

From: Marc Samwick <mayor@scarsdale.com>
Subject: Re: Freightway Concerns
Date: December 11, 2019 at 12:59:59 PM EST
To: "Everett, Ashley" <Ashley.Everett@gs.com>

Ashley,

Thank you for your email.

The Board of Trustees is also focused on maintaining the quality of Scarsdale's school system. In fact, the Village Manager, Deputy Manager and I met with the Superintendent of Schools and the President and Vice President of the Board of Education yesterday to discuss the Freightway project, as well as other matters. The Board of Education has been involved in the Freightway project from its inception and the Village Board is committed to the continuing to involve the School District in the process.

The Village Board does not intend to complete a development of Freightway if the schools will be unduly harmed.

The Village Board also recognizes that fiscal impacts to the Village and School are critical and the Board is not supportive of a development that is fiscally less attractive than the status quote.

Please note that the community will obtain much more relevant and actionable information as the process continues and the preferred developer conducts its site specific due diligence.

Thank you for your note and please continue to express your views as the process moves forward.

Best regards,

Marc

On Dec 9, 2019, at 7:56 AM, Everett, Ashley <Ashley.Everett@gs.com> wrote:

CAUTION: External sender.

Mayor Samwick -

I'm writing to you with serious concerns about the contemplated Freightway development, in particular the potential impact on our schools, taxes and parking in the village.

A key component of the Scarsdale community are our schools - the quality of the education and the small classrooms are enormous attractions to this town and are the only reason I am willing to pay what are already incredibly high taxes to live here.

Adding even 50 apartments at Freightway, never mind 200!, would have a materially negative impact on our entire school system. We don't have the physical space for the incremental children and our class sizes will increase to a point that impedes the type of education that we moved here for. I live in Fox Meadow and am especially fearful of the impact the apartments will have on our elementary school.

I would expect apartments to pay far lower taxes than the average single family home yet it costs the same to educate a child regardless of whether they live in a one bedroom apartment or 10,000 square foot home. As a result, those of us not living in apartments will pay higher taxes. Given Scarsdale's taxes are already higher than most neighboring towns with similar services, this will affect real estate values and the overall community.

I am as concerned as others in the town about the lack of energy downtown Scarsdale and I fear the current Freightway plans are likely to make current problems worse, not better. We have apartments in Scarsdale and yet the downtown is dead. Why Will apartments on Garth road fix this? We really need better parking. I drive to town to pick up a few items at deciccos this weekend and spend more time looking for parking than I did shopping. Next time I need milk I'll go elsewhere.

Freightway provides critical parking for commuters. The vast majority of your constituents commute to the city. If you live in Scarsdale, going to Freightway is already annoying given the lights over the tracks but it is far superior to not being able to park and get on the train.

The Via idea will not work - it's no different then Scarsdale taxi which isn't attractive because they want to pick up so far in advance of train time.

I highly suggest you revisit the communities goals for Freightway. We don't need apartments. We need parking accessible from both sides of train tracks and we need to maintain our excellent schools and bring taxes down, not up.

I've lived in Scarsdale for 6 years and this is the biggest concern I've had for the future of our Village. Please do not be influenced by real estate developers looking for their next profit. Protect the village for its residents. Please.

Ashley Everett
67 Church Lane