

**N21 (R300) Cape Town Ring Road  
Comments in Response to Newspaper Articles (Charles Oertel)**

DATE RECEIVED	SURNAME	INITIAL	ORGANISATION	SECTOR	COMMENT
26/09/02	Solz	J		1	<p>I think that it is disgusting that the govt. allows a toll road to be built along the Blue Route etc., apart from the dreadful damage to wetlands and environment which is never adjusted, to expect working people to pay these exorbitant prices on a daily basis at no expense to themselves plus the eternally rising cost of petrol etc here which also doesn't affect them as well as having a detrimental effect on all properties in the various areas. What about the new and exorbitant rate hikes that people are being forced to pay (also without their approval) The Government will have to revalue all the houses in the affected areas and reduce our rates drastically. I also note that no toll road runs past any of the wealthy areas so once again the ones who can afford it come off smiling again. These ridiculous roads are not necessary nor wanted by the people of Cape Town. Just the people who are in it for the money are pushing and the government once more are neglecting the wishes of the people.</p>
26/09/02	Le Mesurier	R			<p>Please register me as AGAINST this toll road. As far as I can see, they are replacing roads that anyone can use anytime, with roads that are going to cost money to use. This will push up the cost of transport and hence the cost of everything. The cost of work will increase (as people have to pay more to get to and from work), which means the net take-home pay of the average man decreases. And never mind that we have already paid for those roads, and now they want us to pay again. Then all the issues that you mention in your letter. I have been wondering how to get myself heard - I don't believe that the politicians involved</p>

					will actually listen to how reality works. Please make sure I am heard .
27/09/02	Sterling Needham	C S			The proposed toll road would be an environmental disaster. The damage could never be undone, and would far outweigh any potential advantage which the road might have.
27/09/02	Reed	M		1, 5	I am shocked to learn that we still have this kind of mindset in our communities. We need to stop this development. I recently did a short guide course at the Rondevlei Nature Reserve. It was sponsored by Ivumbu Nature Tours. James Curry was our course leader. I feel that we should involve our Grassy park community and would like to know how we can go about it.
30/09/02	Fisher	Dr M		1	I wish to record my strong objection to this travesty of planning and miscarriage of social justice. No person can justify the destruction of any environment on our earth - given the history of what man has done to the earth. What else do we need to do to convince the stupid engineers and planners that we will not have this development - which clearly will be detrimental to the health of all who live near the proposed structure.
30/09/02	Boonzaier	Sharon			It is an absolute shame that powerful people of large companies do not channel more of their resources into saving and preserving environments. We hear so often about the destruction of our earth on a grand scale (the statistics are frightening). There just aren't enough preservation and conservation programmes being implemented to override the speed of destruction. In this light, I am deeply upset to hear about the development of this highway/ toll road. It must be stopped. Man has the ability to destroy and protect the environment and that is what we need to do: protect the vulnerable wetland areas and all its precious wildlife. I strongly oppose the development of this road.
30/09/02	Lee	Dr N			Having been overseas for some time, I knew nothing of this ghastly proposal before yesterday, so come to it with a fresh

				<p>eye. My first question is 'who needs this?' Practically everywhere else in the world, it has been found that new roads simply make the traffic situation worse, and leads to environmental degradation. The time for a road such as this might have been in the days when there was little development in the Cape Flats, and development could have been designed around it. However, the disruption which it would now produce in what is a highly-populated area is quite unacceptable. I live in Simon's Town, so frequently have to travel up the line. At peak hours and public holidays, the congestion at the lower end of the Simon van der Stel Highway (Blue Route) is already chaotic. To dump the outflow from a six lane expressway right in the middle of it is crazy thinking. It would have been better to continue the Blue Route further south when it was still possible to do so. However, it would probably have been unthinkable for those who pull the strings around here to disturb the hallowed precincts of the Westlake golf course. Nature reserves are of course a different matter. Birds don't complain, except to go away and not come back. At present, the area around Zeekoevlei and Rondevlei has a quiet charm all its own. I cannot think of a more disastrous thing to do to it than to drive a six-lane expressway through the lower end. I belong to the Novalis Institute in Kenilworth which was originally designed so that outside meetings could take place. That is now out of the question, because of the roar of fast-moving traffic on the M5 highway, and exactly the same will happen if this monstrosity is built.</p> <p>Since I have been back in SA, I have noted with dismay that our areas of natural beauty are all being heavily encroached upon. The tide of development is already creeping up the Silvermine Nature Reserve on both sides. The Constantia Valley is rapidly turning into an up-market housing estate. The natural history of these schemes seems to be that a consortium of people from outside the Cape get together and start quietly acquiring land. They then make their</p>
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				<p>proposal public (usually on Christmas Eve, or at some time when most people are preoccupied with something else.). Then, 'public participation' is invited. Public meetings are all too often designed to inform the public what is going to happen without any chance for them to have any meaningful say, and a careful look will reveal that the bulldozers moved in months ago - evidence to me at least that the developers already had tacit approval from the local government pundits. My bleak conclusion is that in spite of all their much-vaunted environmental awareness, local politicians have neither the will nor the guts to resist proposals by wealthy consortia. The Cape is a major tourist attraction, or has been in the past. Personally, I can now think of far more attractive places to visit. Who wants to come thousands of miles to look at yet another urban sprawl? Americans, Europeans and Japanese will not want to spend their expensive holiday money on looking at yet another mess of undistinguished architecture. No, the charm of the Cape is going fast, and it is developments like this that are accelerating the process. The cherry on top for this proposal is that it is to be a toll road. I have a particular hatred of toll roads. The motorist has already been heavily milked of money from road tax and fuel duty, and to shove extra money into the pockets of entrepreneurs simply for the privilege of driving on 'their' roads is anathema to me. It was bad enough that the refurbished Chapman's Peak road is to be a toll road, which means that many, myself included, will continue to travel over Constantia Nek if they want to go to Hout Bay.</p> <p>I could of course go on, but you have probably already heard much of what I would say.</p>
30/09/03	Vernon	Margaret		<p>Must every living thing be sacrificed for man's convenience? So much of our natural environment has already been destroyed and lost for us and for future generations. Can we not investigate another more nature friendly route for this road? Or, better still, improve the public transport services?</p>

1/10/02	Bhyat	Zaheer			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed road is in clear violation of the City of Cape Town's Spatial Development Framework. - the road is at odds with the City's public transport objectives.</li> <li>• We do not need a new road, we need an integrated transport plan and better public transport. - Cape Town will benefit more from keeping it's nature reserves unspoilt than from having this road.</li> </ul>
10/10/02	Sandell	Janet			<p>Having lived in the Marina da Gama for 26 years and enjoyed the natural beauty that Sandvlei and it surrounds has to offer, I am strongly, vehemently opposed to the construction of this new road, which is purported to have so many advantages to all the residents of this area and others. Nowhere in the Cape is there a more beautiful and natural area in which to live, where, free of traffic and the frenzied hub-bub of daily life, one can walk dogs, birdwatch, walk on fynbos (in Park Island) and generally feel in touch with nature more than in any other development that I know of in the Cape Peninsula. That a road such as the proposed R300, (which will endanger 14 endangered species), without bringing great advantages to the majority of people whom it affects, is even contemplated is short-sighted to say the least, and in more sinister terms, diabolical. From a selfish point of view, I would hate to have my living standards compromised by such an unnecessary and expensive evil, but for the people living in Lavender Hill and parts of Steenberg, who already have such a dismal existence, it is unthinkable. Please add my name to those opposing the construction of this road.</p>
10/10/02	Coetzee	Eddie and Florence		1	<p>We hereby wish to voice our objection to the building of the toll road. Man has destroyed enough of nature – be it animals, mammals or insects, flying crawling or walking. Our natural heritage is important – taking it away will kill our water resources, which is already at a danger point. We will end up with desert instead of fertile land – can we really afford this and be so shortsighted in our greed for more? So</p>

				<p>let us not sit back and let more be lost due to the greed of man – we will end up killing ourselves as Nature has a job for all of us, and although we may not all realise the magnitude of the connection, it is there.</p> <p>May we preserve what is left for our children and all populations after us. May we go down in history as a caring world doing all in our power to preserve the world for future generations, and in so doing preserve our very existence on this planet.</p> <p>To build highways and freeways – when there is no money available to maintain the existing roads – and in doing so endanger the or even threaten the very existence of our wildlife/wetland species and our future selves - is ludicrous. Hoping that this will help the 'know-alls' to see the light!</p>
10/10/02	Johnston	B S		<p>I wish to register my profound disagreement with the proposed toll road in place of and also extending the R300. First of all, it is absolutely immoral that the inhabitants of one or two suburbs of a major city should have to pay a toll fee if they happen to either work or have family or have other affairs to attend to where using the city's roads are a necessity. Are there any other cities in the world where there is a toll road inside city limits that some people would have to use to get to work as there is virtually no other convenient route available to them? Secondly, it is immoral as well as, above all, unethical, for roads already bought and paid for out of the rates levied by the city, town or province to be handed over to a private, profit-motivated group who only have eyes for their own financial gain.</p> <p>Certainly, there are promises by the group that the 'handed-over' roads will be upgraded and regularly maintained, but that does not get away from the fact that toll-roads should not be permitted within city boundaries, and I include the proposed Chapman's Peak road in this category. Public roads are for the public, no matter what their financial status. Let private roads be built outside the city boundaries by all means, but only if they are totally and completely divorced</p>

					from existing and alternative routes. Then, let those who wish to, and can afford it, use them while the rate-paying and tax-paying citizens use public roads which are already paid for.
10/10/02	Taylor	Isabel			What are we doing to our Fairest Cape? The idea of yet another multi-lane highway across the Cape Peninsula is horrifying. The planners of this unnecessary road obviously care not at all for our wildlife and environment. Whoever heard of a highway actually being planned to run through sensitive wetlands and nature reserves? Not only will wildlife suffer. People living along the route of the proposed road will be affected. Who wants a highway on their doorstep with its accompanying ugliness, noise and pollution? The planners of this unwanted road are bound to live elsewhere, out of sight of the ruined countryside they will leave for others to inherit. I appeal to those in control of these matters to stop this planned devastation before it is too late.
10/10/02	Watson	Eve		1	As a property owner in Marina da Gama which is part of the wider Zandvlei Wetlands area, I am very concerned at the short-sighted and mindless approach to pushing through yet another construction in the guise of progress. This road will be more effective in destroying what little we have left in terms of natural resources than adding to our already congested and over-utilised land areas. Can the powers that be REALLY not recognise the final destruction of our natural areas. We've just had, at great expense to our country, the World Summit, do we not even listen to a word we were preaching? I am also a Field and Tourist Guide and even here I believe that we have a valuable resource as there are people in the world who wish to see, experience and pay for the opportunity of being in such unique nature in a metropolitan area. How can we believe that certain areas are important such as Cape Point Nature Reserve and neglect such vital areas as wetlands? Wake up and smell the daisies... before it is too late!
10/10/02	Cooke	Howard			I subscribe fully to a more scientific approach to evaluating

					the impact. Let's recall the St Lucia sand dune protests that staved off big powerful companies ripping up a national asset for a quick buck.
10/10/02	Sephton	Simon			I object in the strongest possible terms to the proposed development of the N21/R300 toll road. There has been either no or utterly inadequate consultation with those affected, either road neighbours or the greater Cape Town community or the Conservation community. It is my understanding that the road will impinge in an utterly unacceptable fashion on the already depleted Cape Flats Wetlands and severely threaten the viability of a number of species and of our natural heritage. I petition those responsible for the planning permission, the developers, and all other interested parties to put the development on hold and to engage in meaningful consultation. You may object that this will hold the development up at great economic cost to yourselves. I would counter that the environmental AND ECONOMIC cost of hastening this development outweighs such losses by many times, and that if you are concerned about the potential losses to yourselves, you should pack the project in and invest in something that is more environmentally responsible instead.
14/10/02	Lawton	Anne			I would like to place on record my concern about this freeway, which I believe is getting our priorities all wrong. Do you think that at this stage my objection will make any difference to the developers? These days one is often called to comment but in the end, things very often seem to go ahead regardless.
14/10/02	Humphrys	R V			My views coincide with yours 100%. You have my full support.
25/10/02	Fountain	Graham			It is with great interest and consternation that I read your article in the ECHO tonight and decided to act immediately. I happen to travel in the areas that will be affected by this new highway on an every day basis. It is with indignation that I read of another bulldozing of other peoples' intentions onto the general public, with little or nothing we can do, or

				<p>say about it and quite frankly, I am getting sick and tired of our rights being slowly eroded, until we will be nothing but pawns to those in "power", or those in "Authority". We already have had the toll of Ou Kaapseweg forced upon us, and I say forced, as I was part of the "Questionnaire" process and voiced my strong objection, and don't know of one supporter amongst the many many friends I've spoken to in all the communities, but they are going ahead with it. The changes to the Chapman's Peak road, which will put that route way beyond the pocket of the average man in the street. The "Cape Town" Cable Car which has eliminated 98% of Capetonians because of its price structure and I could go on, to now hear of this absolute abhorrent "development" which will not only devastate the environment and many delicate nature ecologies, but further restrict the right of our citizens to free access to our own urban surrounds, now goes totally against the grain. What will Mr Public have to do to show his objection? It seems that "Toy Toying" no longer has any effect, mass strike action is being rollercoastered into oblivion and what options are left are just too fearful to contemplate. But in the end, what choices are we given if there is no-one who will listen to the voice of objection/ reason or just good old-fashioned common sense. Makes one wonder, doesn't it?</p>
29/10/02	McPherson	P		<p>I wish to voice my objection to the proposed N21/R300 toll road because the vast amount of money expended will only benefit the rich, not the poor, and will not solve any traffic problems. Surely the common sense answer to the problem is for the money to be invested in a good reliable public transport system. We already have the infrastructure. It is ridiculous that a city the size of Cape Town does not have decent and secure public transport. Does anyone worry how the poor get to work or anywhere? How can we expect to host the Olympic Games without being able to offer rail and road transport? Apart from which, what happened to our wonderful rail transport, which obviated the necessity for the</p>

					current heavy duty and very expensive road vehicular use? So much money wasted on toll roads which will only benefit a few is ridiculous, apart from all the environmental damage which will be caused and then it will still not solve the traffic problems.
4/11/02	De Kock	P J D		1	I would like to register my objection to the proposed new M21/R300 toll road. We do not need this road. The roads at present in the area are not congested. We are a poor country and cannot afford or need this kind of development, when basic government departments like food policy and education are short of funds. The areas transversed by this new road would destroy the few attractive sites in these otherwise dreary suburbs, so why take away the few they have. As a bonus Zeekoevlei and Rondevlei attract a lot of foreign currency.
4/11/02	Archibald	J M	Fish Hoek/Clovelly Ratepayers' Association		I refer to your letter in 'The Echo' dated 24 <sup>th</sup> October and wish to add my voice to yours in protecting most strongly against the proposed construction of the above toll road. The possible or, no doubt, definite exterminations of so many endangered species is unforgivable as is the destruction of so much natural beauty and of open space where one can enjoy nature at its best. We live in such a beautiful part of the world, which is being systematically eroded by those whose only motivation is greed. I am already a member of the Fish Hoek Clovelly Ratepayers' Association and I hope this and the above comments might help in some way towards stopping the development.
4/11/02	Clark	Patricia			I was very pleased to see your letter in the Constantiaberg Buletin. I, too, am horrified by the prospect of this totally unnecessary and destructive road. I attended the Blue Route Open House and completed a form indicating my objections to this road – returning it to Chand/Ecosense. I am a member of the Cape Bird Club and also the Wildlife and Environment Society. Both of these societies object to this road. At the Zandvlei Bird Sanctuary the Cape Bird Club recorded 60 species on Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> September. At Rondevlei

				<p>on the 6<sup>th</sup> October, between 40 and 50 species were recorded. There were hundreds of Sacred and Glossy Ibis nesting in the reeds and filling the sky. At Strandfontein, there must be even more species. Rondevlei is used extensively by school groups – a wonderfully uplifting experience for young people. Must all this be sacrificed to a road that goes nowhere – only to increase the pressure on an already overcrowded South Peninsula? These are my own concerns, but I heard others at the Blue Route Open House, who were very upset by the prospect of the disruption of their own areas. With dedication and planning, much could be done to ease the transport problem without this road. The trains, which used to be excellent, are underutilised, for example. This beautiful place must not be destroyed.</p>
4/11/02	Warren	M C		<p>Will you please tell the developers of the proposed toll road to take their business elsewhere? We do not need these roads and we don't need their tolls. When I want to go to Cape Town from Plumstead the Black River Parkway is good enough for me, and most South Peninsula users. We don't need a four-lane highway to get us there and back. People will not be able to afford the tolls, so that they will use other roads. The developers will destroy our environment and will not get their money back.</p>
4/11/02	Van Belle	Eve		<p>Thank you very much for your article in <i>The Echo</i> – it was a wake-up call for me indeed. I studied the websites and with this letter wish to protest against the construction of the R300/N21 for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It will destroy the little that is left of the Cape Flats Flora. The damage to the natural areas of Zeekoevlei, Rondevlei, the sewerage works and Zandvlei will be enormous – the very tenuous natural link that exists between these areas will be destroyed as well.</li> <li>• It will cut communities in half and create extra noise and pollution. These are mainly poor communities – a road for the rich will slice through the communities of the poor.</li> </ul>

- Endangered species do not respond well to translocation, even if a 350 hectare reserve was created somewhere else.
- It will be a visual eyesore – so much of the peninsula has already been covered with eyesores, we don't need another one.
- We don't need this road! When I studied the map, all I saw was a direct link of the northern suburbs with the "Deep South". People going to Cape Town will not use this road, so little of the congestion will be eased. As it is a toll road, the expense of using it will increase the price of goods transported over it. Most people will not be able to afford this road, and I doubt if public transport will use it. It will lie there like a huge six-lane white elephant!

I therefore object strongly to the construction of this road. The developers cite tourism as one of their motivations for the road. Tourists come here to get away from the overcrowded, overdeveloped Europe: to visit a wetland and see flamingoes and pelicans rise into the sky, to stand on a mountain and look down on the lakes – not on the sweep of another highway. This is a project only to make the rich richer – it will be a road for the rich, impoverishing poor communities even further. Should we not be narrowing the gap between rich and poor? The public transport in Cape Town is a disgrace. Twenty years ago I was a train commuter – I would not dare be one now. It takes my domestic worker two hours to get from Khayelitsha to Fish Hoek, as there is no direct link between these two communities – she has to commute through Cape Town. She arrives late about 80% of the time because of the unreliability of public transport. The multimillions needed to construct this road should rather be used to create a safe, integrated, extensive and reliable public transport system. This would result in fewer cars on the road and reduce the need for extra road-building, as well as serving the whole

				community.
4/11/02	Cousins	Karen		<p>I have been a resident in the Sandvlei area since 1973 and am currently a homeowner in Marina da Gama. We purchased this property in the early 80's because of the tranquillity of this residential area. Nowhere to the south of us were any large industrial operations or highways. I am deeply concerned that this proposed multilane high way is going to plough through two magnificent nature reserves with fantastic bird populations.</p> <p>Some of the statements in your article are rather frightening and one has to question the mentality of some of the answers eg – grain birds eating the grain from spillage off trucks. What is also rather disturbing is that I recently spoke to a Town Planner, working for Cape Town City Council and he said that there has been a complete change in the world thinking that highways solve congestion problems. What had been deduced is that all highways do is encouraging more traffic on the roads. First world countries are now moving away from excessive highway development. He also mentioned that there is a move towards encouraging high-density development along railway lines to ensure use of public transport.</p>
13/11/02	Whitelock	A		<p>I am very concerned about the proposals to put in a major road around the edge of Cape Town and its environs and understand that you are co-ordinating comments on the issue. I should be grateful if you would include mine, which I set out in this letter. A major concern is the irreversible impact such development would have on the natural environment. Once damaged, destroyed, or disturbed, the habitats and nature reserves could never be reinstated. The Western Cape prides itself on its biodiversity. Quite rightly, as much of the charm of the Cape Town area is the mix of sophisticated city with specialised and interesting natural areas nearby. By carrying out this proposed road development, we would lose the habitat of important endangred species, disrupt plants, animals and birds, many</p>

					<p>of which are specialised, a wonderful and diverse estuary, wetlands which are being eroded throughout this country and elsewhere and, again, can never be restored fully. We have far too much to lose, and the diversity of our whole area, will be seriously affected. As far as toll charges are concerned, my overall view is that communication and infrastructure are very important in ensuring that communities integrate, and are not kept apart by imposing a cost on movement between areas. This is surely extremely relevant in our New South Africa, and where perhaps a toll charge is acceptable on a major national road across the country, it is not in close proximity to urban and residential areas.</p>
18/11/02	Bocker	Ruth			<p>On behalf of parents and staff and the learners at Chinchilla Pre-primary – Lakeside, I would like to voice our concern about the proposed development of the N21/R300 toll Road. Part of our educational program is to instill in our learners a respect and love for nature and we have always felt extremely lucky to have so much free educational material on our doorstep! Our children love nature walks and watching and feeding the birds. At the same time learn important life skills about care for the environment and pollution. Having lived for 23 years just behind the Main Road in Lakeside I am fully aware of the environmental impact of a highway has. (The noise and fumes during summer weekends made it impossible to sit outside.) The proposed measures of the environmental consultants seem more at the level of our pre-school pupils than that of realistic adults. We are very grateful to Charles Oertel for bringing this threat to our environment to our attention. Hopefully lots of people feel the same way.</p>
18/11/02	Wilson	Claire		1	<p>I would like to express my uttermost disapproval of the planned toll road to link the M3 with the R27 via the R300. This development would essentially destroy much of the precious wetlands of the Cape Flats. I am a resident of Kirstenhof &amp; know only too well of the benefits such a</p>

					<p>project would bring to the area however, such developments cannot continue at the expense of the Environment!! Anyone that is even moderately educated in the natural world knows the importance of wetland ecosystems, they play a major role in the hydrological cycle and have one of the highest levels of biological productivity of all the world's ecosystems and therefore provide habitats for a variety of plants and animals. I understand the road will affect at least 12 endangered species and in my opinion on this basis alone, the plans should not be allowed to go ahead.</p>
18/11/02	De Jong	P			<p>Is there no end to environmental degradation in the name of progress? It is with serious and deep concern that I learn that this route is still on the drawing board, and the proposals have not been shelved. I am totally opposed to this ill - conceived development, and understand that it will mean the end of the False Bay Ecology Park in the name of "Progress". There is absolutely no way that any person aware of ecotourism and environmentally sensitive will allow this development to proceed.</p> <p>Please register my total opposition to this project, which will be an end to ecological sensitive, sound and sustainable development. The drawcard of tourism is a compelling reason to shelve this monstrous idea; any justification must surely fly in the face of any reason. I ask Mr Vally Moosa, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, through a copy of this letter, to intercede and prevent unscrupulous developers ravaging what remains of Cape Coastal Fynbos. Prevent this madness and let sanity prevail.</p>
22/11/02	Burchell	Maureen			<p>I would like to join the list of people protesting against the new road, for environmental reasons. I do not believe that Cape Town should be turned into yet another concrete jungle. The attraction and beauty of our city is that one can "escape" from the hustle and bustle and enjoy the privilege of our environment and the wildlife that it has to offer. Hopefully it will still be there for my grandchildren!!</p>
22/11/02	Woodward	R and S			<p>I would like to express my unreserved opposition to the</p>

				<p>proposed ring-toll road that Penway wishes to build. Quite clearly the motive behind this suggestion is financial and has little or no consideration for the highly sensitive ecological zones through which the road will pass. The Western Cape, and particularly the Westlake/Zandvlei area is a unique and valuable environment, which will be severely impacted by this road. The development of an extended False Bay Ecology Park would bring long term benefits to a wide range of local people, not only through recreational participation but also through increased tourism. The toll road will only benefit a small group of developers and operators who have no stake in the area.</p>
22/11/02	Frost	T G		<p>I object to the proposed toll road (ring road for Cape Town) Nature and conservation areas need to be protected not destroyed. It is areas such as these, which will prove vital to all life in the not too distant future. I am already paying a toll to drive on the roads in this country - namely car and other vehicle licences. I do not need to have pay an additional toll to continue using our roads.</p>
25/11/02	Hamp-Adams	Nicky		<p>This serves to lend support to your argument against the building of the N21/R300 Toll Road. I am staggered by the greed (in the form of "development") that I continually see around me. I wonder when it is that certain members of our incredibly myopic species are going to wake up and realise that we are the custodians of our planet and its environments and that as such, we have privileges, duties and not rights. We have already caused so much damage through our lack of vision, our short-sighted greed and our overwhelming desire for profit - irrespective of ultimate cost. To build this road and thus risk exterminating over 14 already endangered species is nothing short of murderous and inhumane. It flies in the face of everything that humanity is "supposed" to encompass - human - humane - humanity = compassionate and benevolent. But ethical objections aside, although the road does not "directly" affect the area where I live, it nevertheless affects me. My Sunday</p>

				<p>drives down to Kalk Bay will probably become even more of a nightmare (let's not even think about the holiday season) as more and more cars suddenly have access to places and roads that can simply not carry them. In summer and on weekends the Main Road and Boyes Drive already strain under the flow of traffic as cars stand stationary for ages belching out exhaust fumes while their occupants get increasingly hot and bothered and angry. The desecration of the environment, flora and fauna affects me directly. That flora and fauna belong to the people of Cape Town. As one of the owners of that environment, I heartily object to its destruction. The increased pollution will have a direct impact on all of us as increased quantities of exhaust fumes and engine noise are blasted into the environment - not to mention the impact of the inevitable road accidents. Any environmental studies done can only have been completed by a complete idiot. Since when has one been able to disguise freeways? I've travelled the world widely, I've lived in Europe and I've never seen a disguised freeway. They're big, noisy, smelly, inevitably end up congested and are a complete eyesore. Wherever they are, landscapes lie scarred by an ugly (even if necessary) stretch of tarmac. I use the word necessary advisedly. Access to cities is necessary, that is a result of our times, but many roads are unnecessary. This one certainly is. Especially taking the route proposed. Destruction of our natural heritage is unacceptable under any circumstances. Anyone who believes that this road will not be destructive in a multitude of ways is seriously deluded. Perhaps people directly affected need to understand how their property values will plummet. As for tunnels for frogs. This is indeed a joke. The same thing has been tried in the UK where tunnels were built in order for hedgehogs to cross. Shame that no one told the hedgehogs about this but I guess they're still trying to find a way to communicate with hedgehogs and encourage them to use paths other than those imprinted in their genetic memories.</p>
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				<p>The "tribute" to this rather sick joke is the hundreds of little bodies that daily litter British motorways. The short-sightedness of the entire proposal is too unbelievable for words. The "developers" would be better put to preserving the reserves and conservation areas and handling them sympathetically as tourist destinations. They'll still make money if that's what they're after, maybe not as much, but think of the true wealth we could all reap and the benefit to communities and the legacy we could leave for our children. But I suspect that these people are not thinking further than the last digit of their bank account. And finally, as for environmental consultants hired by the developers - well they're hardly about to bite the hand that feeds them. For a true view an unbiased and objective group of environmental consultants need to carry out an assessment. That's the assessment we should listen to, not one that's been paid for by the people who want their own way. You have my full support in standing against this impending atrocity.</p>
25/11/02	Thomson	Jennifer		<p>I am outraged at the thought of this being ruined by a totally unnecessary road system!!!! The Strandfontein sewage works is a favourite birding site for me and many friends - including international visitors who love it. There are more species of birds there than in the whole of St Lucia and would anyone dare to build a road through that area??? This must be stopped dead in its tracks.</p>
25/11/02	MacRobert	Josie		<p>I have been following the debate in the papers about the proposed road and for some time have been meaning to do something to add my voice of protest. Haven't got much time at this moment to comment on your objections, but suffice to say that for the past 3 years I have been very involved in trying to stop a commercial development in a residential area in Bergvliet and am passionate about resisting development proposals which are totally out of keeping with the local environment. Which was why it was so rewarding to see in yesterday's C Bulletin that the plans for the Alphen Hotel have been dropped - hurray! Please add</p>

				my name to your mailing list - I am in support of all you are doing to stop the proposed road. Best wishes and thanks for kicking up a fuss - I know from my own experience that it takes a lot of one's time and effort, but don't give up!
25/11/02	Van Schoor	Willie		I would hereby like to object against the proposed toll road through the Cape Flats as being an unnecessary and ecologically flawed plan.
25/11/02	Blohm	Renee		<p>I've been meaning to add my bit, for quite a while, but like most people this is one of those things that we tend to leave at the bottom on the to-do list, even though it can have significant impact on the quality of our lives. I'm against the development, my personal reasons being (in no particular order):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Noise - I already have excessive road noise, which has steadily increased since the close of Chapmans Peak and the redevelopment on the Steenberg Road / M3 interchange. Should Steenberg road be extended to an expressway, the road traffic will increase significantly;</li> <li>2. Pollution – as above - anyone is welcome to come and do inspections in my garden, house and furnishing to see the effect of road and car pollution;</li> <li>3. Environment – this is the biggie - we have so little open, safe and environmentally sound areas left in the suburbs that it is simply not worth destroying it in lieu on convenience for commuters and income to others. And I do not say this as someone who will not benefit from this. I work in Stellenbosch, having this type of expressway would personally save me time and money and be extremely convenient for me to use. At the same time I have the priveledge of paddling on Sandvlei on a daily basis. The quality that this environment adds to my life far outweighs the benefits of an expressway.</li> </ol> <p>So there you have it - I am opposed to the development of the expressway. As always, it is easy to raise ones concerns</p>

				<p>/ objections, but what are the alternatives? What solutions or suggestions can be made? Road traffic is increasing and we can all continue to ask for improved cross peninsular metro commuter services (but we can't get the safety aspect right on those that we already have), so then what? Improvement to Baden Powell drive? An alternative spot for a South Peninsula expressway? Have alternatives been investigated? Why do we need the expressway at all?</p>
26/11/02	Haag	Mr and Mrs P		<p>It was with disbelief that we read about the above proposal. This area should be proclaimed a Nature Reserve. It is a very special area which hundreds of birds claim as their habitat, especially in summer. It is also one of the few areas left for palaeartic migrants. It is a sensitive area in which endangered species have been able to survive. This is one of the few parts of Cape Town that has been left untouched by roads, human pollution and noise. It is beyond belief that a 6 lane toll road is considered. There must be an alternative route for this ring road. Our public transport system is practically non-existent. One should consider pumping money into this area first to make it efficient and safe and far reaching. This has been promised us for many years. There has been so much destruction to nature by man, please step back and consider carefully the damage this development will be doing.</p>
26/11/02	Kukard	Theo		<p>I was reading the article you published in the local paper the other day, and thought I should respond. Firstly, you can add the names of my wife and me to the list of objectors: My son, James Kukard, is 19 yrs old, so you can add his name to the list too. Secondly, my wife came across a very interesting article in one of last year's National Geographic magazines on Frogs. There are a number of points that are particularly valid:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Frog populations throughout the world are under severe pressure, primarily from habitat fragmentation and habitat loss.</li> <li>2. Scientists (Herpatologists) still have very little knowledge</li> </ol>

				<p>about frogs ... scientific research is particularly lacking in Africa. About 50 new species are still being discovered each year. Any knowledge that the environmentalists purport to have on the Leopard Toad (for example) is at best based on little scientific knowledge.</p> <p>3. Frogs are extremely sensitive to the environment. Frog populations have been known to vanish completely within the space of as little as three months.</p> <p>4. Frogs are extremely diverse in their breeding, feeding and living habits. Any assertion/conclusion/planned action that is based on the knowledge of another species of frog will basically be rubbish.</p> <p>5. I don't know what the Environmental Impact Assessment states, but there is absolutely no way they can have any degree of certainty that they will not extinguish the population of Leopard toads in Steenberg. There is simply not enough knowledge available.</p> <p>BIRDS - There is a couple in Kirstenhof who are highly qualified ornithologists working in the field at UCT ... Entecotte is the name ... if you haven't already contacted them, and wish to do so, please drop me an email or phone me ... my son is friendly with their son so I can get their phone number easily. Don't you think that if a group of fairly bright minds were to spend a day or two together, we could put a plan into action that would tear the environmental impact study to pieces ... we could prove it be lacking in basic facts/knowledge, and largely a cover-up job for the construction company. What is the status of this thing right now? Any thoughts from your side?</p>
9/01/03	Maguire	Justin		<p>I am writing to put my objections to the above toll road on record. It would be a huge loss to the people of Cape Town and especially of the Cape flats to loose the unique opportunity of having a truly important wetland and ecological site destroyed. (The area of the Rondevlei. Zeekoevlei and Cape Flats waste water treatment works). Very few cities in the world offer inhabitants of</p>

					<p>overpopulated urban areas the chance to enjoy the wonders of the natural world so close to home. My second objection is related to the general policy of continued road building without money being spent on good, safe, affordable and efficient public transport. This surely should be at the core of a long term strategy to turn Cape Town into a safe, efficient, healthy and sustainable city. I do hope the alternatives to this road are carefully considered before any rushed plan at construction goes ahead.</p>
22/01/03	Arzul	J-P			Please could you note my objection to the proposed road.