

From the Schuylkill River Development Corporation (November 2007)

Negative Characteristics of other Bridge Alignment Options

Tunnel

1. Safety: Directing park users underground in a confined and concealed passageway presents security risks
2. Flooding: The tunnel floor would be 12-15 feet beneath the tracks and well below the water table. It would be constantly damp and/or flooded and unavailable as an alternative to the street level crossing.
3. Vandalism: The hidden passageway would subject the lights and the walls to vandalism with resulting increased maintenance costs.
4. Homeless: The tunnel act as a shelter for homeless persons
5. Appearance: The long “ditches” would require protective fencing in the park and on the Banks, becoming trash collectors.

Bridge Alignment Option pictured in [Friends of Schuylkill River Park Master Plan](#) (2006)

1. Ramp Length: The placement of the bridge at the far south end would require the entire length of the ramp (estimated at 350 feet) to be near the center of the Park. The lot chosen cannot adequately accommodate the assumed ramp length.
2. Permits: Placing any portion of the ramp in or over the River requires federal (Army Corps of Engineers) and state (PA DEP) permits that would be cumbersome and time consuming.
3. Coordination: The layout of the approach ramps could adversely impact the proposed boardwalk that will link the Trail to South Street
4. Vista: This scheme would block downriver views from the Trail.

Elevator

1. Safety: Users could be trapped in the elevator with a potentially harmful person.
2. Vandalism: The elevator lights and walls would be subject to vandalism with resulting increased maintenance costs.
3. Homeless: The elevator would be used by the homeless for shelter
4. Maintenance: Outdoor facilities such as escalators and elevators are expensive and difficult to maintain