

Hudson River Park Trust Advisory Council

c/o Hudson River Park
Pier 40 | 353 West Street
New York, NY 10014

May 6, 2020

Hon. Andrew Cuomo
Governor, State of New York
State Capital Building
Albany NY, 12242

Marie Dominguez
Commissioner, State Department of Transportation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12232

Erik Kulleseid
Commissioner, State Department of Parks
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12207

RE: Hudson River Greenway relocation

Dear Governor Cuomo and Commissioners Dominguez and Kulleseid:

Thank you for all the work you have done to lead New York through the COVID-19 pandemic. I write on behalf of the Hudson River Park Trust Advisory Council (AC). The Advisory Council's mission is to provide advice and make recommendations to the Board of the Hudson River Park Trust. The AC is comprised of local park, environmental, civic, community, labor and business organizations as well as the elected officials representing communities bordering Hudson River Park.

The outbreak has proven how important open space and parks are for New Yorkers. The Hudson River Park is a critical component of that open space and a community resource, now more than ever. However, the location of the Hudson River Park Greenway, the busiest bicycle highway in North America, is impeding the ability of cyclists and pedestrians to properly practice physical distancing. Therefore, the Hudson River Park Trust Advisory Council (AC) asks that the Greenway be moved into the western lane of Route 9A, protected by jersey barriers and cones. The AC also requests the suspension of pavement restoration of Route 9A/West Street to make expansion of the bikeway possible.

The State has acted swiftly and boldly to find ways to combat and manage the COVID-19 outbreak. As all levels of government work to meet the needs of its constituents, an effective way of protecting people is ensuring they have space to be physically distant. By shifting the greenway that goal could be achieved.

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The New York City region has a long way to go towards flattening the COVID-19 curve and implementing strong public health measures to eliminate the spread of the virus. As the weather continues to improve, New Yorkers seeking escape from their often small and crowded apartments will find themselves walking or cycling along the greenway or visiting Hudson River Park. The AC requests the State work with New York City's Department of Transportation to install jersey barriers and cones along the eastern edge of the most western lane of Route 9A to create a safer greenway for cyclists and more space for pedestrians.

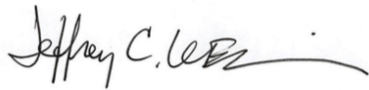
As the city begins to reopen and New Yorkers go back to work, fewer of them will use public transit and adequate space for walking and cycling for transportation and recreation will be of even greater importance. As such, steps should be taken to accommodate this change and provide dedicated infrastructure so that it can happen safely.

New York has never been afraid to be bold. Shifting the greenway onto a protected lane of Route 9A is in line with New York's toughness and the style of bold leadership on which our state prides itself. Creating more space for pedestrians and cyclists through space that already exists will go a long way to ensure people, businesses, and communities can thrive again.

The Advisory Council looks forwards to working with the State and City to ensure the greenway can be a safe, thriving mode of transit that allows New Yorkers to practice physical distancing during this pandemic.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey LeFrancois
Chair
Hudson River Park Trust Advisory Council

Cc:
Hon. Bill De Blasio
Commissioner Polly Trottenberg
Manhattan Borough Commissioner Ed Pincar
Hon. Jerold Nadler
Hon. Gale Brewer

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Hon. Corey Johnson

Hon. Brad Hoylman

Hon. Robert Jackson

Hon. Brian Kavanaugh

Hon. Linda B. Rosenthal

Hon. Richard N. Gottfried

Hon. Deborah J. Glick