

1 Proceedings

2 In order to allow as many persons as
3 possible to be heard, it is necessary that
4 we restrict individual comments to two
5 minutes.

6 If your comments are in writing, you
7 can simply hand them to a Department
8 Representative at the registration desk in
9 the entrance lobby.

10 If you have already submitted
11 comments in response to the Department's
12 announcement, you do not have to resubmit
13 them, because they are already part of the
14 record.

15 Again, to remind you, written
16 comments will be accepted by the
17 Department until December 1st, 2008.

18 If you have a question, Project Team
19 members are stationed at the tables
20 outside of this meeting room and will
21 answer your questions there.

22 I'd like to call up the first two
23 speakers in this order, Mr. Gary Prophet,
24 and then Mr. Michael Levy.

25 *MR. PROPHET:* Is this on?

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2 MR. PLOTCHYK: Yes, sir, it is.

3 MR. PROPHET: Okay.

4 Yes, thank you very much for the
5 presentation. I thought that was very
6 informative. And although this has been
7 going on for several years, it certainly
8 seems like much progress has been made in
9 the past six to ten-months in this whole
10 process of defining the Tappan Zee
11 Corridor.

12 Just some basic concerns. One is,
13 of course, the time line, which we all
14 knew was going to be very lengthy, but the
15 idea of doing the highway first and the
16 transit later is generally a very bad
17 idea. All you have to do is look a few
18 miles south of the George Washington
19 Bridge, which, for those you not familiar
20 with the George Washington Bridge, it was
21 built with a plan that the A Subway Line
22 would go over and connect into -- into New
23 Jersey. Let's see, that was supposed to
24 be done right after the George Washington
25 Bridge was built, so, as you can see,

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2 we're still waiting for the transit
3 component of the George Washington Bridge,
4 which will now never be done, even though
5 that was one of the benefits that the
6 whole cost of the George Washington Bridge
7 was relied upon when it was first
8 presented to the people of New York and
9 New Jersey.

10 The other option, if you go up the
11 Hudson River a little bit to the
12 Albany-Rensselaer Rail Station, there is
13 planned track and transit improvements
14 that were to be made as part of that
15 station. And likewise, the station con --
16 the station construction itself of the
17 building ran over budget, so the track
18 improvements that would have really helped
19 the local transit and also helped to --

20 MR. PLOTCHYK: Sir, you have 30
21 seconds.

22 MR. PROPHET: Okay.

23 -- and help to delay the trains was
24 much delayed and it has still not be done.

25 So what I ask for is that the

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2 transit be done at the exact same time as
3 the highway, or even before the highway,
4 because if the transit is done first, that
5 would allow people to take the trains
6 there while the construction is being
7 done, which, obviously, is going to be a
8 delay to people both on the Rockland and
9 also on the Westchester County sides.

10 Also, --

11 MR. PLOTCHYK: Mr. Prophet, you're
12 out of time, sir.

13 MR. PROPHET: I just want to finish
14 that one sentence.

15 MR. PLOTCHYK: Okay.

16 MR. PROPHET: Also on the Rockland
17 side, I would hope that the bus way would
18 use as much as possible outside of local
19 streets in order to increase the -- the --
20 in order to make the travel time much
21 quicker, because that is how the express
22 bus will be successful.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. PLOTCHYK: Thank you, sir.

25 Michael Levy.