

TZB-049E

Dear Mr. Anderson,

While I know you have received extensive comments from our Mayor Drew Fixell, who serves on the County's TZ Bridge Task Force, I would like to second his concerns about tiering the project as well as keeping public transportation a pre-condition to any final option/alternative being considered for improving mobility on the 287 corridor. Not only do I live near that corridor where hundreds, perhaps thousands, of trees have been felled to widen 287, but I witnessed countless serious accidents during the process as well as increased noise and air pollution resulting in the loss of foliage. This increased pollution will only be magnified once you create a large bridge, thereby bringing in even more traffic. Construction of a new bridge will damage the quality of life in this portion of Tarrytown, not only during the lengthy, drawn-out process of construction but forever afterwards. Our community will bear the brunt of improving the corridor in ways that I know you foresee but will not be living here to endure.

It is, therefore, imperative, that the Department of Transportation give back to our community in the form of environmental amenities that will mitigate the impact of this project in our Village's daily life. The following suggestion has been raised with your representatives at the Purchase open house last year as well as in Tarrytown at the League of Women Voter's forum you attended in our Village Hall. It is simple and appropriate: Build a pedestrian bridge over the Thruway connecting the northern and southern portions of the Old Croton Aqueduct that was severed when 287/87 was built 50 years ago. Countless hikers, bikers and walkers are caught wandering around 119 or Lyndhurst area on Route 9, trying desparately to connect up to the trail going north or south bound. Making the Old Croton Aqueduct whole once again would be a gift not only to Tarrytown, since many walkers would then have access to our inner-village through the trail, but it would be an amenity to the entire trail system in Westchester.

Our mayor and residents support the plan as does the Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct and many other environmental, parks and trail organizations. When time is appropriate, I can send the letters of support and have representatives speak on behalf of this plan. In addition, a small pedestrian bridge should be added to cross 119 so that crossing that busy and wide street will not hinder Aqueduct users. Naturally, 119 will be even busier given the expanded use the 119 ramp will get from the projected HOT lane at Exit 9 off the Thruway.

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I appreciate the extended time and public outreach you have done during this scoping process and look forward to reading the final document.

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My best,

Linda Viertel

Board Member: Westchester Land Trust, Westchester League of Conservation Voters, Teatown Lake Reservation

Chair, Tarrytown Waterfront Advisory Council

Linda Viertel [viertel@optonline.net]