

**TZB-186E**

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Concerning the resolution of the future of the Tappan Zee Bridge, it seems to me there are three (3) major concerns. The first is to minimize the cost of expansion; the second is the obvious need for immediate increase in capacity for transportation; and thirdly the concern for addressing future needs should also be considered. My thoughts on these three topics follows:

1. Keep costs down

Retain and maintain. Keep the existing structure as is and maintain it as needed to have it remain as a viable link between Rockland and Westchester and points north and south of its location.

2. Improve Service

Give birth to a twin span. Add a similar (twin) bridge adjacent to the existing with one way traffic on the new span and opposite one way traffic on the existing span. Definitely design and make provisions for rail service to be added to the new span if not now then in the future. The provision for rail service, I feel, is critical for the future transportation needs of the area, which brings me to my final suggestion:

3. Plan ahead

Keep what we have but add in the future. Keep the existing foundation structures for future expansion. The day will come when the existing superstructure is no longer efficient to maintain. At that time, remove the superstructure and rebuild a new superstructure on the existing foundation bases.

It is my opinion that the foundation structure is relatively more expensive than the superstructure. Therefore, if the foundation is still usable in the future, a savings could be realized by using the existing foundations to support a new superstructure.

One last thought regarding the inconvenience of “local” residents. Unfortunately, a relatively few must suffer inconvenience for the benefit of the larger number of residents. Perhaps, an appreciation for this inconvenience could be in the form of a lifetime free pass over the new structure for those presently living in the immediately designated “local” zone.

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