From:	jsuggs preservewestport.com <jsuggs@preservewestport.com>
Sent:	Friday, July 01, 2016 2:32 PM
To:	DOT Environmental Planning
Cc:	info preservewestport.com
Subject:	WPA Says: "Adhere to your Own DOT OEP Plan - Preserve the Saugatuck Bridge!"
Attachments:	HistoricBridgePreservationPlan (1).pdf
Importance:	High

Dear Mr. Alexander,

We, the leadership of the Westport Preservation Alliance (WPA), an organization that has duly applied for "Consulting Party" status for this project under Federal Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as codified by 36 CFR 800.2, wish to underscore our strong interest in the preservation of the Saugatuck River Swing Bridge in Westport - now the nation's oldest, active span of its type.

Please know that this bridge, in addition to being an irreplaceable piece of our historic environment, remains an effective and important traffic calming and filtering device as well.

Accordingly, we urge your agency to follow the recommendations of your own Bridge Preservation Plan (CT DOT Office of Environmental Planning, May 1991 Attached) which made the following determination for this bridge:

- "Widening: Not practical, either through modification of the existing span or construction of parallel span, if the requirement of maintaining it as a movable bridge remains.
- Bypass: Not practical given the congested setting.
- Relocation: Not practical."

In accordance with your own Bridge Preservation Plan we urge you to simply repair the bridge's structural elements which currently need attention. (Note: For a copy of your Bridge Preservation Plan along with the complete documentation of virtually every aspect of the bridge, we would encourage you to visit our website at www.preservewestport.com). Following the restoration, we would like to see the DOT maintain the bridge with the kind of stewardship and pride that this significant historic resource merits.

Thank you for your consideration,

Helen Garten, Wendy Crowther, John F. Suggs and Morley C. Boyd

Westport Preservation Alliance