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**From:** Ian Warburg < >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 29, 2016 12:34 PM  
**To:** DOT Environmental Planning  
**Cc:** VSJ I; Preserve Westport  
**Subject:** Westport, CT: Strong Support for the Preservation of the Cribari Bridge and Saugatuck  
**Attachments:** Cribari Bridge DOT letter 62916.pdf; ATT00001.htm

June 29, 2016

Mr. Mark W. Alexander  
Transportation Assistant Planning Director  
CTDOT, Bureau of Policy and Planning  
2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT 06131

**RE: Strong Support for the Preservation of Cribari Bridge and Saugatuck**

Dear Mr. Alexander:

This letter is written on behalf of the Board of Directors and the constituents and supporters of Save Westport Now, a non-partisan, not-for-profit, grassroots organization dedicated to protecting residential neighborhoods and preserving the small town, New England charm of Westport. For more than 35 years, Save Westport Now has worked diligently to support smart-growth initiatives and to help prevent the over commercialization of Westport.

Save Westport Now strongly supports the preservation of the Cribari Bridge. With a long view of our town's history and a very intimate understanding of the many attributes that coalesce to make Westport's neighborhoods—and in particular, the Saugatuck area—as special as they are, we write to urge you to protect and preserve this bridge.

This iconic structure is a valuable part of Westport's rich and colorful history, and is emblematic of Westport's New England charm and small-town character. Additionally, this bridge, as configured, ensures that Bridge Street and the Saugatuck area is not unduly burdened by additional commercial traffic, particularly 18 wheelers looking for alternative routes when I-95 experiences backups. With mobile device-based "Apps" such as Waze, and others, directing vehicles to detour from the highway onto surface roads, Bridge Street is already seeing unprecedented levels of traffic spilling off of the Interstate, adding significantly to the car-count and congestion entering into and through the small and quaint Saugatuck neighborhood.

The bridge's relatively small size ensures that traffic is primarily non-commercial and that it moves slowly, and in an orderly manner, through an already densely populated and historic residential neighborhood. While the traffic-related delays can be an annoyance at times, the safety of the residents, many of whom are children, is enhanced by the bridge and the road that approaches it. Save Westport Now is troubled by the CT DOT's plans to enlarge the span, particularly as, in addition to welcoming large vehicles, such proposals appear to necessitate the "taking" of private land to make room to construct the larger entrance and exit ramps for a larger bridge, and turning lanes, all of which will further encroach upon, and diminish, the peaceful character of the neighborhood.

For the health and safety of the local residents, and for character of the historic area in which it exists, as well as the economic vitality of the area, Save Westport Now believes that The Cribari Bridge is an important structure

and one that must be preserved and protected for the benefit of current and future Westporters.

Sincerely,

Save Westport Now

By Ian E. Warburg and Valerie Seiling Jacobs, Co-Chairs



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