

1 Proceedings

2 Mr. John Rooney, a New Jersey
3 General Assembly District 39, and then
4 Mr. Bob Jackson, representing Rockland
5 County. He's a Rockland County
6 Legislator.

7 MR. ROONEY: John Rooney. Yeah, I
8 was here on a fact finding mission today.
9 I wanted to find out a little bit more
10 about the Tappan Zee Bridge. Obviously,
11 the Bridge means as much to us in New
12 Jersey as it does to you in New York. And
13 I really enjoyed the presentation. It was
14 almost too much information at one time.
15 I'll have to look at it further, but I --
16 I noticed on the rapid transit component,
17 I've been in the Legislature in New Jersey
18 for 25 years. I represent the 39th
19 District, which starts down in Cresskill,
20 goes up to the Rockland County border,
21 goes over to Ramsey, goes down and around,
22 down Riveredge, in that area. I have 28
23 towns in my District. I represent 214,000
24 people. And many of us in the northern
25 Valley or the eastern section of this 39th

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1 Proceedings

2 District have been wanting rapid transit
3 or rail transit for many, many years.
4 They took it away from us I believe in the
5 late Fifties. It was on the West Shore
6 Line. And we've never gotten it back.

7 One of the things I noticed, when
8 you're looking at the two rail lines that
9 go through New Jersey, what is happening,
10 and the -- the calculations that you've
11 made on those rail lines, is that some of
12 that will go over into Metro-North on the
13 new link, whether it be the bus link or
14 the rail link.

15 What I'm proposing, what I proposed,
16 I've been on the light rail panel in New
17 Jersey for many years, they haven't met
18 probably in about seven years, but I was
19 on it for five years before that, what's
20 happened in New Jersey is we have the --
21 the Hudson Bergen light rail. That light
22 rail is coming up into Bergen County as we
23 speak. They're proposing that it go
24 through the northern line. That was the
25 old Erie Lackawanna, for those of you who

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1 Proceedings

2 don't know. And it's up through the
3 northern valley. They're only proposing
4 it to Tenafly.

5 What I've proposed over the years
6 has been, forget about Tenafly, go beyond
7 that. In fact, think outside the box. I
8 was proposing that it go up into the old
9 303 drive-in. For those of you who
10 remember the 303 drive-in. I happen to
11 live in Northvale, so that's a few miles
12 north anyway. It's -- Northvale is right
13 on the border. Go up 303 to the drive-in.
14 It used to be right there.

15 If you went up to the 303 drive-in
16 with this passenger line, the light rail,
17 and this is not the diesel units, if you
18 went up there, from there it's an easy
19 connection, if you would hook it up to the
20 proposed railing or bus lane going across
21 the Tappan Zee Bridge, you'd complete a
22 transit loop. You would have access to
23 New York City, because this is where many
24 of the people from my District go to work
25 everyday. This would add tens of

1 Proceedings

2 thousands of people to the list of riders
3 going across the Bridge, because it's an
4 untapped resource right now. We don't
5 have the ability to have passenger
6 service, whether it be rail -- well, we do 10
7 have bus. But that's always a problem.
8 But we -- we have that resource right
9 there. You wouldn't be taking away from
10 others. You'd add to it. So somebody
11 should --

12 MR. PLOTCHYK: Could you wrap up,
13 sir.

14 MR. ROONEY: Yes, I will.

15 One other thing is that think
16 outside the box. Look at that. It's a
17 potential of, like I said, tens of
18 thousands of riders.

19 I'd like to get involved in your
20 committee, if you'll allow an out of
21 stater. I also sit on the Environment 20
22 Committee, so I'd be very interested in
23 working with you.

24 Like I said, it's -- it's beneficial
25 to all of us, and we should look at

1 Proceedings

2 working together.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. PLOTCHYK: Thank you, sir.

5 Appreciate your comments.

6 Mr. Jackson.

7 MR. JACKSON: Thank you. First of
8 all, thorough, very thorough report. My
9 complements to you and the Committee.
10 Very nice.

11 Besides being on the Rockland County
12 Legislature, I'm also President of the
13 Nanuet Civic Association. And a few
14 questions came to mind, which I had
15 answered outside, and they were answered
16 now, but also impact with the Thruway
17 work, that it seems like if there's going
18 to be this much work done on the Thruway
19 in the future, that sound barriers or some
20 sort of sound remediation should be
21 incorporated with it. We have a pretty
22 big impact from the truck traffic now,
23 and I don't think the truck traffic will
24 be eliminated with this project, and it's
25 a very big impact on the neighborhoods