

STILL AT IT: State Rep. Patrick Connick continued his campaign of scrutinizing Crescent City Connection tolls this week, releasing an analysis that shows Jefferson Parish leads the New Orleans area in toll tag revenue.

The future of the tolls, set to expire next year, is in question as the Harvey Republican has complained that West Bank residents haven't gotten more than \$100 million in road projects promised under a state law renewing the tolls in 1998.

Most recently, Connick called for a legislative audit into improper use of toll revenue and questioned the way some contracts were awarded. Even the makeup of a task force that is supposed to study the issue of renewing the tolls has generated a heated political discussion.

On Friday, Connick released an analysis, conducted by Michael Teachworth, director of "Stop the Tolls." Using data provided by the Crescent City Connection, Teachworth found that Jefferson Parish contributed \$12.2 million in toll revenue, or 46 percent, to the bridge agency from 2008 until the first half of this year. New Orleans paid \$8 million, or 31 percent.

"The data shows that almost half of the toll revenue is paid by Jefferson Parish, while less than a third comes from Orleans Parish," Teachworth said.

Connick has asked Gov. Bobby Jindal to let the tolls expire.

"The question we need to ask now is what has Jefferson Parish received in return for these dollars?" Connick said.