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2 MR. PLOTCHYK: Okay. Thank you,
3 sir. You're aware there's a stenographer
4 outside the door and you're certainly
5 welcome to sit with the stenographer.

6 Next is Jeffrey Oppenheim.

7 MR. OPPENHEIM: Hi. Thank you very
8 much for a great presentation. I'm the
9 Mayor of Village of Montebello.

10 I just wanted to offer one
11 suggestion that I'd like the panel to keep
12 in mind going forward into the Tier 2 --
13 Tier 1 and Tier 2 Environmental Impact
14 Statement, and that is, in going forward,
15 to what's already been incorporated in
16 earlier proposals is the suggestion for an
17 Exit 14X off the Thruway.

18 I think the Bridge is not the only
19 thing that's cracking at the seams. In
20 the 50 some odd years since this Bridge
21 was built, the population in Rockland
22 County, particularly in Ramapo, has up
23 enormously. And projecting into the
24 future it's going to continue that kind of
25 rapid rise, and we can see that area

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2 being, which is already in excess I
3 believe 110,000, rising well over that.
4 And the problem is that exit ramps within
5 Ramapo are really limited to two exit
6 ramps that are relatively far apart and do
7 not adequately service the area. As a
8 result, also, I believe your projections
9 increase utilization of this Bridge and
10 greater accessibility and greater
11 structure, we're going to see even more
12 people accessing these areas and we're
13 limited to very few points of access onto
14 the Thruway from our neighborhoods. So it
15 has the impact of the traffic flow through
16 the Thruway, but also in the local areas
17 as well. I know how difficult it is to
18 get a local exit ramp put in. It's not a
19 simple project. The New York Thruway
20 system has specific requirements and
21 regulations that, it needs to go through
22 local, state and federal approvals, and
23 this is the context in which it can be
24 accomplished, particularly in the context
25 also of putting together your CRT or BRT

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plan and how will you formulate an exit ramp that this can be done. Your panel's have already done the preliminary engineering work and shown where and how this could be built, so now is really the time, as we go forward in the next two tiers, to look at this study and try and proceed. And I hope you'll consider the interest of the local populations in this.

The Mayors of all the villages in Rockland County have passed a resolution supporting this proposal. And I know I speak on behalf of tens of thousands of people that would like this to be investigated and taken very seriously, and even from a cost standpoint, the amount of cost involved with laying down some concrete across a small area is probably a fraction of what the rest of your project will cost. It would have a great impact. I think it would be very -- potentially very beneficial, and at the same time would cost very little. So I hope you'll give consideration and we look forward to



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2 discussing this more with you in the
3 future.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. PLOTCHYK: Thank you, sir.

6 Did you say you're the Mayor of
7 Montebello?

8 MR. OPPENHEIM: Yes.

9 MR. PLOTCHYK: Thank you, sir.
10 Jerry Ilowite.

11 MR. ILOWITE: Good afternoon. It
12 appears that the selection of the
13 preferred alternative is based upon a
14 comparison of the considered options. I
15 don't see much evaluation against the
16 stated goals of the project.

17 The project pretends to reduce
18 traffic congestion and improve travel
19 time, but there's no quantified basis as
20 to what amount of improvement constitutes
21 a significance improvement.

22 The report shows that, of the
23 approximately 135,000 vehicles crossing
24 the Bridge each morning, around 5000 would
25 be diverted to transit, leaving 130,000