



October 29, 2021

Kathy Hochul  
Governor, New York State  
Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

Increasing economic opportunity and quality of life in Westchester's Rivertowns is intertwined with making Route 9 safe for everybody. The five villages from Sleepy Hollow through Hastings-on-Hudson are collaborating to do just that via the Route 9 Active Transportation Project. Thank you for approving a State Department Of Transportation liaison who will provide the Rivertowns Villages with technical and logistical support needed to bring this project to fruition. Please ensure the DOT liaison support persists until completion, because...

You may already know that this program solves **safety** problems. There are about 150 crashes each year on Route 9 in the five 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).

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 five downtowns, **tourist destinations** (Sunnyside, Lyndhurst, Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge, Philipsburg Manor, Old Dutch Church, Sleepy Hollow Cemetery and Old Croton Aqueduct State Historic Park), 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 – this will help the Rivertowns do our part to in the NY State Climate Leadership and Community Protection Plan

Thank you for your support to help make walking, biking and motor transportation safer and more efficient for the health of people and the environment.

The Irvington Green Policy Task Force  
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