



RSHM Religious of the
Sacred Heart of Mary
LIFE CENTER
THAT ALL MAY HAVE LIFE

Where learning is for everyone

June 21, 2021

Andrew Cuomo
Governor, New York State
Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Increasing economic opportunity and quality of life in Westchester's river towns is intertwined with making Route 9 safe for everybody. The 5 villages from Sleepy Hollow through Hastings-on-Hudson are collaborating to do just that via the Route 9 Active Transportation Project. Please direct the State DOT to provide the Villages with the technical and logistical support needed to bring this project to fruition.

Up front, this program solves **safety** problems. There are about 150 crashes each year on Route 9 in the 5 villages. Implementing the plan will reduce the number and severity of crashes by completing the sidewalk network, building more and safer crosswalks, adding protected cycling lanes, better geometry for motor vehicle lanes (and adds shelters and benches to bus stops).

Then the enhanced safety unlocks additional benefits:

- People currently too scared to walk and bike will be able to **get out of their cars for local trips**. Notably, there are **23 schools** on and near Route 9.
- Establishes **independence** for people who can't drive (poor, young, disabled, elderly)
- Advances **equity** by opening affordable transportation options for low income households
- Putting exercise into daily routines, which boosts **physical and emotional health**
- Leads to interactions that build **community cohesion** (restoring the social fabric torn by COVID)
- People walking and rolling shop locally, **spending more money in local businesses** over time
- **Boosts business** because more shoppers can fit in downtowns when less cars are used
- Links our 5 downtowns, **tourist destinations** (Sunnyside, Lyndhurst, Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge, Philipsburg Manor, Old Dutch Church, Sleepy Hollow Cemetery and Old Croton Aqueduct Trail), and the Sleepy Hollow Hotel & Conference Center (DoubleTree Hotel)
- **Fills a big missing link** in the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail (in Tarrytown between Franklin St and Lyndhurst) to create even more transportation and recreation options
- **Cuts pollution** (air, noise and water) and helps us meet **climate emission reduction** goals

Sincerely,

Susan Gardella, RSHM
Executive Director

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