

**From:** Douglas Odell  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 15, 2016 1:08 PM  
**To:** Bhardwaj, Priti S.  
**Cc:** Info@PreserveWestport.Com  
**Subject:** Saugatuck Bridge

My name is Douglas Odell - I live at \_\_\_\_\_ - which is two houses east of the bridge. I have read/heard conflicting opinions about the current safety of the bridge - by that I mean the underpinings and truss damage/deficiencies. Not being an engineer and not totally understanding the political motivations of the various sides of this debate I will only make these specific points:

> it is in everyone's interest to ensure the bridge is safe and that there is never any collapse due to structural deficiencies

> the bridge- being 132 years old - as well as many houses on Bridge Street - have significant historical importance to the town of Westport and their protection and preservation should be a top priority.

> No one could argue that widening the bridge **by a few feet** would minimize sideswipes (however - given that - according to traffic estimates of almost 24 million cars crossing over it in a 5 year period {2010-14} there were only 16 accidents - it seems like it has been pretty safe) and would provide safer passage for pedestrians and bikes. In my view the height limitation is a positive thing as it prevents heavy truck traffic in this already busy area. I see no positives to encouraging truck traffic to increase.

> given that and the fact over 13, 000 vehicles traverse the bridge daily - it is my view that the roads on either side of the bridge **should not be widened and nothing should be done that will encourage increased traffic over the bridge** - it is already much higher than it should be due to cars coming needlessly off 95 to get to the next entrance.

That is my two cents worth on this issue and I hope/trust the DOT & town will do the right thing.

Douglas Odell