



## Bike-Friendly Kingston

Dear Kristen Wilson,

Thank you, Mayor Steve Noble, the city employees and members of the GPI team for the recent Broadway Streetscape Project presentation. We at Bike-Friendly Kingston applaud and very strongly support this project. We are very happy to see that the safety of all users, especially cyclists have been considered in this plan.

We are concerned that 11% of all traffic accidents that happen within the city of Kingston happen within a few blocks on this stretch of Broadway. Many things in the project will help change this statistic: a slower rate of travel for vehicles, better pedestrian crosswalks, new lighting, visually impaired assistance, and a protected bike lane.

Studies show that protected bike infrastructure is a key to getting more people to feel safe enough to ride. After bicycle lanes were installed post-Katrina on a New Orleans, Louisiana street, there was a 57% increase in the number of cyclists. The number of female cyclists increased 133%, and the percentage of cyclists riding in the correct direction increased from 73% to 82%.

We should encourage the use of bicycles as transportation because it is healthier for the riders and better for the environment. Active commuting that incorporates cycling and walking is associated with an overall 11% reduction in cardiovascular risk. If 5% of New York City commuters who travel by private car or taxi switched to biking to work, they could save 150 million pounds of CO2 emissions per year, equivalent to the amount reduced by planting a forest 1.3 times the size of Manhattan.

During our pedestrian and bicycle count conducted this last fall using the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project methodology at three different locations on Broadway we had an average of 9.6 cyclists an hour. Clearly, this shows that cyclists are using this major thoroughfare.

With synchronized lights, it will take less time for cars to move through this corridor. New plantings and street furniture will give the road a facelift attracting new businesses and supporting those already there. The “greening” of the road will also be a welcome site to an area of Kingston that doesn't not have a park. This will increase property values and the quality of life for residents.

I am so pleased to see a construction goal of 2018 and can't wait to drive, bike and walk down Broadway once it is complete.

Sincerely,

Emily Flynn  
President, Bike-Friendly Kingston