



March 3, 2020

Dear Mayor and Trustees:

We write you on behalf of the people who take **1.2 million trips** each year on the Route 13 bus. Among them are Sleepy Hollow residents and employees who depend on the Route 13 for travel to and from Ossining, White Plains and Port Chester. This bus also brings customers, friends and family to our community. The Village needs to minimize disruption to this vital access during parades and street fairs.

Background

It is fantastic when Village streets are used for events. Parades and fairs create valuable spaces. They are a way to meet neighbors, building social capital. They also provide a destination for visitors, boosting local businesses.

At the same time, Beekman Ave is an important mass transit corridor. In Sleepy Hollow, the Route 13 runs on Broadway, Beekman Ave, Washington St, Valley St and Cortlandt St. It also connects with Metro North at the Tarrytown train station. (See “Normal Route” map, below.)

It is good when events on Beekman Ave only go from Broadway to Washington St. This way buses can detour to Pocantico St, only missing a few bus stops. (See “Detour via Pocantico, Washington, Franklin” map.)

The Immediate Problem

Unfortunately, this efficient detour has been severed by some events in the past. One such event has been the St. Patrick's Day Parade. The reviewing stand has been placed the middle of Pocantico St at Beekman Ave. And since the Parade also closes Broadway south of Beekman Ave, the only way for buses to get around the area is going up Bedford Rd, around the Tarrytown Lakes and back down Benedict Ave. (See “Detour via Lakes” map.) **This forces buses to completely skip the Inner Village and train station, and it delays service for everybody on the line due to heavy congestion on the detour.**

The Fix

Fortunately, there's a less disruptive way to configure the Parade. The reviewing stand can be set up in Washington St on the north side of Beekman Ave. This small adjustment leaves Pocantico St available for buses. Northbound buses can operate their normal route prior to Pocantico St. Southbound buses can use the “Pocantico, Washington, Franklin” detour with normal vehicle flows during much of the day.

During the hour or so when marchers are present on Beekman Ave (see bus schedule, below), only two or three buses will pass through. Safety can be accomplished in a variety of ways. The simplest option is to momentarily hold marchers east of Washington St as the bus goes by and have people serving as safety monitors walk along with the bus to ensure marchers stay clear of the vehicle.

Another possibility for southbound buses is the “Pocantico, Chestnut, Franklin” detour (see map). While this routing is a little awkward, Bee-Line's operating company said it is workable. Their staff can let the Village know which specific parking spaces at the Cortlandt/Chestnut intersection need to be left clear

that day in order for buses to make the turn.

Please relay the Village's choices to Andy Ziegler (azz1@westchestergov.com, 914-813-7769) of the County's Transportation Department. And going forward, please keep him apprised of future events.

If given two weeks notice, the County can put notices on their website and produce service change signs which the Villages and/or volunteers can post at bus stops which will be bypassed. This way people can know where to catch the bus instead of being abandoned.

Why

While a temporary disruption in bus service seems trivial, it is a big deal for people who need to be at work on time. And looking at the broader picture, if people can't depend on the bus, we end up forcing car ownership.

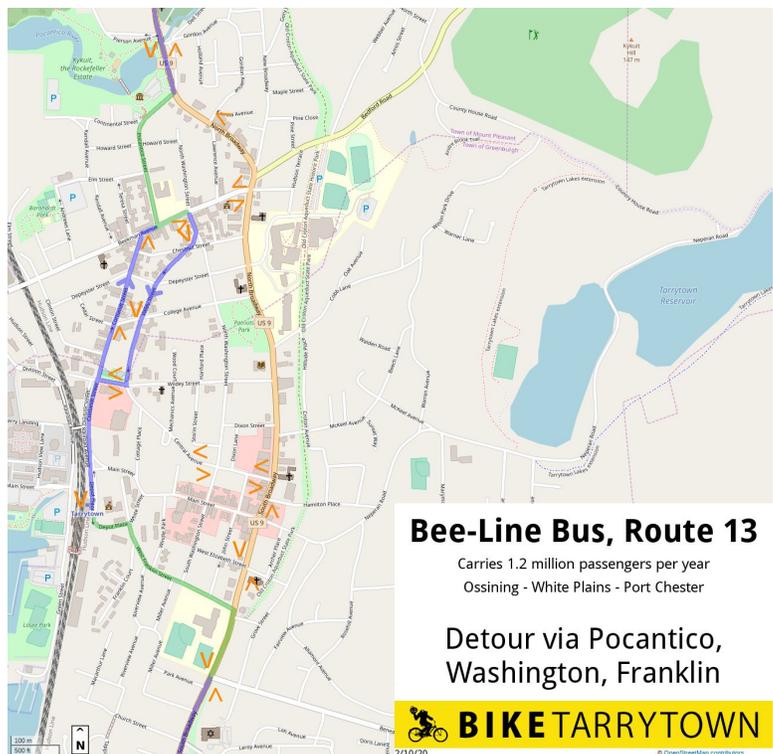
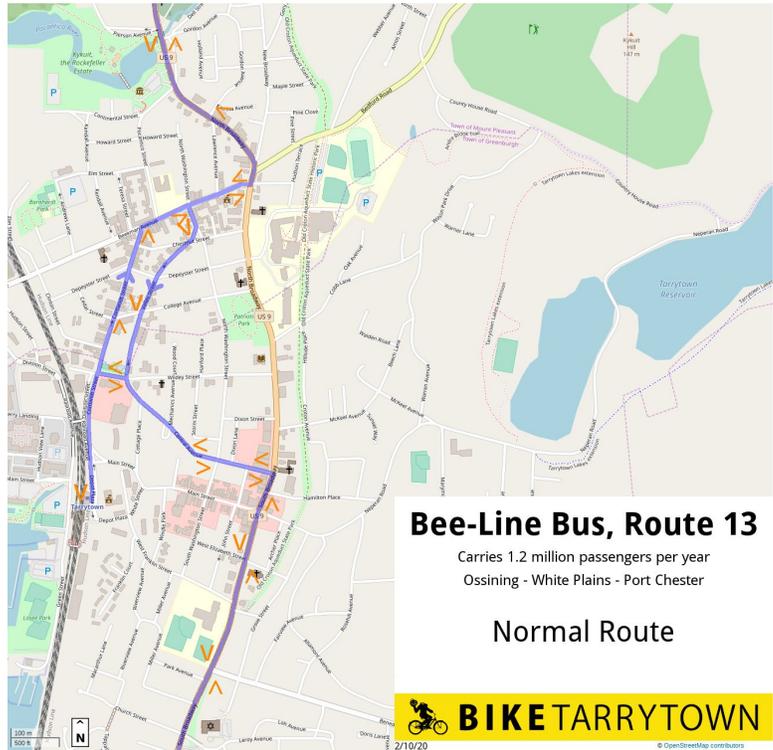
Not only does each car cost its owner \$9,300 per year, it increases competition for parking and consumes land that can be better used for housing, stores and open space.

Thank you for helping preserve the economic and social opportunities people depend on the bus for.

We look forward to continuing our dialogue on ways to help Sleepy Hollow by improving and expanding bus service.

Sincerely,

Daniel Convissor



Route 13 Bus Sunday Schedule

Southbound	Northbound
9:50	10:10
10:50	11:10
11:50	12:10
12:55	1:15
1:55	2:35
3:15	3:35
4:15	4:35
5:15	5:30

Approximate times buses reach Beekman Ave. Orange indicates times parade marchers likely to be present.

(Click maps for higher resolution.)

