

1

Proceedings

2

Sir.

TZB-022T

3

MR. SAMUELS: I'm Al Samuels. I'm

4

President and CEO of the Rockland Business

5

Association. We're an organization

6

representing over 1,000 businesses in

7

Rockland and in the region.

8

I'm going to say something a little

9

different based on the previous speakers'

10

remarks. Rockland County, since this

11

project began, has secured an Empire Zone

12

Status in New York State. Last year this

13

brought us ten new companies, 350 new

14

jobs. Already this year we have more than

15

that that is in the pipeline.

16

Rockland County has tremendous

17

growth still ahead of it. Not just Orange

18

County, which we admit will eclipse our

19

growth. They currently have one

20

and-a-half billion dollars' worth of

21

construction already started or in the

22

pipeline, with thousands of new jobs that

23

will be brought to Orange County. Neither

24

Orange nor Rockland has a work force that

25

is available to it for these new jobs. We

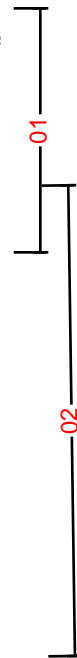
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2 need to tap into the region. We need to
3 tap into the work force in Manhattan and
4 New York City. We need to tap into the
5 over 100,000 people who commute to Long
6 Island every day from New York City to
7 jobs out there.

8 We have had, for the past six years,
9 as Mike Anderson well knows, a pretty
10 consistent message. We believe that there
11 is need for a new bridge, a bridge that
12 will accommodate the loads of the 21st
13 Century, and a bridge that will
14 accommodate commuter rail that will not
15 only take residents to New York City,
16 which is, of course, one of our greatest
17 economic zones, but also bring people to
18 Rockland and to Orange County, which is
19 the second largest economic zone in the
20 state and --

21 MR. PLOTCHYK: You have 30 seconds,
22 sir.

23 MR. SAMUELS: -- will continue to
24 grow with counties like Ulster and Greene,
25 the next in line.



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2 So this is just an item of record.
3 The business community of Rockland
4 implores you to please come up with a
5 vision for tomorrow that includes a new
6 bridge and commuter rail.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. PLOTCHYK: Thank you, sir.

9 Mr. Bodin.

10 MR. BODIN: I'll use this
11 microphone.

12 MR. PLOTCHYK: Okay.

TZB-023T 13 MR. BODIN: I learned from John
14 Platt, who's the Executive Director of
15 the Thruway Authority, don't show your
16 back to somebody you're doing business
17 with.

18 I've been involved with the Thruway
19 since the first meeting at the Hilton at
20 the very, very beginning.

21 The proposed introduction of
22 congestion pricing in New York City
23 suggests changes to the Tappan Zee Bridge.
24 Bus rapid transit lanes no longer need to
25 be physically separate from regular