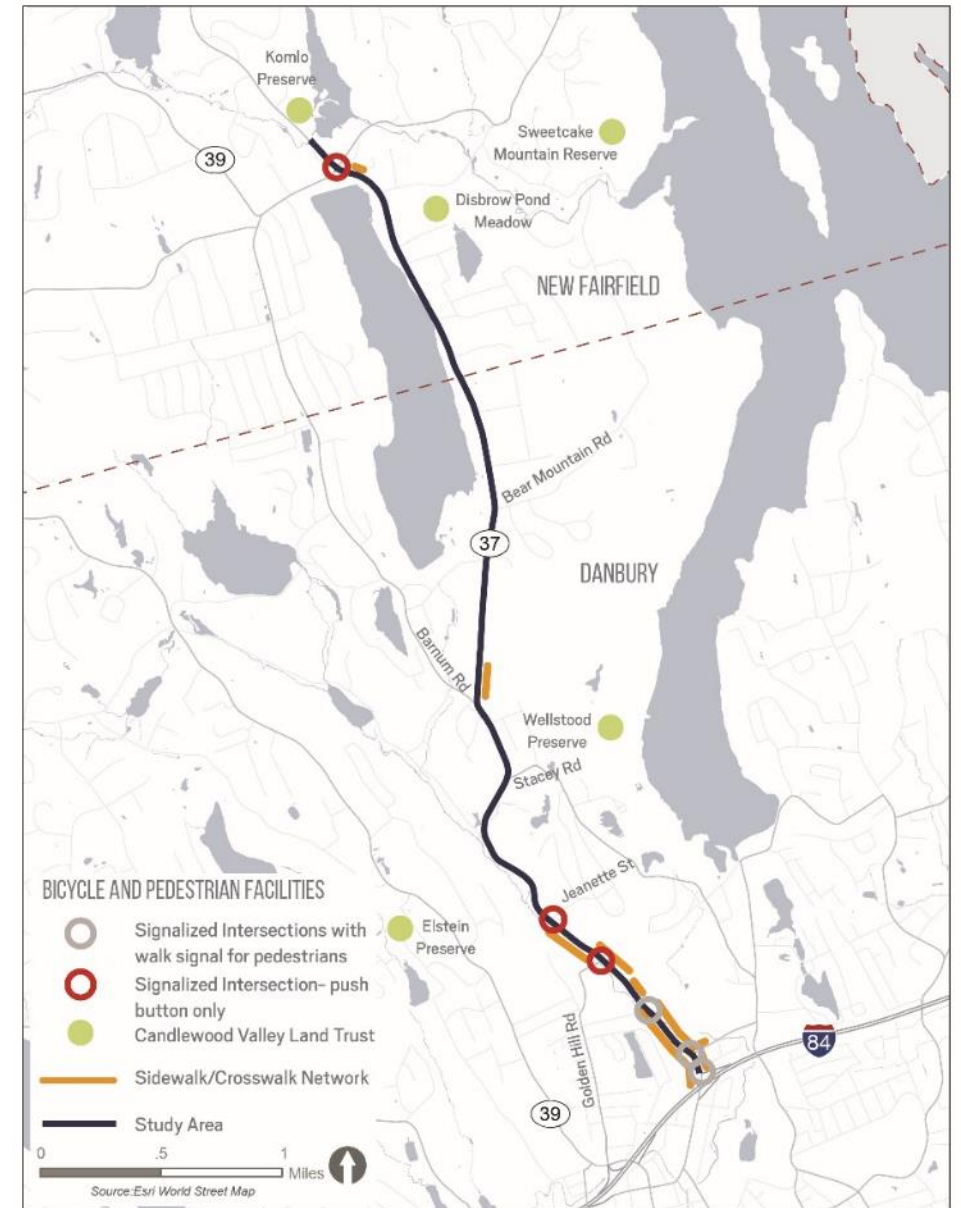
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

- Two routes for HARTransit and with dense residential developments
- Dial-A-Ride and ADA Service available
- Heavy school bus ridership



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ENVIRONMENT

- Route 37 in the study area is auto-dominated
- Issues related to safety, congestion, and accessibility along the corridor include:
 - No dedicated bicycle facilities
 - inconsistent narrow shoulders
 - busy driveways
 - High traffic speeds
 - Limited pedestrian facilities, with gaps in the network and few crosswalks
- The Candlewood Valley Regional Land Trust, and other trail advocacy groups / stakeholders, are interested in a multi-use path along the Margerie Lake Reservoir



**DO YOU HAVE IDEAS ON HOW TO IMPROVE
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IN THE CORRIDOR?**

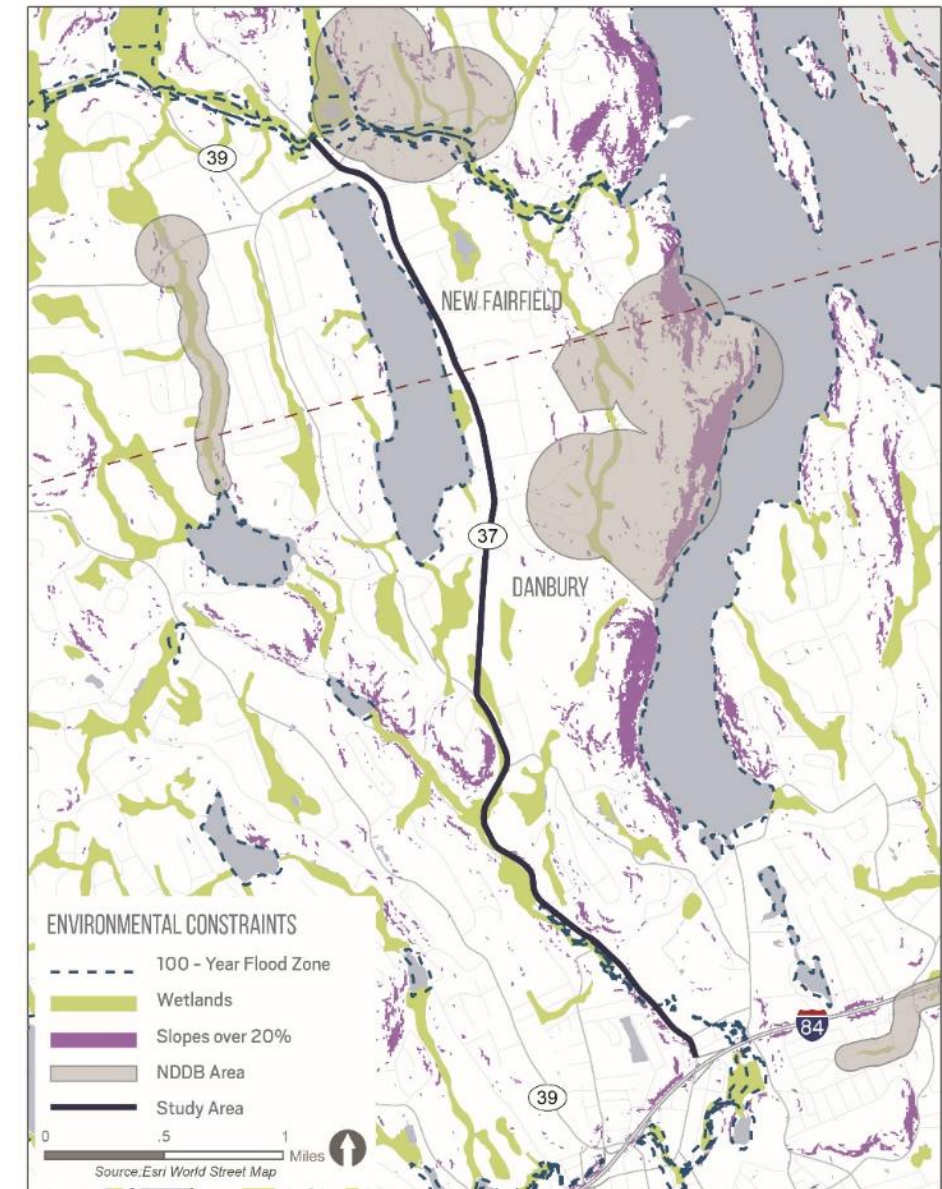
WHERE?

PLEASE ANSWER IN THE Q + A SECTION ON THE RIGHT OF YOUR SCREEN



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS AND CONSTRAINTS

- Wetlands, slopes and flood zones are present throughout much of the corridor
- For a multiuse facility along Margerie Lake Reservoir, environmental permits are required and environmental documentation is likely
- Margerie Lake Reservoir provides Danbury with part of its drinking water supply, so water quality is top priority



DO YOU SUPPORT CONSTRUCTING A TRAIL ALONG THE MARJORIE LAKE RESERVOIR?

PLEASE ANSWER IN THE Q + A SECTION ON THE RIGHT OF YOUR SCREEN



A photograph of a street scene, likely at an intersection. In the foreground, there's a road with white lane markings and a concrete curb on the right. A silver car is driving towards the camera, and a black car is further ahead. In the background, there are traffic lights showing green, a McDonald's sign, and some residential buildings. The sky is overcast. A large white text overlay is centered on the image.

**SHOULD THIS TRAIL BE LOCATED CLOSER TO
THE RESERVOIR OR CLOSER TO ROUTE 37?**

PLEASE ANSWER IN THE Q + A SECTION ON THE RIGHT OF YOUR SCREEN

A photograph of a street intersection with a road curving to the right. In the background, there is a McDonald's restaurant and several houses. Traffic lights are visible at the intersection. A large white text overlay is positioned in the upper half of the image.

**DOES PARKING NEED TO BE INCLUDED IF A
TRAIL IS CONSTRUCTED?**

IF YES, WHERE SHOULD IT BE LOCATED?

PLEASE ANSWER IN THE Q + A SECTION ON THE RIGHT OF YOUR SCREEN

STAKEHOLDERS INPUT TO DATE

- Business owners and residents are fatigued with the ongoing construction projects
 - Be mindful of adding any more construction to the roadway
- Beautification of the roadway such as lighting, wayfinding, and signage would be beneficial
- Congestion, particularly on the southern portion of the corridor is problematic at certain times of the day
- Multi-use path would benefit Candlewood Valley Land Trust
 - Could connect areas of corridor to existing Land Trust properties

OTHER THOUGHTS OR IDEAS?

PLEASE ANSWER IN THE Q + A SECTION ON THE RIGHT OF YOUR SCREEN



NEXT STEPS

- Begin drafting transportation improvement alternatives
- Preliminary report and concept plans for the corridor
- Final report and public presentation

STAY INVOLVED

- Revisit and tell others about the workshop recording, with captions and translations
 - Posted to study website within the next few days
- Visit <https://westcog.org/transportation/studies/dnfcs/>
- Contact Todd Fontanella, Senior Planner, WestCOG at tfontanella@westcog.org with questions or to be added to an email contact list

THANK YOU!

