
From: Luisa Francoeur < >
Sent: Sunday, June 19, 2016 3:01 PM
To: DOT Environmental Planning
Subject: William Cribari bridge, Westport

To the DOT

While the existing bridge is historic and lends a certain atmosphere to the area, I am not in favor of the status quo. However, I am also not in favor of 18 wheelers rumbling through the area to avoid the almost daily traffic delays on I-95. I hope you can arrive at a solution in the middle ground. If you could have a bridge with the existing height which disallows tall vehicles from using it but with greater width for current vehicle safety, that would be ideal in my opinion.

I have lived in Westport since 1951 so I remember the metal grid decks on our other two bridges which were later changed. Those metal decks felt so slippery and unsafe. I also remember the temporary bridge that was in place probably in the early 90's over the river in Saugatuck. I loved that bridge - it felt safe and the rise allowed the driver to catch a quick glimpse of the river while crossing.

Cars were shorter and narrower when the current bridge was built and so it is only fitting for the bridge to evolve with the times. But this area is congested daily from normal traffic at commuting hours and adding big trucks would be a disaster. But we do need a bridge that is safe and that should be of prime concern.

There should also be an effort to improve traffic flow along Route 1 with timed lights on its entire length and improved signals and left hand turn lanes to ease traffic at many of our intersections.

Do not forget pedestrians either - the current striping of crosswalks and crossing signals should be improved. Crosswalks should not be identical when they have different purposes : if a pedestrian is allowed to cross at any time and traffic should stop, then the crosswalk should get distinctive striping to differentiate it from those crosswalks that should only be used in conjunction with a traffic light. If they are all the same, then pedestrians will continue to cross at their whim.

And the push buttons for traffic should actually respond to a pedestrian instead of pushing a button and waiting and then the pedestrian gives up and just crosses anyway. Perhaps to allow for better car flow and improved pedestrian crossings, the lights should have a shorter cycle.

Sincerely,
Luisa Francoeur