

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

Proceedings

producing toxins, it's important to know what it does to us. And I don't think that is on the Thruway's agenda or on the scoping agenda. And I would urge you to give that some consideration. And in lieu of that, if they cannot or won't do it, to perhaps allow and to help certain responsible organizations to hire their own consultants, so that we are able to do it. And I think in the public interest that is critical.

I thank you very much for your time.

MR. WAITE: I'd like to call Marvin Baum up to the podium.

TZ-033T

MR. BAUM: Hello. My name is Marvin Baum. I'm a resident of the Mountainview Condominiums in Valley Cottage. I'm on the Board of Managers of the condominium, and I have first a comment as being a member of the Board of Managers.

One of the problems regarding the uncertainties of the situation -- we don't know what kind of bridge we're going to have -- it has delayed decisions on

1 Proceedings

2 renovating overpasses. And so, for

3 instance, the overpass on Mountainview

4 Avenue in Central Nyack is in poor

5 condition. The road is like an obstacle

6 course at times because of the pot holes.

7 You have a concrete deck, you have tar

8 patches and it becomes dangerous. There

9 is a lot of pedestrians going back and

10 forth on that and there is no sidewalk

11 there either for pedestrians. So it's a

12 dangerous situation all around. And

13 there's a fencing on each side, a chain

14 link fencing, which is in really very,

15 very poor condition, and it's unsightly.

16 Underneath the bridge there is rust.

17 There is paint peeling. And so we might

18 have ten years to go before we really see

19 this new bridge or tunnel come into play.

20 And I don't think we can afford to wait

21 that period of time before we do some

22 basic maintenance. My understanding is

23 the Town of Clarkstown is responsible for

24 the tar at the top level, but basically

25 it's a bridge responsibility, and if they

1 Proceedings

2 were to grind it up, that it would do  
3 structural damage potentially to the  
4 bridge itself, and so they can't really do  
5 it. It really needs to be a New York  
6 State Thruway responsibility to make sure  
7 that the overpasses are maintained until  
8 such time that we have a new bridge or a  
9 tunnel going across. So that's my comment  
10 as a member of the Board of Managers. And  
11 just so you know, the Mountainview  
12 Condominiums is one of the largest condo  
13 complexes in Rockland County. And when  
14 you look at the picture of the Tappan Zee  
15 Bridge and you look for one big patch of  
16 development fairly close to the bridge,  
17 that's us. So we have about 1,200  
18 residents up there, and so this is -- this  
19 is our concern.

20 Just my personal comments regarding  
21 what I have seen thus far of the  
22 proposals. The tunnel concept sounds very  
23 nice, but one concern that I have, which I  
24 think a lot of people would have, is just  
25 on the safety issues. When you are

05

03, 04

1

## Proceedings

2

dealing with a tunnel, you're under the

3

water, it's much less accessible. The

4

concerns would range from simple

5

breakdowns of cars to, unfortunately, the

6

realities that we have to deal with post

7

9/11, what could potentially happen. So

8

that is a serious concern. And those

9

concerns would have to be met in any new

10

design of the tunnel or even of the

11

bridge, that there needs to be -- safety

12

really needs to be a very high priority,

13

because, unfortunately, when you have

14

170,000 vehicles going across the bridge

15

every day in peak usage times, you have a

16

situation where if something were to

17

happen, it could be very devastating to

18

the economy of the entire region, and of

19

course would have an impact on many, many

20

people's lives. So that needs to be a

21

concern.

22

I think that enlarging the bridge

23

significantly, putting many more lanes of

24

traffic in, would not be a good situation,

25

it will just attract more traffic. You

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

Proceedings

know, eight lanes should probably be the maximum, you know, similar to what we have right now, the seven lanes. What we really need to do is have a rail connection I think between Suffern and the Port Jervis Line, and going all the way across Westchester, with stops at logical appropriate places and connecting with other transit lines and train lines, bus lines, etcetera.

And, lastly, I would request that any new design accommodate pedestrians. I wouldn't expect on a daily basis that we'd have a tremendous amount of pedestrian traffic, but I know there are a lot of cyclists in the region, you know, a lot of people in New York City, as well as in our County here in Rockland and Westchester who would like to have access back and forth, and that it would connect existing bike routes between the two.

So those are the couple comments and requests that I have on the subject.

Thank you very much.

