



October 12, 2016

Bronx Borough Commissioner Constance Moran
NYC Department of Transportation
1400 Williamsbridge Road
Bronx, NY, 10461

Commissioner Moran,

I am writing to express Maddd Equities' support for the transformation of the undeveloped roadbed at East 159th Street between St. Ann's and Eagle into the Hill Street Community Garden. The roadbed has been inaccessible to cars for years, but remains in an indeterminate and unusable state today.

With the help of 596 Acres, neighbors and local institutions have come together to develop a viable plan for the incremental transformation and activation of the steep space. Maddd Equities urges you to help make this plan a reality and commits to facilitating it.

The neighbors are calling the vision the Hill Street Community Garden. The design they developed collaboratively will ease pedestrian flow between St. Ann's and Eagle, provide community space for collaboration and food production, add lighting to a dark crevice in the neighborhood and provide crucial ecosystem services by absorbing water before in flows into our fragile and overburdened sewer system and creating the opportunity to divert organic waste from land fill. As the space is filled with healthy soil and plants, it will also contribute to NYC's mitigation of climate change by sequestering carbon in its soils.

The community has come together around this proposal, which contains elements of the Step Street that Bronx Community Board 1 has been requesting at this location since 2004. As a community-led effort with support from organizations including ours, the transformation can begin as soon as your agency agrees to it. This community garden has to potential to benefit the ecosystem, the community, and the Bronx.

Thank you so much for your consideration and service to the City and the Bronx.

I look forward to working with you and your staff on making the Hill Street Community Garden a reality.

Best,



Jorge Madruga

CC:

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