

Dear West Tisbury Select Board -

I am unable to attend this week's meeting due to the County Commissioners' meeting occurring simultaneously. I'd appreciate it if this short note could be read into the meeting record at the time you take up the issue of the 5:30 SSA trip.

I fully appreciate representative Malkin's request for support of his position regarding the 5:30 SSA trip. I also am sympathetic to the position of the Woods Hole residents requesting its discontinuance, while also cognizant of theirs likely being a minority position within the town of Falmouth.

However, I believe it is inappropriate to vote to support retention of the trip - or not - without solid metrics as to why. Simply wanting it is not enough; there must be a justifiable need. If we don't have specifics regarding traffic, delivery volume, etc. that define the positive impacts to the island vs. negatives from removing the trip, there is not sufficient reason to either support or object to the position. While the logic of Mr. Malkin's opening paragraph in his recent letter makes sense, I think actual figures are needed to support it; simply stating it is insufficient. Exactly how many trucks are involved? How many commuters? Are there truly ripple effects?

I urge you to obtain such specific information before taking any vote on this matter.

Thank you,
Doug Ruskin