From: Sent: To: Cc: Subject:

Thursday, June 30, 2016 9:38 AM DOT Environmental Planning info@PreserveWestport.Com Saugatuck River Swing Bridge

Mark W. Alexander Transportation Assistant Planning Director CTDOT, Bureau of Policy and Planning 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT 06131 Email: dot.environmentalplanning@ct.gov

Dear Mr. Alexander,

Before providing you with my views on the Saugatuck River Swing Bridge I would like to introduce myself. I am the House Historian for the Westport Historical Society, the clerk for the Westport Historic District Commission, a Realtor and resident of Westport. I was the chair of the Saugatuck River Swing Bridge study report for the proposed Local Historic District Designation which I hope you have read.

My work in preservation, the history of Westport and the chair of the study report has given me a unique prospective of the history and historical significance of the bridge and how it has, and continues to, contribute to the historic aspects of the Saugatuck Village area.

I am concerned that if the bridge is replaced Westport will loss another one if its remaining historical elements to our past. It will also change the historical aspects of Bridge Street and the Saugatuck Village area. I strongly urge you to consider the option of repairing and preserving the bridge with its current appearance and dimensions.

I would be glad to discuss any historic aspect of the bridge and area. I can be reached either by phone, , or email of

Yours,

Bob Weingarten