

# Southeast, NY-to-Danbury CT Link Feasibility/Planning Study Update

*"This is a transformational project that will impact our economies and expand opportunities for mobility by utilizing an underused interstate asset to better serve our region."*

County Executive MaryEllen Odell



May 10, 2021

*"We think it has a tremendous amount of possibilities and so we're excited about the study going forward and we'll be waiting anxiously to see the outcome of that."*

*Danbury Mayor Joe Cavo*

**MaryEllen Odell, County Executive**

**Sandra Fusco, Commissioner of Planning,  
Development and Public Transportation**

**Vincent M. Tamagna, Project  
Manager/Coordinator**

# Southeast, NY-to-Danbury, CT Link Feasibility/Planning Study

**Collaborative efforts with other stakeholders will include:**

- **Putnam County**
- **Metropolitan Transportation Authority\***
- **Metro North Railroad\***
- **Housatonic Railroad**
- **NYMTC**
- **City of Danbury**
- **Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG)**

Putnam County is conducting this federally funded the study funded through NYMTC's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).



# Southeast, NY-to-Danbury, CT Link Feasibility/Planning Study

## Study Advisory Group Membership (SAG)

Vincent Tamagna, Project Manager, Putnam County

Sandra Fusco, Putnam County Planning

Anthony Iadarola, City of Danbury, Mayor's Office

Dan Petrovich, City of Danbury

Mike Sheehan, Metro-North Railroad

Jordan Smith, Metro-North Railroad

Edward Rodriguez, Housatonic Railroad

Lance Macmillan, New York State Department of Transportation

Sandra Jobson, New York State Department of Transportation

Yure Kuljis, Connecticut Department of Transportation

## WSP Consultant Team

Drew Galloway, Project Manager

David Weiss, Principal in Charge

Nina Peek, AKRF, Public Engagement Lead



# Southeast, NY-to-Danbury, CT Link Feasibility/Planning Study

## Role of Study Advisory Group (SAG)

— Provide overall and technical guidance to help advance the study in key areas:

- Service-related
- Route and infrastructure characteristics
- Environmental and community sensitivities

— Participate in

- *Advisory Group calls*
- *Review of information presented*
- *Public Engagement meetings*



# Southeast, NY-to-Danbury, CT Link Feasibility/Planning Study

**The study will look to the area of potential and future growth markets and transportation expansion and growth and future modes of transportation will be considered. The purpose of the study is to:**

- ✓ Determine financial feasibility
- ✓ Determine Market Area
- ✓ Determine operational feasibility
- ✓ Study the need to restore passenger service between Danbury and Southeast
- ✓ Fully define the impact area
- ✓ Develop a conceptual service plan
- ✓ Study future travel markets



# Southeast, NY-to-Danbury, CT Link Feasibility/Planning Study

The study is analyzing regional railroad mobility demand taking into account the following:

- ✓ Benefits of the rail connection between:
  - Southeast, NY
  - Danbury, CT
  - MNR/MTA
  
- ✓ Consideration of Capital Expenditure Avoidance
- ✓ Consideration of Operating Expenditure Avoidance
- ✓ Relief of current travel demands on Routes 84/684
- ✓ Congestion Management and Air Quality Improvement
- ✓ Benefits to riders and maximization of public transit services
- ✓ Quality of life improvements for the region
- ✓ Improvement to regional public mobility



# Southeast, NY-to-Danbury, CT Link Feasibility/Planning Study

## The Study is assessing:

- ✓ Search for the regional demand
- ✓ Test public buy-in to a new transit concept
- ✓ Identify the demand and its stakeholders
- ✓ Create awareness of a new transportation service
- ✓ Allow for public feedback/participation
- ✓ Contribute to operations and development of surveys
- ✓ Determine economic and community benefits
- ✓ Qualitative assessment of environmental community considerations
- ✓ Forecast ridership and revenue potential
- ✓ Develop safety and security measures
- ✓ Develop capital and operating cost concepts



# Study Schedule

ACTIVITY	START	DURATION	Mar 2021		Apr 2021				May 2021				Jun 2021				Jul 2021				Aug 2021				Sep 2021				Oct 2021				Nov 2021				Dec 2021				Jan 2022				Feb 2022				Mar 2022																											
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52																						
Project startup meeting	Mar 3, 2021		■																																																																									
Task 1 Engage a SAG and SSC	2	6	■																																																																									
Task 2 Develop and implement Study Outreach Program	7	4					■																																																																					
Task 3 Define Study Area and Assess Existing Conditions	6	12					■																																																																					
Task 3a Study Area Definition	6	8					■																																																																					
Task 3b Assess Existing Infrastructure Conditions	8	10					■																																																																					
Task 4 Identify Conceptual Service Plans	14	12													■																																																													
Task 5 Forecast Travel Markets	26	8																											■																																															
Task 6 Assess the Feasibility of Restoring Service	34	16																																			■																■																							
Contract end date	Mar 2022																																																																											

- Project startup meeting
- Study Advisory Group
- Study Steering Committee

■ We are here

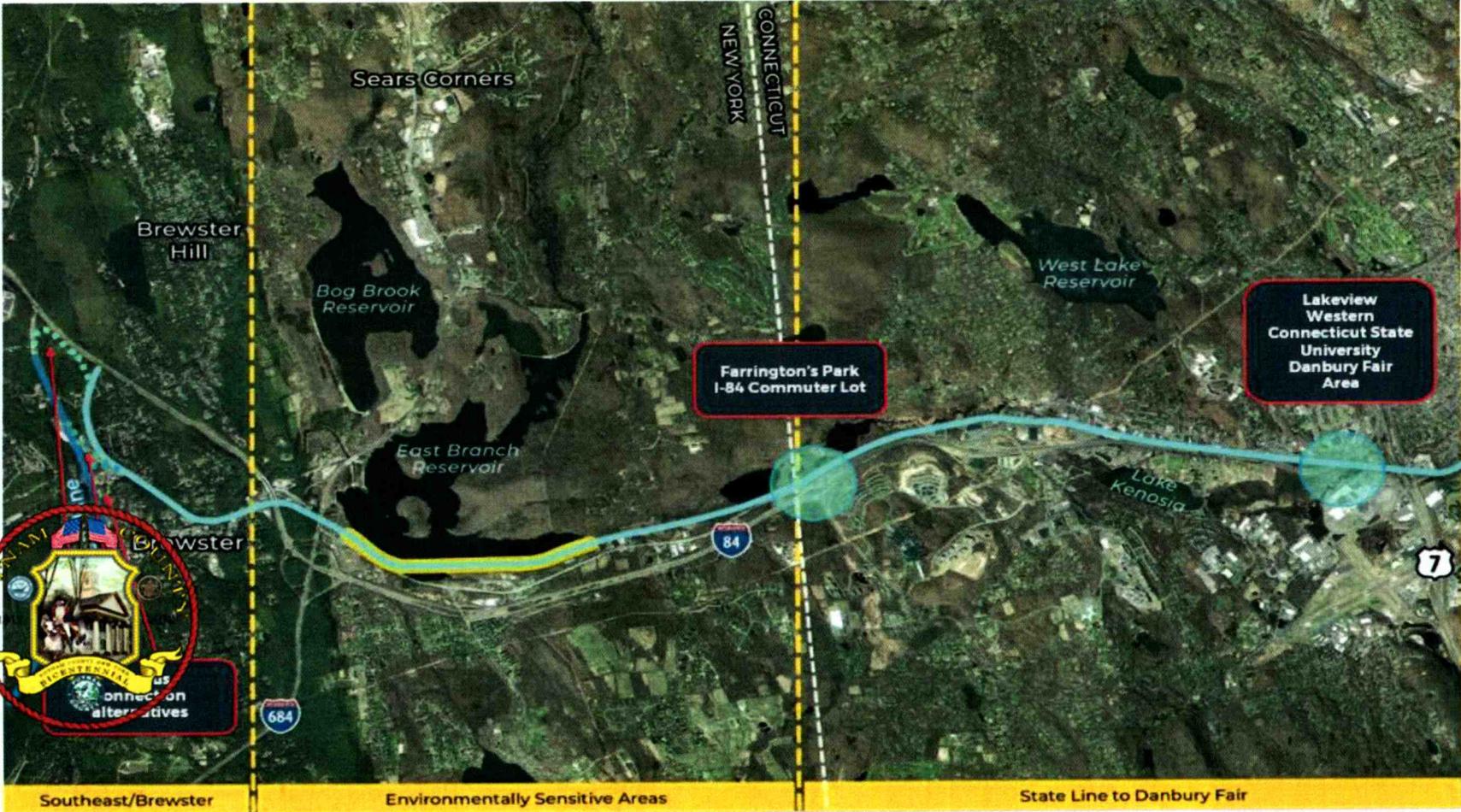


# Corridor Constraints



WSP

# Corridor Opportunities



# Southeast, NY-to-Danbury, CT Link Feasibility/Planning Study

## WORK AHEAD/NEXT STEPS

- ✓ Engaging a *Technical Advisory Grouping* and *Study Steering Committee*
- ✓ Developing and implementing a *Study Outreach Program*
- ✓ Defining the Study Area and assess existing conditions
- ✓ Identifying “conceptual service plans”
- ✓ Forecasting travel markets for restored service
- ✓ Assessing the feasibility of restoring service

