

From: [Bainbridge Ferara](#)
To: [Tabachnick, Alan](#)
Subject: Comments on the Harsimus Branch Embankment meeting
Date: Thursday, September 28, 2023 10:24:39 PM

Hello,

I signed up in advance to speak, but had to leave at 7:30 before my name was called. Just sending you my comments, and I appreciate the opportunity for the community to speak on this important issue.

My name is Eileen Ferara and I am a long time resident of downtown Jersey City. I spend a lot of time along the Embankment, and as an artist much of my current work is inspired by the massive stones and twisting vines of the Embankment's walls. I've had the opportunity to introduce other artists and educators to the Embankment and it is an important part of the neighborhood.

The current action contemplated by the STB would leave the embankment vulnerable to demolition. It's very upsetting to contemplate the tremendous loss to our community of this irreplaceable historic landmark and ecological and transportation resource. I'm asking the STB to please consider two local Redevelopment Plans that exist now. So much energy has gone into working on a plan for a beautiful green space project, taking an important part of Jersey City's past and converting it into a park of the future.

Documenting, signage, websites, are fine, as long as the Embankment still exists to be enjoyed by the people, plants and animals of our city. Mere documentation feels like a dangerous step towards consigning the Embankment to history.

The Embankment is a beloved and integral piece of our community. I urge the STB to reconsider its current position and adopt an MOA that actually protects this historic site that provides relief from flooding, offers an irreplaceable elevated transportation corridor, and will preserve a unique historical asset for the education and enjoyment of all. I ask our New Jersey state preservation office not to sign off on an MOA that does nothing to protect the resource.

Best,
Eileen Ferara