



The Time is Now to Transform the South Bronx

June 2013 marks the conclusion of the Sheridan Expressway-Hunts Point Land Use Study (SEHP Study), a two year, \$1.5 million effort for which the Southern Bronx River Watershed Alliance (SBRWA) advocated. While the City missed an opportunity to look closely at the most comprehensive approach to improving our communities, the final recommendations produced by the SEHP Study present a good foundation on which to realize positive transformation in the South Bronx.

Moving Forward

The momentum and resources of the SEHP Study present our communities, area businesses, the City, and the State with an unprecedented opportunity to address a blighted transportation network that has negatively impacted the health and safety of generations of South Bronx residents. It is crucial that elected officials and agencies on the City and State level build on these recommendations and take concrete steps towards implementation.

Accordingly, we call on the State Department of Transportation and the Cuomo Administration to:

- Commit the funds to and initiate a new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that studies the SEHP Study final recommendations, before the end of calendar year 2013.
- Study the following in the EIS, which were not addressed in the SEHP Study:
 - **Four-way direct access to the Hunts Point peninsula** from the Bruckner Expressway. This would provide the most effective and efficient alternative to local streets for the variety of commercial vehicles that enter and exit Hunts Point and better address issues of food security, emergency preparedness and resiliency of the transportation network.
 - Solutions for **addressing the bottleneck at the Bruckner-Sheridan Interchange**.
 - **Synergies** in design and workflow that constructing new direct access to the Hunts Point peninsula from the Bruckner Expressway can have **with the slated improvement and repair of the Bruckner Expressway**.
 - **Closure of the northbound Sheridan exit at Westchester Avenue**. Not closely examined in the SEHP study, closure of this exit is critical to making the entrances to the Bronx River Greenway and to Concrete Plant Park safe and can be done without negatively impacting the transportation network.

To this end we call on local City and State elected officials to:

- Affirm the transformation of the Sheridan as a political and budgetary priority;
- Work with the current gubernatorial administration to insure continuity and momentum for implementation; and
- Call on the next mayoral administration to advance the aspects of the plan that are under its control and to work with the State to implement the vision articulated here.

Elected officials and agencies at all levels of government must build on the foundation of the SEHP Study recommendations to insure that this tremendous effort does not become another set of 'plans on a shelf'. The environmental and economic health of our communities is at stake and the status quo is unacceptable.