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Proceedings

from enhanced rail access in eastern Orange County and potentially a rail connection at Stewart International Airport. Bus Rapid Transit through the project corridor has its own set of advantages and disadvantages. While dependent on overall system configuration of course, for Orange County, rail access could be more convenient since transfers to another transit mode might be reduced or eliminated.

If at all feasible and economically justifiable, keep the option open for commuter rail when preparing the Bridge and highway Record of Decision.

Thank you again for conducting a Scoping Session here in Orange County. We look forward to working with the members of the project team on this important project.

Sincerely, Edward A. Diana, County Executive.

MR. PLOTCHYK: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Jon Stein.

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MR. STEIN: Thank you for coming.

I've been living in this area for 20 years now, and I've -- I've heard many planning ideas for this Bridge since I moved up here, so I -- I hope this is finally coming to fruition.

Since I moved up here and since I've always been a resident of Westchester County, it's become very obvious to me, and since I became a driver, at the age of 16, many, many years ago, that the Bridge is outdated. I hate driving over that Bridge, frankly, and I think it's become a very dangerous Bridge. I'm glad that the -- they're addressing shoulders.

I would love to take a train straight to New York City, but I think it has to be done, of course, in a -- in an intelligent way, and we have to also bear in mind costs, especially these days, where we don't know where our economy is going. But I definitely am in favor of rehabilitating or doing something to make that Bridge safer. It's -- it's quite

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2 dangerous. Three miles without a
3 shoulder. I once had a flat tire, and
4 that was scary. You know. And you get
5 stuck on the Bridge, there's no place to
6 pull over. So I think that addressing the
7 shoulder issue, especially for commuters
8 who drive, is essential. And hopefully
9 there will be rail and/or bus lanes to
10 accompany it.

11 So thank you.

12 MR. PLOTCHYK: Thank you, sir.

13 We have additional time, if others
14 would like to make statements. And,
15 again, I ask you to please fill out a
16 speaker's card.

17 Thank you.

18 Those were all the speakers we had
19 for this evening.

20 Thank you.

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