



October 17, 2016

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Deborah Marton

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

Commissioner Moran,

I am writing to express New York Restoration Project's (NYRP) 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 long been inaccessible to cars, 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. This vision, the Hill Street Community Garden, 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 it 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.

NYRP designs, funds, and programs community gardens across the city with 13 of our spaces located in the Bronx. We know the crucial role that open space plays in driving social capital, improving environmental sustainability, and supporting public health. We also know that South Bronx neighborhoods are in great need of more of these kinds of spaces. New Yorker's for Parks' 2014 Open Space Index for the adjacent neighborhood of Mott Haven reported that the area failed to meet 11 of its 15 open space standards.

We are delighted to see this comprehensive vision put forward to advance such key local priorities. Thank you so much for your consideration and service to the City and the Bronx. I look forward to working supporting the design team, you, and your staff on making the Hill Street Community Garden a reality.

Best,

Deborah Marton
Executive Director
New York Restoration Project