

**Transportation Alternatives • Harbor Ring • Tri-State Transportation Campaign
Century Road Club Association • Brooklyn Greenway Initiative
Bicycle Touring Club of North Jersey • Bike Hoboken • New York Bicycling Coalition
New York Cycle Club • Outside New York • Bike New York
Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance • East Coast Greenway Alliance
NY/NJ Baykeeper • Staten Island Bicycle Association
Hudson River Waterfront Conservancy of NJ, Inc. • New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition**

December 21, 2012

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor of New York State
Executive Chamber
Albany, NY 12224

RE: Verrazano-Narrows Bridge walking and bicycling path

Dear Governor Andrew Cuomo,

We write to ask you to seize a once-in-a-century opportunity offered by major forthcoming construction, to build a new, affordable, bicycle and pedestrian path on the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge. For decades, elected officials and community leaders from the Brooklyn and Staten Island sides of the bridge have called for a connecting path, and now is the time to build it as part of two large capital improvements about to begin on the bridge.

The MTA has awarded a \$236 million contract to replace the bridge's upper deck roadway, with work beginning in 2013. They plan to award a follow-on contract next year to construct a new ramp on the Brooklyn-side of the bridge to make the HOV lane continuous from the bridge to the Gowanus Expressway. Experience with bicycle and pedestrian path construction on the East River bridges, the Triborough/RFK Bridge and the George Washington Bridge suggests that the cost of building a new path on the Verrazano would be much lower as part of a larger capital project than as a standalone project.

We ask that you support the proposed new bridge path, and that your administration convene a meeting between our groups, other supporters of the path, the MTA and NYSDOT to discuss this opportunity and potential next steps.

A new path would provide numerous benefits to New Yorkers.

- **Active Transportation for a Cleaner, Greener Healthier New York** - A new path would provide active recreation opportunities and an active commute option for workers who live in one borough but work in another.
- **Safety and Security in Times of Crisis** - A walking and biking path on the Verrazano could serve as an important emergency evacuation route, just as the Hudson River Greenway and East River bridge paths did following 9/11.

(Over please)

- **Tourist and Quality of Life Benefits as Part of the “Harbor Ring Trail.”** A pathway over the Verrazano would be the key link in the larger vision of a Harbor Ring trail that stitches together existing popular waterfront trails in Brooklyn, Manhattan and New Jersey. Bridges are popular tourist attractions and as part of the longest single-span bridge in the Americas, the Verrazano path would be a tourist destination in its own right.

We appreciate your interest and look forward to working with you and your administration to make the most of this exceptional opportunity for New York.

Signed,

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