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ROBERT JACKSON**

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Mr. John Herrold  
Riverside Park Administrator  
24 West 61<sup>st</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10023  
john.herrold@parks.nyc.gov

30 July 2019

Dear Mr. Herrold,

I am writing with grave concern about several issues with the Riverside Park Bike Bypass that spans the length of the 79<sup>th</sup> Street Boat Basin. I understand these changes respond to concerns about safety along that portion of the riverside greenway, but several advocates and even two of my own staff members have raised fears that these changes create unsafe conditions.

The bollards separating cyclists from vehicular traffic in the roundabout are not sufficient, especially in light of the October 2017 rampage farther down the Hudson River path that led to the use of concrete jersey barriers to protect cyclists. Those same bollards, along with the angle where the southern part of the bypass rejoins the main path, create unsafe conditions for cyclists entering and exiting the bypass as well as for pedestrians. The lack of signage on the north end of the bypass is also a danger, one compounded by the speed of northbound bicyclists going downhill to rejoin the main path.

In addition, the topography of the bypass is difficult to traverse, and the incline may prohibit some cyclists from being able to use it. These cycleways are important public spaces for all to be able to enjoy, so I encourage any redesign to take into account these accessibility issues.

My office supports the work of advocates and the Community Board 7 Parks and Transportation Committee, and we look forward to the redesigns that Department of Parks and Riverside Park Conservancy will make to improve the safety of this Bike Bypass in the coming months.

In Unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Robert Jackson  
Senator, 31st District

