

From: [Peter Gliatto](#)
To: [Tabachnick, Alan](#)
Subject: Peease notify public ASAP about possible STB abandonment of the Harsimus Cove Branch
Date: Sunday, July 9, 2023 12:38:55 PM

Dear Mr. Tabachnick:

I recently learned that the STB is considering authorizing the abandonment of the Harsimus Branch without historic preservation conditions. Such a decision leads potentially - even likely - to demolition of the Embankment. The Embankment is a historic treasure that deserves preservation and development as a public space. Current plans for its development as a park are unique and will add much needed green space to our crowded downtown. The construction of the Embankment is really masterful and is far superior to the similar remaining structures in downtown Jersey City. The walls add character to the neighborhood, and cool shade in the summer. The conduit could also serve as a greenway between the Hudson River and other parks in downtown Jersey City, with possible eventual connections with other possible greenways like what could happen at the Bergen Arches under the NJ turnpike. The Embankment is clearly something that needs to be protected. Anything that threatens it is extremely short-sighted.

The public has had no information about this matter unless they happen to subscribe to an Embankment Coalition newsletter, and, even then, they would not be aware of the imminence or quality of this decision. In fact I was unaware despite being connected to the Embankment preservation community until a neighbor alerted me.

I understand your agency was supposed to have informed and engaged the public in this process at its earliest stages, and that it is now in a late stage of review without having done so. Please correct this situation as soon as possible.

I would appreciate your posting this email as an Environmental Comment, as I am not familiar with your system.

Sincerely,
Peter Gliatto, MD
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