
From: Lawrence Sherman < >
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 3:09 PM
To: DOT Environmental Planning
Cc: Lawrence Sherman
Subject: Remembering the "Cribari" bridge replacement that was safer and a breeze to cross

To

Mr. Mark Alexander
Transportation assistant planning director
Conn Department of Transportation Bureau of Policy and Planning
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06131

From;

Lawrence M. Sherman

Re: William Cribari Bridge in Westport, CT

Dear Mr. Alexander,

Just an observation that I hope you may find helpful in your planning for the repair or replacement of the Cribari Bridge.

From 1965 through 1990 (25 years), I occupied a window office at Bridge Square overlooking the (now appropriately called) Cribari Bridge. During that time the bridge (as it is now) was often crowded even during regular hours, as well as during peak traffic hours. Often with folks under stress trying to catch a train that might be about to leave without them, or to meet a train arriving with a potentially soon-to-be anxious family member or friend who might not be met at the train. Lots of stress! Lots of wasted gas.

I did not realize (and indeed was shocked to discover) that all this stress, and wasted gas, and lost time, and dangerous congestion, **was unnecessary.** (Especially for police cars and fire trucks trying desperately to get to, or from, an emergency) What did I notice?

You probably know well that, during that time, a temporary bridge was constructed just yards north of the old bridge to enable the repair of the old bridge. And your engineers can explain the following better than I can.

But did you know that, all of a sudden, the instant the new temporary bridge was opened and the old one was shut down, there was almost no more congestion? And for the many, many months (about 1 to 2 years) that the new bridge replaced the old bridge, traffic generally flowed without stopping (except for red lights). And that the new bridge was safer and quite beautiful; its graceful arc spanning the river.

Strangely, it was a sad day when the old bridge was repaired and the new bridge was dismantled and removed. It was progress destroyed. And what a waste of money! There were a lot of disappointed people when the old bridge was repaired and placed back in service. Immediately the old congestion, the wasted gas, the stress, the delays, the frustrations, and the danger, came back with a vengeance.

Remember, this serious and necessary bridge is the only way to cross the river south of the Post Road to get to the Norwalk Hospital, the train station, and the newly expanded Saugatuck restaurant and shopping area. When this bridge traffic is stopped (a frequent occurrence), traffic sometimes can work its way up to the Post Road. But then this further exacerbate the congestion already in the center of town. This then creates even more traffic, more stress, and more wasted gas.

Feel free to use my private email above to get my number to call me if you have any questions.

Good luck!

Larry Sherman