

**TURNER STATION CONSERVATION TEAMS**  
**323 SOLLERS POINT ROAD**  
**DUNDALK, MD. 21222**

March 11, 2019  
Senate Bill 557 Testimony  
Edie Brooks

The demise of Sparrows Point's Bethlehem Steel Corporation economically devastated the Dundalk community. Our recovery began with Trade Point Atlantic (TPA) which transformed the former steel mill and is fulfilling its promise to create thousands of jobs. But sometimes progress brings adversity. Truck traffic has increased immensely in the Dundalk community. And with the continued growth of TPA we can safely predict a constant stream of truck traffic in the future if we do nothing to deter it.

Trucks that never actually cross the bridge must pay the Key Bridge toll. To avoid the toll, trucks travel the local roads through Dundalk, which increases traffic on them. Md Transportation Authority has attempted to address this issue by decreasing the toll rate effective January 1, 2016. Clearly, this bandaid, has been insufficient. Dundalk is still suffering. The trucks are avoiding the tolls. But the residents of Dundalk are paying a huge toll. We, residents, are paying the cost of increased truck traffic in our neighborhoods. We see, hear, and smell the trucks and their pollution. We fear for the safety of our children and ourselves. Our infrastructure suffers. Our health suffers. Our housing suffers. Our image suffers. In fact, we are working to revitalize our communities and improve Dundalk's image. Nonetheless, our image is being tarnished by truck traffic.

Understand this. We do want jobs. But should we have to trade a daily assault on our quality of life for them? Why is it that Dundalk residents had to be the victims of mass unemployment and loss of insurance as well as the victims of truck traffic?

Many of our public roads are not ours anymore. They belong to trucks! Please make a bold decision to forego toll payments for vehicles not using the bridge. If we neglect to address this problem now, we will undoubtedly face larger problems with costlier consequences in the future. Please put the residents of Dundalk's priorities first. Please pass Senate Bill 557 and you will leave Dundalk a better place to live, work, play and pray.