

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Facts are getting lost in Corridor K hysteria

To The News Observer,

The facts are getting lost in all the Corridor K hysteria.

Option 8A – the one currently in favor – saves only two minutes over the existing road. The exact same two minutes would be saved by making spot improvements in the existing road, and the most important one – widening the “trucker’s curve” – is already being done. These are TDO’s own numbers from the Feb. 17 meeting.

So ... people’s visions of “flying over the mountain” are simply fantasies. The new road is not going to bring us one bit closer to Cleveland or to the Volkswagen plant.

Everyone says that another rock slide is inevitable, so we need an alternate route. But what’s going to happen

to Hwy. 64 if the new road is built? TDO will stop maintaining it.

There has been talk of Polk County, the forest service, and the rafters maintaining it, but we all know they cannot afford it. If there is a rock slide west of the rafting put-in, it will probably be removed, so the Chattanooga people can get to the rafters. If it happens east of the put-in, it will probably just sit there, and the old road will be closed for good.

The new road will involve new cuts through some of the highest mountains in the area, and it will also be at risk for rock slides! At that point, we’ll be right back where we started, having spent \$340 million plus the additional cost of dealing with the acid rock. We’ll have also torn up hundreds

of acres of perfectly good national forest, which is what the tourists come here to see.

It makes a lot more sense to fix the existing road and

to fix it right. It could be done far cheaper and far sooner and would provide exactly the same benefit.

Clyde Holler
Morganton