

To the Editor: Maintenance

Re “Let’s Get Excited About Maintenance!” by Andrew Russell and Lee Vinsel (Sunday Review, July 23):

While I agree wholeheartedly that maintenance is the neglected stepchild of infrastructure, I also think that we place a skewed value on catastrophic risks that may seem remote but are costly when they do occur.

Somehow the immediate reward of “cutting costs” is more enticing than the uncertain reward of prevention. It doesn’t feel like a reward because if you do it right, nothing happens.

Perhaps fear of future pain is not as strong as the impulsive desire for savings today. So we kick the can down the road and hope that the mess ends up in someone else’s lap.

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