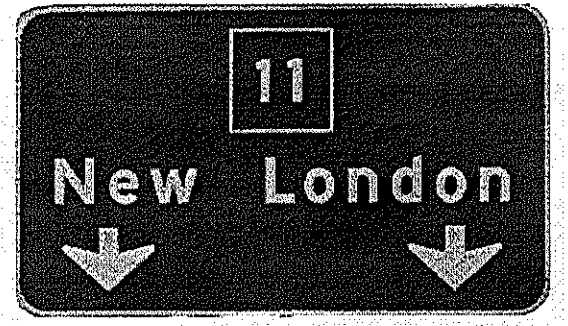
Testimony of Peter Siegman
Route 11 Greenway Commission
on SB 289 AAC The Establishment
of Tolls for the extension of
Route 11



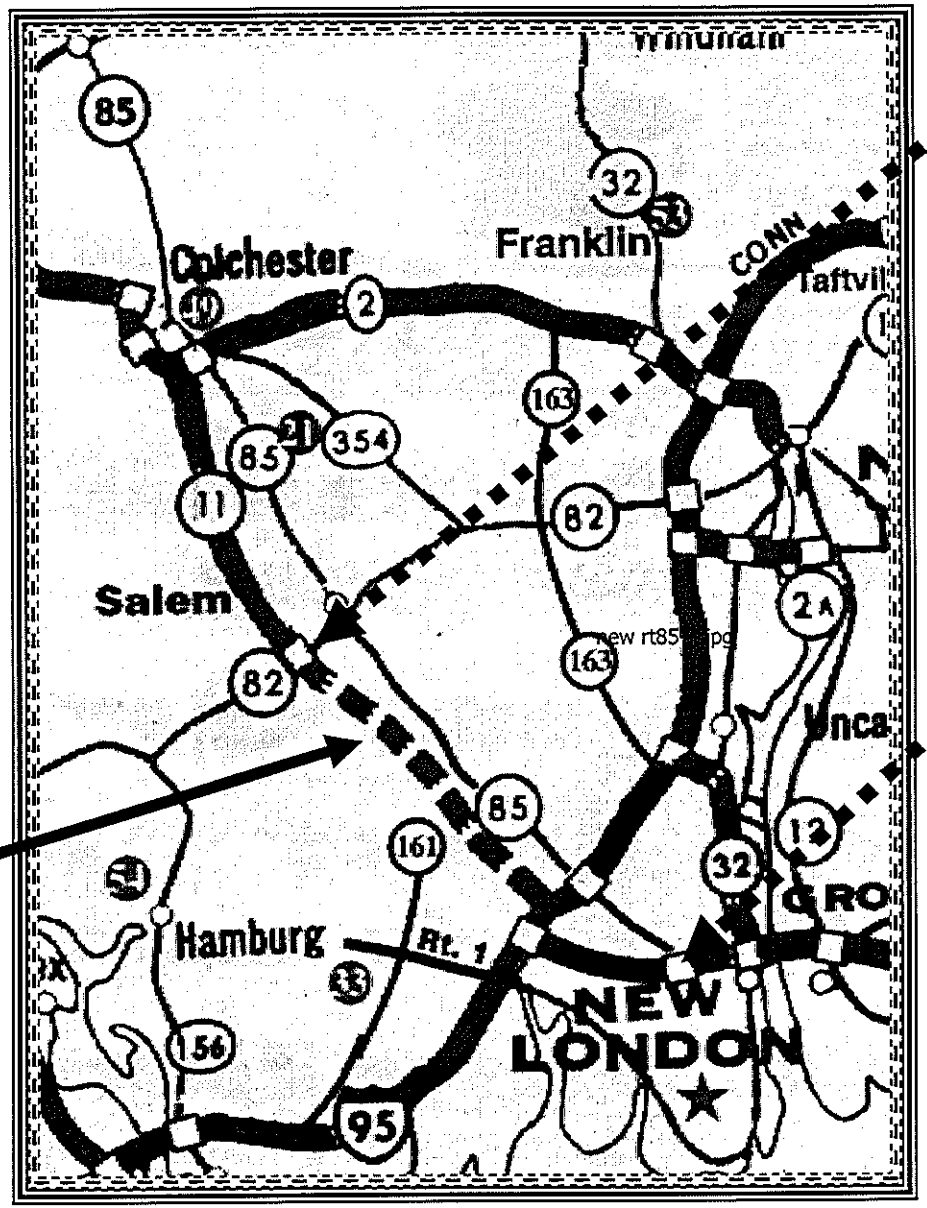
COMPLETING ROUTE 11...

1. Requires identifying a source of funding for the State's 20% portion (~$200M).

2. A dedicated toll is the only viable option.

3. Legislation for this toll passed the House- but was not acted on by the Senate.

***Therefore**: We need to get it passed!*



Route 11 completion

Routes 82/85:

112 curb cuts

12 traffic lights

Frequent delays

No shoulders

Many accidents

Fear… of the camel's nose under the tent

Tolls can cause:

- ***Congestion on local alternative roads***
- ***Loss of business customers***
- ***Delays and safety concerns***

BUT, *Completing Route 11 avoids these causes…*

Tolls can cause:

- ***Congestion on local alternative roads.***

Rather, local alternative road congestion will decrease because construction is on a new alignment.

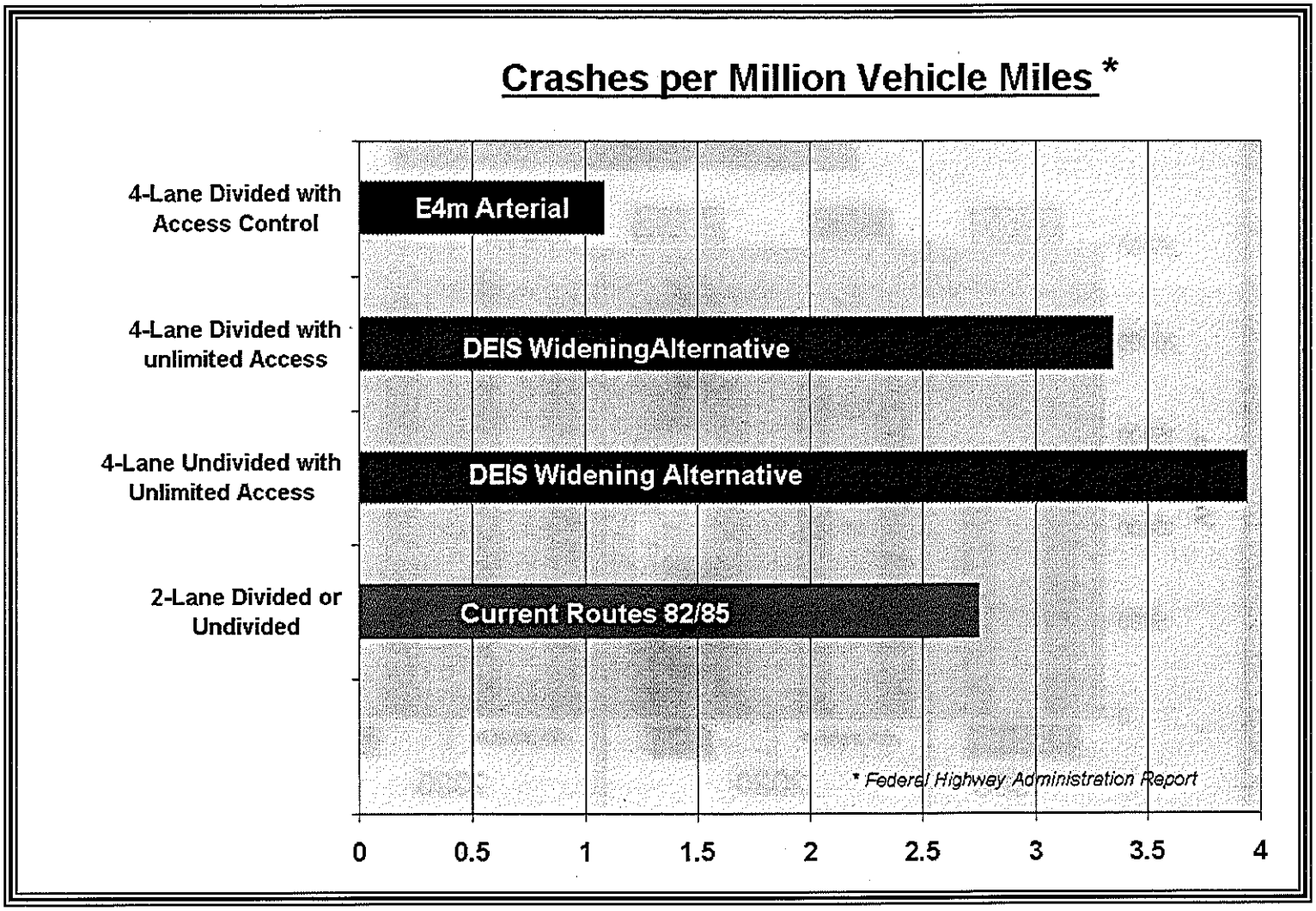
- ***Loss of business customers.***

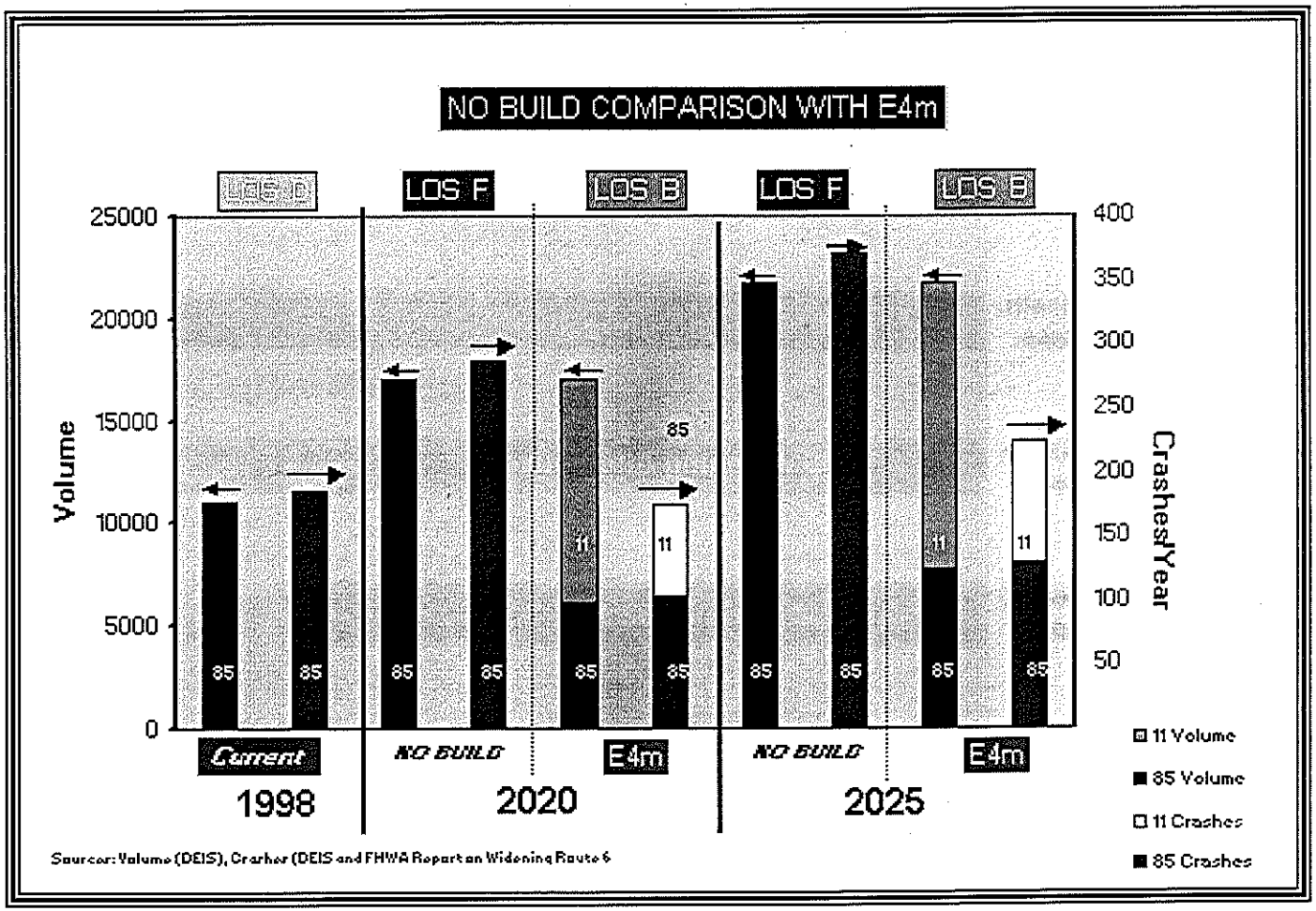
Rather, Crystal Mall will become more accessible and service businesses on Route 85 will be safer to patronize.

- ***Delays and safety concerns.***

Rather, Delays will be eliminated and safety improved. Predicted level of service will go form F to B.

EZ-Pass.


Crashes per Million Vehicle Miles *
4-Lane Divided with Access Control
E4m Arterial
4-Lane Divided with unlimited Access
DEIS WideningAlternative
4-Lane Undivided with Unlimited Access
DEIS Widening Alternative
2-Lane Divided or Undivided
Current Routes 82/85
* Federal Highway Administration Report
0
0.5
1
1.5
2
2.5
3
3.5
4


NO BUILD COMPARISON WITH E4m
LOS D
LOS F
LOS B
LOS F
LOS B
Volume
25000
20000
15000
10000
5000
0
Crashes/Year
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
85
11
Current
NO BUILD
E4m
NO BUILD
E4m
1998
2020
2025
11 Volume
85 Volume
11 Crashes
85 Crashes
Source: Volume (DEIS), Crashes (DEIS and FHWA Report on Widening Route 6

In Addition…Completing Route 11 will:

- Provide a viable emergency evacuation route
- Enhance Port of New London utility
- Create construction jobs
- Make a Feasible New London/Hartford mass transit
- Solve the I95 safety problems at I395 interchange
- Eliminate competition for State transportation funds … needed by other State projects
- It is the Least Environmentally Damaging Practical Alternative (Army Corps of Engineers: LEDPA)

A Toll Study Is Underway…

Properly structured tolls will:

- Save money for truckers (time and fuel)
- Save money for commuters (special rates)
- Save money for infrequent users (fuel efficiency)

Anyone can continue to use Routes 85 and 82- **I won't!**

Pollution and aggravation will be reduced!

We need your help in getting Senate passage of:

Senate Bill No.289: "The Department of Transportation is authorized to establish electronic tolls for purposes of the extension of Route 11 from Salem to I95, provided,(1) such tolls shall only be located on the newly constructed extension, and (2) when all bonds issued for such construction have been retired, such tolls shall be discontinued."

It is not a camel... Rather, it is a region that wants to pay for the State's portion of a desperately needed infrastructure improvement that will benefit the entire State and create jobs when we most need them.