
From: Charles Schmerker < >
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 3:30 PM
To: DOT Environmental Planning
Cc: Westport Preservation Alliance
Subject: Westport's Cribari Swing Bridge

Dear Mr. Alexander,

My bottom line is: Repair and retain the Cribari Bridge.

Widening, moving or destroying the bridge will cause more problems than those actions will solve. My reasons and observations follow:

When Westporters come home we sigh and breathe deeply whether we get off the train or use Exit 17 from I 95. Waiting for us is our beloved, historic, Cribari Bridge. The historic bridge not only connects us to our Maritime history but is a silent witness to our past and perhaps more importantly it is a symbol durability and strength. The Cribari bridge reminds us of our heritage, the men and women who stood strong and faced incredible odds to create the Nation we have become. (No, it does not date back to 1776 but it has stood the test of time and many onslaughts to its existence.) Any changes to the bridge or its approaches threaten the environment on multiple levels. There will be added and heavier traffic that will pour out on to Greens Farms Road (Route 136) which is not designed to handle the heavier and additional vehicles. Noise pollution, air pollution and a very real danger to pedestrians and bikers are an outcome that can be counted on. Anything that would allow or encourage Semi Trucks on to Greens Farms Road would be a nightmare. I would go so far as to call it criminal. The Bridge, as it is currently constructed, acts as a traffic quieting feature. New construction would pose an environmental threat to the delicate shore line of the Saugatuck. Most importantly, Eminent Domain would come into play, causing heart ache, loss of property, businesses and further damage to the water and shore line. I am old enough to remember the heart ache and tears that were shed when I95 went through and historic homes and properties were lost. No one who lived through that wants to see others have the same thing happen again.

Fix I95 and most of Connecticut Department of Transportation's woes will be solved for that corridor.

PLEASE retain and repair our beloved bridge.

Respectively,

Mary Cookman Schmerker