

Livable Tarrytowns Candidate Questionnaire – Jared Rodriguez

1. What are the top five places (e.g., an intersection, a street crossing, a particular roadway) in Sleepy Hollow that you would like to improve for pedestrians and bicyclists?

1. Cortlandt/Beekman
2. Beekman/Broadway/Bedford/New Broadway
3. Pocantico/Beekman
4. Chestnut/N Washington/Valley
5. Pocantico/Broadway

What specific changes do you think would improve each of the sites?

1. Cortlandt/Beekman: a fully raised intersection with surface treatments to delineate the intersection as a "public square" to make permanent the temporary pedestrian upgrades I implemented as Trustee in this location. The entire intersection would be raised to level of the sidewalk, bollards installed, permanent furniture, lighting and planters. The Square should be one of our most coveted public spaces in Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow.
2. Beekman/Broadway/Bedford/New Broadway: A double roundabout or "bean roundabout" to rationalize traffic flow and radically improve pedestrian safety - the NYSDOT Route 9 Complete Streets effort is almost there in its design; a few small design tweaks would get the design to the right point. Then we need to lobby the heck out of New York State to build it!
3. Pocantico/Beekman: Permanent curb extensions or a raised intersection at this location can make permanent the improvements I made via the temporary complete streets project implemented there.
4. Chestnut/N Washington/Valley: We need something radically different here. The Valley Street "dog leg" or slip lane at this location is less than ideal. We should be using this opportunity to entirely reimagine these intersections and the park here as a public square. We could leverage these improvements to also expand housing opportunities and transform this triangle into another coveted public space for Sleepy Hollow.
5. Pocantico/Broadway: A roundabout here with a northbound only Old Broadway is critically important. Same as above regarding NYSDOT.

2. From your perspective, please explain why making our streets safe for all neighbors is a matter of equity.

Safe streets are equitable streets because not everyone can afford the enormous cost of owning a vehicle. Some residents cannot drive due to immigration status, access, disability or age. We must create streets that serve everyone regardless of their condition or situation.

3. For candidates who have previously served on the Board of Trustees: over the past term, what initiatives have you voted for that helped make our streets safer for everyone in Sleepy Hollow, no matter their age or physical ability?

A lot! I wrote and ushered through our (amazing) Sleepy Hollow Complete Streets law. I helped advance Project Mover when the team involved with implementing the effort skipped over Sleepy Hollow! I forced the team to consider and include Sleepy Hollow and worked hard to implement the effort at the same time as Tarrytown. And now we are expanding the number of stations to serve the Village. I advanced closure of the Cortlandt Street slip lane and helped

create the Central Square we all know and love today - and I intend on making it permanent with improved geometry and streetscape improvements. I'm a major proponent of temporary improvements to street safety with paint, flexible bollards and planters. I intend on making each and every one of these modifications permanent. I was the NYSDOT Complete Streets Transportation Partnering Committee liaison with the Sleepy Hollow Board of Trustees. I lead our Village's Transportation Committee. I am very excited to continue this work with a Board that understands the vision and is fully supportive of the work. We can radically improve our residents' lives through these investments and save lives too.

4. Are there ways that you think Sleepy Hollow could or should collaborate with the government of Tarrytown to enhance work on "Safe Streets for All" across the two villages? How?

I participate with Tarrytown officials and school district officials in the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) committee to collaboratively implement complete streets actions across the two villages. We can require that both village's transportation committees coordinate in such a way that we collaboratively implement projects that benefit both villages. We have also explored the concept of jointly applying for a clean mobility grant with the Village of Tarrytown to advance an electric shuttle between the two Villages. Unfortunately, Tarrytown decided to not support the effort so Sleepy Hollow will go it alone. I will keep pushing for ways for the villages to work closely together to advance efforts like this, especially along cross-village corridors like Washington and the Old Croton Aqueduct.

5. Will you commit to walking or biking to and from at least ten Board of Trustees meetings during the upcoming year?

I already walk to every one of my Board of Trustees meetings and I will continue to do so! I chose to live where I do so I could do exactly that - and walk everywhere else for my daily needs.

6. If you believe the current cost of housing in the village is excessive, what specific actions should village government take to address the situation?

Local government has the power to build actual affordable housing on land it owns. My master's degree is in real estate development. I will focus on repositioning land we own, like at Kendall/Continental, for developing homes our Village volunteers and other working-class folks can afford and maybe even own. Our fire department, DPW and ambulance corps cannot survive without local folks serving their village. We need to make sure they have a path to home ownership and affordable housing. This is crucially important. I will also continue to advocate for affordable and volunteer housing to be included in large development projects through my ability to influence approvals, particularly if approvals require Board of Trustees support.

7. Can you briefly share your vision for ensuring Sleepy Hollow is an inclusive, thriving, and livable community in the years and decades ahead? What policies would you prioritize to achieve this vision?

I will push to accelerate my existing work on complete streets, livability and affordability. We all want Sleepy Hollow to be a vibrant, walkable, and prosperous Rivertown. We can use best practice approaches to make the Village safe for walking and biking, more connected to the rest of region, and supporting residents and workers from all walks of life. I am particularly

interested in coordinating with other Rivertowns on the east and west side of the Hudson River to advance even more aggressive efforts like railbus/shuttle operations between commuter rail scheduled departures, cross-Hudson ferry service, and other efforts to make us more mobile and connected! I've already helped launch weekend ferry service between Ossining and Haverstraw. I know I can do it again! I'll leverage my work as a Taconic Region State Parks Commissioner to improve all Old Croton Aqueduct crossings, eliminate encroachments, and bring better/safer connections to Rockefeller State Park. We can do all of this if we try. And we WILL get complete streets efforts along Route 9 built. The next governor of New York State will hear from all of us to get this done!

Thanks for caring about Livability. Reach out to me with any other questions you have about my candidacy.