From: Francis Henkels <

Sent: Friday, July 01, 2016 2:07 PM **To:** DOT Environmental Planning

Cc:

Subject: William F. Cribari Memorial Bridge, Westport, CT

Dear Mr. Alexander:

I am the chairman of the Westport, CT Historic District Commission. The commission voted to support the idea of rehabilitating the existing William F. Cribari Memorial Bridge (No. 01349) last October and sent a letter to Commissioner Redeker informing him of our position. In the interim period I have attended two public presentations in Westport by DOT informing the citizens of our community of the progress of the Rehabilitation Study Report for this bridge. It is my understanding from the more recent presentation that DOT has narrowed it's study to two possible options for correcting problematic conditions with this bridge; rehabilitation or replacement. As your organization is aware, this town has made a concerted effort in the past to preserve this bridge when it was considered for replacement and the state has invested a considerable amount of resources to upgrade the bridge while retaining much of it's original character.

I am sending this message to you today as an individual resident, lending my voice to the request that DOT pursue the option to rehabilitate the existing bridge rather than replace it. I was impressed with the level of study in the RSR given to the idea of rehabilitation and hope that it is an indication of the direction DOT is inclined to pursue. I should also compliment your team on how responsive they have been to the interests and concerns of our residents and to the effort they have made to keep us informed. It appears to me that rehabilitation of the bridge can solve all of the major problems uncovered, in the most cost-effective way and in a way that retains the character of this structure that is such a notable feature to the Saugatuck neighborhood of Westport.

Thank you for your consideration. **Francis H. Henkels**,