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To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Ella Adkison](#); [Alexandra Pierce](#)
Subject: HELIPORTS (for Visitor Industry Task Force 9/3/26 meeting)
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Please forward these comments on alternate heliport sites to the Visitor Industry Task Force for its 9/3/26 flightseeing meeting.

Greetings:

By the merest chance, it has come to the attention of the Thane Neighborhood Association that the Visitor Industry Task Force will be discussing the idea of alternate tourism heliport sites at its September 3 meeting.

When alternate sites were being discussed in 2001-2002, we did a survey of Thane residents which showed overwhelming opposition to any Thane-adjacent location. There were 89 responses to the survey, which had an 80% response rate.

There were very good reasons for that opposition, all of which have only intensified with the exponential growth of cruise ship tourism in the intervening 24 years.

There was concern about the increase in noise from the helicopters.

There was huge concern about the increase of traffic on Thane, which back then was (and still is) narrow and winding, with no shoulders. If putting a heliport on Thane was a bad idea 24 years ago, how much worse it would be now, with the still-decrepit state of Thane Road, combined with the tremendous growth in visitor numbers and those transiting to heliports.

Another aspect of this equation is the difficulty in emergency vehicles (ambulances, fire trucks, police cars) getting through the increasingly unmanageable summer downtown congestion to travel to Thane, or to the southern cruise ship docks. The city has outlined a system to counter those delays with the help of crossing guards. But despite all the good will in the world, the downtown crowds make speedy and smooth access for emergency vehicles a huge challenge. If a heliport were placed somewhere Thane-

adjacent, and there was a severely ill passenger — or, heaven forfend, a bad accident — Thane Road itself would be more crowded with heliport-related traffic, which would be on top of the regular downtown crush. Thus help would not come as swiftly as it would to another location.

Two other strikes against locating a heliport somewhere Thane-adjacent are the high winds that sometimes impact this end of the channel, and the fact that avalanche season (and thus, Thane Road closures) and the spring cruise ship shoulder season overlap.

An additional aspect of this is simple fairness. Of all neighborhoods, Thane already bears the hugely burdensome brunt of the seasonal downtown congestion. It would be simply unfair to add heliport-bound buses and vans to our decrepit road, and additional helicopter noise to our lives.

Thank you.

Larri Spengler

Larri Irene Spengler, Secretary
Thane Neighborhood Association

