
From: Richard Lowenstein < >
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 7:33 AM
To: DOT Environmental Planning
Subject: Bridge Street/Cribari Bridge Project

I would like to offer for your consideration my comments on the subject project.

The biggest concern raised at the public meeting on June 15 was possible increased tractor-trailer truck traffic exiting or entering I-95 at Exit 17. I don't think it will happen, because going west on Greens Farms Road or east from Exit 17, there are five traffic lights from the Turnpike to Compo Road South, as well as two 90 degree turns; no trucker will tolerate five lights to avoid a jam, when it doesn't buy time.

Nonetheless, you are going to have to address this "problem" and I have two suggestions:

1. Insure that the maximum roadway height clearance on the bridge does not exceed 13'5". (Although there is no Federal vehicle height requirement for commercial vehicles, most height limits range from 13'6" to 14'.) That would be high enough to allow emergency vehicles like fire and Hazmat apparatus to cross with clearance.
2. Approve State Route 136 from Saugatuck Avenue to Compo Road South as prohibited to thru trucks. In addition, the Town of Westport should post Greens Farms Road -- from Compo Road South to the Fairfield line -- as a local "No Thru Trucks" road. (Here is a current list of State and local roads in Connecticut so posted: www.ct.gov/dot/lib/dot/documents/dstc/nothru Trucks.pdf)

Both actions will prevent large commercial vehicles from using local roads and the bridge to bypass the Turnpike.

The other concern was clearance under the bridge at mean high tide. It is my opinion that failing to raise the clearance will forever preclude Westport from fully realizing the Saugatuck River's potential for pleasure boating from the mouth of the river to just south of the Post Road/Route 1 bridge. Whether or not the river is ever dredged to allow larger pleasure boats to navigate upstream, raising the clearance under the bridge would at least allow it to be considered.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Richard Lowenstein