

Town of Orangetown

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Thom Kleiner
Supervisor



March 31, 2008

Michael P. Anderson, P.E.
NYSDOT
Tappan Zee Bridge/I-287 Corridor Project Director
660 White Plains Road, Suite 340
Tarrytown, New York 10591

Dear Mr. Anderson,

I am writing to formally submit comments on the Tappan Zee Bridge/I-287 Corridor Scoping Update of February 28, 2008.

There are specific areas of concern for Orangetown residents, particularly for those residing in our river villages. The letter of the Mayors of the four incorporated Orangetown villages (co-signed by Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee and Legislator Connie Coker) dated March 31, 2008, effectively addresses some of the key issues. Included in their response were questions about possible land takings, the extent of the future right-of-way and the footprint of the new approach roads. The need to address drainage and flooding issues was also noted.

While I am not opposed to the “two tier approach” to this project, my position is based on the representations of the agencies indicating that this approach would be ultimately beneficial to securing support and funds for mass transit. In speaking to other elected officials and constituents, concern has been expressed that the tiering process makes it possible for the mass transit option to be omitted should adequate funding not be available. To the extent that it will have this effect, I would oppose it.

I am specifically opposed to Rehabilitation Options 2, 3 and 4 which would repair the existing structure, and then provide for the construction of a sister structure next to it – a plan thoroughly rejected by consensus 20 years ago.

Further, I am concerned that the stakeholders, including elected officials and citizens, have not been presented with sufficient data to make an informed decision about which mode of mass transit should be selected, nor the even more basic decisions about whether to repair or replace the existing structure. I propose that all data regarding ridership

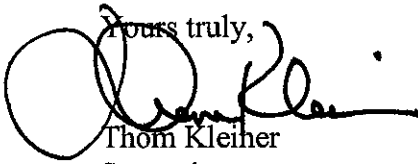
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numbers and projections, as well as all financial assumptions including cost estimates and funding options, be provided to all stakeholders simultaneously with its disbursement to the members of the agency study team. If the data is tentative or preliminary, or if any other qualification needs to be placed on such a release, the release can clearly state that.

This information can then be analyzed along with the projections for the proposed new service on the Northern Branch, the ARC Tunnel and other projects that should properly influence the ultimate decisions on repair versus replace and mass transit mode. With respect to the mass transit mode particularly, it is very difficult for stakeholders to make informed comments without even preliminary ridership numbers upon which to base a decision.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I would appreciate a response to the questions I raised about the sharing of relevant data at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,



Thom Kleiher
Supervisor

cc: Town Board
New York State Assemblywoman Ellen C. Jaffee, 95th Assembly District
Rockland County Leg. Connie L. Coker, 17th District
Mayor Patricia M. DuBow, Village of South Nyack
Mayor John Shields, Village of Nyack
Mayor Lawrence Lynn, Village of Grand View-on-Hudson
Mayor Christopher Sanders, Village of Piermont