**SAFETY**

“I don’t think another child, teen, or adult should be put at risk of getting hit by a car. We demand space to coexist and stay healthy within this Rockaway Peninsula.”
- Emily Respass, Arverne

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

“I believe this might become a destination for tourists and locals and bring more business to local businesses.”
- Philipp Mohr, Arverne

**TRANSIT**

“We need safer ways to bike on the peninsula. We want people to leave their cars at home to go to the store, to school, to church, to the beach. We want to empower all of community members but especially our seniors and children to be able to safely bike in our community.”
- Jim Burke, Rockaway Park

**HEALTH & WELLNESS**

“Connect the Rock. Make it safe for the people who already use the walkway. Get more people to this walkway. [It] promotes health.”
- Robert Wagner, Rockaway Beach
ACTIVITIES, 2015

Rockaway Waterfront Alliance has engaged the Rockaway community, NYC agencies, elected officials, and private developers in the project.

In 2015, to discuss the Project Underway RWA has met with:

NYC Agencies:
• NYCDOT
• NYCHPD
• NYCDPR
• NYCDCP
• Mayor’s Office of Long Term Planning
• Mayor’s Office of Rebuilding and Resiliency

Elected Officials:
• Assemblyman Phillip Goldfeder
• Assemblywoman Michele Titus
• Senator Joseph Addabbo
• Councilman Donovan Richards
• Eric Ulrich

Private Developers:
• L&M
• Bluestone Group
• Benjamin Beechwood to discuss their properties

By September 2015, RWA has hosted 7 community design charrettes to get the community actively involved in the design and planning process.
ACTIVITIES, 2015

Rockaway Waterfront Alliance has hosted a number of community events in the Underway to promote walking and biking, bike safety, and creative ways to use the space. These events included:

**2015 Bike Parade**
September 2015

**Far Rock Block Party**
with
Gensler Architecture +
Design for America
August 2015

**Bike Bonanza**
with
Bike New York, Recycle-a-
Bicycle, NYCDOT, NYPD
+ NY Coalition for
Transportation Safety
July 2015
In August 2015, RWA begin taking surveys in and around the Underway to better understand who is using the space, how often, how the feel about the space, and what they would like the space to be.

To date we have received 188 responses. Here is what respondents have said:

- **Q3 How often do you use the Underway?**
  - 50% of respondents use the Underway daily and 32% use it weekly. The Underway is an important daily connector for its users.

- **Q12 Do you identify as:**
  - 57% of respondents identified as Black/African American and 21% as Hispanic/Latino.
The Underway has a strong sense of stewardship. Over 69% of respondents said they would be interested in participating in stewardship events like clean ups, paintings, plantings, and community events to improve the space.

78% of respondents answered that they use the space for walking or running, 45% said they use the space to go to the store and 35% said to go to work. This demonstrates that the Underway is an important connector for residents to get to local amenities.
CONCLUSION

1. It is important that this stretch of land remain connected for future development and to serve the community with:
   - improved transit options,
   - economic development,
   - improved health/exercise opportunities,
   - safer roadways/paths for pedestrians, bikers and vehicular traffic and
   - better connection between the neighborhoods of the Rockaways.

2. It is in the Rockaway communities best interests that CB14 and other local stakeholders work with the various agencies and facilitate collaboration among them on the project or encourage one of the agencies to lead on the project as well as ensure that the Underway in included in the recently awarded DOT Tiger Grant study.

3. In July 2015, RWA received a grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to host a pilot to reduce garbage and water runoff into storm drains along a section of the Underway. RWA will install trash cans, and planters along stretch from Beach 56th Place to Beach 67th St and hire local individuals to maintain and care for the stretch over the next two years.

4. Temporary 1 day events are very important, especially in a community with such a sparsity of community programming. RWA will continue to host events for the community to use this stretch. It is our hope that other community groups will also take ownership over the space and bring more programs and vitality to the Rockaway community.