

TZB-032E

Dear Sirs:

One consideration that I have not seen mentioned is the effect that increasingly scarce and expensive oil resources will have on people's transportation needs and habits.

I suspect that plans based on extrapolating from the past will miss the impact that \$5, \$10, or \$20 gasoline will have on transportation usage. Such prices are almost certain within the lifetime of the planned project. It is not hard to imagine prices going even higher.

Given such future trends, investment in public transportation is likely to pay higher dividends than current thinking suggests.

As an example of current thinking, a recent (2004) report found at www.thomasnet.com predicts that rising demand might cause oil prices to go as high as \$50/bbl by 2025. You can easily see the problem there, and from that, why I might be concerned that current planning may be underestimating future changes.

Another report at www.cbo.gov claims that driver behavior is resistant to change caused by higher gas prices. That may be so in an era of economic prosperity when dealing with gas going from \$2.00 to \$2.50. But if we are entering slightly less-prosperous times, and the cost of fuel increases substantially, people will be transferring to public transportation in droves.

I do hope that you consider social end economic scenarios for the next 50 years that do not represent business as usual. It is my view that failing to consider such possibilities will result in seriously underestimating the importance of public transportation in the future.

Thank you for considering my comments.

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