

From: JR Rowell
Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2016 8:15 PM
To: Bhardwaj, Priti S.
Cc:
Subject: Cribari Memorial Bridge

Ms. Priti S. Bhardwaj,

Upon reviewing the issue of the Ms. Priti S. Bhardwaj, I have two reactions. The first is that the problem begs for a solution to reroute the cross river traffic to and from Exit 18 of I-95. Sadly, when the highway was constructed, no exit to central Westport was constructed. This creates an insurmountable flow of traffic through Saugatuck and across the Saugatuck bridge. Until this is resolved, no plan to repair or expand the bridge will bring anything but chaos. More capacity will just bring more and heavier traffic.

Second, following the resolution of the I-95 exit traffic problem, I believe the most viable solution to the bridge repair would be a replacement with a replica bridge of greater capacity; still two lanes with greater width to facilitate the flow. This plan would most likely please the community which, I assure you, is essential.

Any attempt to dramatically expand the level of activity and traffic in the Saugatuck and train station area will meet with a great deal of resistance as the congestion will increase the isolation the western Westport and eastern Norwalk.

In general I believe that we now understand that increased capacity is no panacea. More capacity is met with more traffic. Sadly some react to this fact by saying "Gee, it was a good thing we made the roads wider, look at all this traffic growth. What if we hadn't made them wider." This is sadly flawed in the simplicity of its analysis. Before adding capacity, we need to design in the character and capacity management of the neighborhood so we citizens get what we want and need, not just what evolves.

Thank you for your attention,

Roger Rowell