

TZB-106E

I would like to propose another option for the Tappen Zee bridge. I would recommend a "hybrid" approach, as follows:

Firstly, rehabilitate the existing bridge. This would minimize the outrageous and unbelievable cost of \$22 billion for building a completely new span. That cost would only be passed on to the taxpayers and result in significantly higher toll crossings. I cannot see this actually happening as the state is already in a financial crisis operating with a billion dollar plus deficit. The state lawmakers would have to be committed for mental health examinations if the proposal for a new span is passed.

Secondly, build a lower level roadway which will partially utilize the existing infrastructure of the bridge. This concept has worked for the George Washington and Verrazano bridges. The lower level will carry commuter rail as well as 2 HOV's lanes for buses and car pools. While this represents a new lower span, attaching itself to the existing bridge while fortifying the lower structure should result in significantly reduced costs than creating a completely new span.

Thirdly, install a camera tracking system along the whole span, which will monitor excessive speeding, suspicious activities, accidents and mentally unstable persons. We all know that many cars and trucks drive hazardously on the bridge resulting in deadly accidents. The camera system will monitor and track the speed of vehicles and issue summonses in the form of moving violations. The revenue gained from this will be applied towards the payback for the cost of the bridge as well as allotted to the maintenance and upkeep. This system can be installed today, which will offset operating costs for the bridge and make it safer.

Stuart Glass
84 Farm Lake Crescent
914- 238-1187

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