



**SOUTHERN BRONX RIVER
WATERSHED ALLIANCE**
and a New Vision for the South Bronx

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**\$1.7 Billion Investment Announced for Sheridan Expressway Corridor
SBRWA Community Coalition Statement on Governor Cuomo's Budget**

Since 1999, The Southern Bronx River Watershed Alliance (SBRWA) has worked tirelessly to advance a community vision that includes the complete transformation of the Sheridan Expressway corridor as the best way to address the harms created by a legacy of top-down, racist planning. The Sheridan Expressway Transformation pursues the goals of: reducing truck traffic on local streets, creating waterfront access and increasing open space, catalyzing equitable economic development, and creating community amenities, including deeply affordable housing, through a participatory practice of community-based planning.

SBRWA formed in response to a [proposal from the New York State Department of Transportation \(NYSDOT\)](#) for yet another highway expansion in the South Bronx, at a time when the environmental health crises reaped by the exclusionary history of "master planning" were ravaging the area -- toxic air quality, asthma and respiratory illness, obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and stress caused and exacerbated by dangerous streets, limited access to open space, and the difficulty of moving through the physically divided neighborhood to jobs and school on foot were the injustices that our low-income, community of color sought -- and continue to seek -- to redress.

Through our organizing in the last 18 years, we have been instrumental in engaging community stakeholders to create a Community Plan to guide the future of the neighborhood. We persuaded New York City to successfully apply in 2010 for a \$1.5 million Federal TIGER grant to study land use and transportation options for the Sheridan corridor and organized hundreds of community members as stakeholders in the process that resulted from that grant: the [Sheridan - Hunts Point Land Use Transportation Study \(SEHP\)](#). Upon culmination of that effort in 2013, SBRWA led a group of stakeholders comprised of concerned community residents, labor allies, and local business leaders -- all of whom support the plan's recommendations -- to call on the Governor and NYSDOT to allocate capital funds for the implementation of the SEHP plan. In 2016, we worked with Assembly Member Crespo, Senator Klein, and the Governor to secure [\\$97 million for implementation of a key element of a plan - the conversion of the ongrade portion of the Sheridan into a boulevard](#), with a narrowed roadway and pedestrian crossings.

Today's announcement of the \$1.7 billion committed by Governor Cuomo to the Bronx for the transformation of the Sheridan Expressway is a major step forward. It includes vitally needed funding which can address the surrounding transportation network and create direct truck access to the Hunts Point peninsula. We - a group comprised of four local organizations that serve the South Bronx and two citywide technical assistance organizations - applaud the Governor for recognizing the importance of this investment for the health and wellbeing of local constituents. Specifically, we are pleased to see that the project calls for direct access to the Hunts Point Peninsula and the conversion of the Sheridan Expressway to a boulevard with crosswalks. We believe this project has the potential to undo decades of hazard that the community has endured as a result of an ineffective transportation system. We also believe that the project has the potential to ensure that much needed capital projects and infrastructure are in place in a timely manner to accommodate continued economic growth of the Hunts Point Markets and the influx of affordable housing development in our community.

We are committed to ensuring that the innovative elements of the SEHP study and the community vision for the transformation of the Sheridan are reflected in the outcome of the Governor's process. As with any capital investment of this magnitude, we understand that the implementation of this project requires an environmental review, and an analysis of the transportation system and other critical community elements, followed by a design process. Fortunately, there is an updated traffic model and data--products of the federally funded SEHP study--that must be included in the new study process. The SBRWA reaffirms our commitment to serve as active stakeholders throughout the various phases of this project, and we expect robust public engagement. We will work tirelessly to hold the Governor's office and NYSDOT accountable to community priorities. It is our sincere hope that this project addresses longstanding community needs including lifting the physical barrier between our neighborhoods and the Bronx River, and alleviating truck traffic off local streets, along with maximizing community benefits overall.

The Southern Bronx River Watershed Alliance consists of Mothers on the Move, The Point CDC, Pratt Center for Community Development, Tri-State Transportation Campaign, We Stay/Nos Quedamos, Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice. The SBRWA was founded in 1999 to advance community-led solutions to the legacy of poor land-use and transportation planning and its negative impacts upon South Bronx communities. Visit us at sbrwa.org and facebook.com/SBRWA and follow us on Twitter @sbrwa