

June 30, 2016

Mr. Mark W. Alexander
Transportation Assistant Planning Director
Bureau of Policy and Planning
Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, Connecticut 06131

Re: The William Cribari ("Bridge Street") Bridge in Westport, CT

Dear Mr. Alexander,

I am writing concerning the proposed improvements to the William Cribari Bridge in Westport. There has been much local discussion by some in Westport as to the importance of retaining the historical feel of the old bridge. I disagree. What is important is that we get an attractive modern bridge that effectively and efficiently serves the current and projected future transportation needs for the location, including foot and bicycle traffic.

Justified concerns have been expressed about the possibility of heavy truck traffic on Greens Farms Road as a bypass route to I-95, but these concerns can be addressed by means other than historical design features, such as the current unnecessary and ugly truss superstructure, that detract from the safety and utility of the bridge.

The rich history of the Saugatuck area, including the river and the bridge, could be better preserved by a small local park near the bridge with pictures and narratives that illustrate the area's dynamic past.

Thank you for the opportunity for the community to express its concerns.

Kindest regards,



Christopher E. Lewis