

Re: "CCC bridge division gets new director; Department looks at removal of tolls," Page B1, Nov. 30.

In the article, Crescent City Connection Director David Tippet discusses the elimination of bridge tolls and ferry service. As a West Bank resident who works in the French Quarter, I am alarmed that reports have ignored the real issue: being able to cross the river. This is not a question of tolls or no tolls, ferries or no ferries. It is a matter of bridge congestion.

According to the Department of Transportation and Development, the bridge has been at capacity during peak hours since 1994. Currently, 2.9 million passengers use the ferries annually. They calculate that if ferry service is eliminated, more than 5,000 additional cars per day will take the bridge.

Add minimal policing by overburdened local law enforcement and inadequate lighting during the evening commute. It's a recipe for disaster! How many more accidents will there be and how much longer will it take to clear a breakdown or accident? Once Federal City is fully operational that 5,000 additional cars increases significantly.

The only answer is to get as many cars off the bridge as possible. That means an improved ferry service, not its elimination.

Save the tolls. Save the ferries. Save the bridge.

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