

**TZB-148E**

Tish DuBow, Mayor South Nyack  
Larry Lynn, Mayor Grandview  
Christopher Sanders, Mayor Piermont  
John Shields, Mayor Nyack  
Connie Coker, Rockland County Legislator  
Ellen Jaffee, New York State Assemblywoman

Comments Regarding the TZBridge/I-287 Corridor Study & Environmental Review

March 31, 2008

As elected officials representing the villages and towns along the Hudson River near the Rockland terminus of the Tappan Zee Bridge, we are enumerating some of our basic concerns and opinions about the options described in the scoping documents of February 2008. The following is our response in accordance with the requirements of SAFETEA-LU Section 6002.

In particular we oppose any rail alternative as we believe this would be extremely harmful to our communities and provide the fewest benefits. We prefer dedicated Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lanes to accommodate a more efficient and environmentally sound means of cross corridor transportation. We envision a system of small, clean hybrid buses picking up commuters in their neighborhoods and delivering them to a transit station.

Furthermore we are opposed to any proposal for a CRT option that includes construction of a pathway with a postponed completion date, as we believe that space allocated for rail lanes would revert to lanes for private and commercial vehicles, not for mass transit. As history has proven in similar situations such as the George Washington Bridge, this will only serve to attract more vehicles and increase congestion.

We oppose any Rockland transit stations east of the one planned for the Palisades Mall area and we oppose any on/off ramps in South Nyack. The residential communities, especially South Nyack and Grandview, which are adjacent to Exit #10 cannot provide the required additional street parking, nor are they able to accept increased traffic or a parking garage without destroying their small village characteristics and quality of life.

We firmly oppose any further taking of private property in Orangetown in connection with the TZ Bridge/Corridor project. In addition, at numerous meetings we have heard that this project will not take more land than its right of way. We are seriously concerned about the use of land in the right-of-way because the quality of life adjacent to this right-of-way would be seriously and critically damaged. The situation could develop whereby residents would retain their property, but the Thruway would be in their backyards.

We demand strong and effective mitigation measures for reducing noise and air pollution from the corridor project both during construction and upon completion. The levels of air

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and noise pollution have increased over the past 50 years and the adverse effects on residents have increased.

We also support the resolution passed in the Environmental Committee of the Rockland County Legislature on March 26, 2008 calling for measures such as sand traps, catch basins and new porous pavement surfaces that catch polluted runoff and absorb the dangerous contaminants in order to prevent polluted storm water runoff into the Hudson River and local water supplies. The restructuring of the Bridge and the Thruway Corridor provides a significant opportunity to apply these solutions in order to protect aquatic life and aquifers in Rockland County all along the Corridor, including, but not limited to, the Nyack and Ramapo aquifers as well as streams and lakes that supply water to our residents.

In addition, we regret the sponsoring agencies refusal to seriously consider tunnel options which provide transit solutions which have been shown to be financial, environmental and engineering successes in many places in the world as well as in the U.S. We therefore urge the lead agencies to bring in tunnel engineering expertise as an additional alternative in the scoping process.

SIGNEES

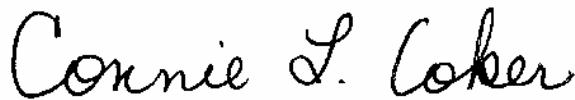
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Tish DuBow, Mayor, South Nyack



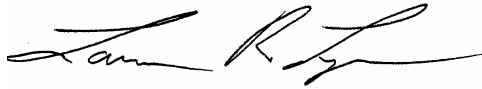
Christopher Sanders, Mayor, Piermont



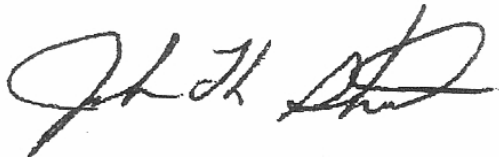
Connie L. Coker Rockland County Legislator  
Chair Environmental Committee



Ellen C. Jaffee  
Member of New York State Assembly



Larry R. Lynn, Mayor, Grandview



John Shields, Mayor, Nyack