



SOUTHERN BRONX RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE

a New Vision for the South Bronx

I am aware of the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) proposal to expand the Sheridan Expressway into the Hunts Point neighborhood in the South Bronx. I understand that this proposal is intended to facilitate truck transportation into Hunts Point, and ease traffic congestion in the area. However, I believe that the DOT's plan would isolate and marginalize already-struggling communities in and around the Sheridan lands.

The Southern Bronx River Watershed Alliance (SBRWA) has shown that comparable transportation goals can be achieved by decommissioning the Sheridan Expressway and providing access to Hunts Point from the Bruckner Expressway. New access ramps will;

- provide efficient truck access into the markets and other industrial uses on Hunts Point peninsula,
- better serve drivers coming from and going to Manhattan, Queens, and Brooklyn, and
- divert industrial traffic away from residential areas.

Placing a new interchange in the Bruckner at Leggett Avenue would allow for the complete removal of the Sheridan Expressway, opening up 28 acres of land for new uses. SBRWA, a coalition of four local and three citywide organizations, have met with community members and developed an alternative *Community Vision Plan*, that would serve to both (1) meet all of DOT's transportation goals, and (2) provide a vastly preferable proposal for the use of the Sheridan lands.

I support SBRWA's *Community Vision* to;

- *Restore the South Bronx River waterfront and establish greenspace.* The area freed by the removal of the highway would be revitalized and utilized proactively for the benefit of the South Bronx community. The neighborhood would enjoy improved air quality, much-needed recreational space, improved community linkages, and safe connections to the city's existing and future Greenways.
- *Establish sustainable, affordable housing.* Even if 80% to 90% of the freed-up land is preserved as open space, there would be room for up to 1000 units of housing, at densities that would make good use of the area's transit, infrastructure, and newly-reclaimed waterfront. And because the land is now publicly owned, it will be possible to make the new housing permanently affordable, so those with modest incomes can remain in the community that they are working to transform.
- *Provide important economic and employment opportunities.* In addition to providing jobs during the decommissioning and redevelopment process, the Community Vision plan would foster compatible economic development by encouraging community participation in site management and maintenance. The plan would also generate tangible benefits on a broader scale by improving the neighborhood's aesthetic, quality-of-life, and overall property value.

Therefore, I the undersigned believe that SBRWA's *Community Vision* is a superior alternative to the state's proposed expansion plan for the Sheridan lands, and call for the NYS DOT to implement the community vision for the Sheridan's future.

Name (please print):

Signature:

Date:

Address:

Email/Phone:

Borough (check one): Bronx Manhattan Queens Brooklyn Staten Island Outside NYC