



April 1, 2019

Dear Mayor Fixell, Trustees and Administrator Slingerland:

On behalf of Bike Tarrytown's 90 donors and countless supporters, thank you for the opportunity to provide input for the Public Hearing regarding the Village's February 27 proposal to amend Section 259-52 of the Village Code.

For brevity, we will use "cycling" related words as stand-ins for cycling, scooting, skating, skate boarding, etc.

- 1) We agree, people walking should both be and feel safe on sidewalks. When people biking behave politely, cycling on the sidewalk is completely safe. Such behavior is outlined by Section 259-52 in the Village's existing Code, which, in part, requires people exercise "due caution."
- 2) The Village's proposal strikes the word "sidewalk" from Section 259-52. Doing so inadvertently removes the "due caution" provisions for all sidewalks and all ages of users.
- 3) Sub-section 259-52 (C) (about not impeding vehicular traffic) conflicts with Section 1234 of the State's Vehicle and Traffic Law. This contradiction exists in the Code's present form for "in-line skates." Adding the word "bicycles" to Section 259-52 of the Code further muddies the waters. Thus, Sub-section C should be deleted.
- 4) People bike on sidewalks because they feel unsafe on the streets. The proven way to stem sidewalk cycling is ensuring streets are safe.
- 5) The list of sidewalks in the Village's initial proposal is overly broad. It covers every route leading to downtown, all of which have low or modest volumes of people walking. This would turn many people into scofflaws for no benefit.
- 6) Due to the high car, truck and bus volumes on Broadway, most people don't feel safe cycling on it. The Village is unwilling to provide protected bike lanes on Broadway. That leaves sidewalks as the only protected option. Prohibiting cycling on Broadway's sidewalks will end up restricting cycling.
- 7) The initial proposal's age cutoff is 10 years old. The public as a whole, regardless of age, has a wide range of experience and abilities. This means setting a particular age limit is arbitrary.
- 8) When families are cycling together, would kids be riding on the sidewalk while parents ride in the street? That hinders parents' ability to ensure kids ride in a manner safe for people walking. Let alone, such parents would be moving at the children's pace, blocking people driving the whole way.

Given all these considerations, the prudent solution is just making three simple edits to the Village Code. Section 259-52 should read as follows:

No person shall use or operate a **bicycle, scooter,** skateboard, in-line skates, **or** roller skates upon any public streets (including the entire paved and improved surfaces thereof, including gutter areas, from curb-to-curb, where curbs exist), sidewalks or on any public lands within the Village of Tarrytown:

- A. In a careless manner without due caution and circumspection;
- B. While endangering, or in any manner to create a risk or danger to, any person or property. ~~;~~
- C. ~~In any manner to impede or interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic.~~

Sincerely,

Daniel Convissor
Ernest Uthgenannt
Greg Pymm
Jeff Raderstrong
Joseph Nevins
Maria Schmidt
Rachael Ricker
Salvatore Denise