

**Be Safe In Heels or on Wheels!**

Brooklyn, NYC

George Westinghouse

10th Grade

Environmental Science

**ISSUE**

This project is based on the condition of the safety of pedestrians and bicyclist around our school environment. Our school is located in a very trafficked place between the Manhattan Bridge and Brooklyn Bridge. This is a big and important issue because the 2nd and 3rd highest number of crashes that have pedestrians and bicyclist involved are two streets surrounding GWHS. For example in October 2016, there was a terrible accident on Tillary Street and Jay Street outside our school. A man on bicycle was hit by a dump truck and the man was in very critical conditions for a very long time. Another reason why this so terrible is because it was around the time we (students) was coming to school. As you can see, this is a very important issue that needs to be taking care of.

**QUESTION**

Can we make a compelling case to motivate their peers to use environmentally friendly transportation modes, and at the same time, increase their awareness of how to stay safe, as pedestrians and bicyclists, in the traffic environment?

**COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE**

* Instructor: Ms. Hunkele
* Students: 10th Grade Environmental Science
* Client(s): Department of Transportation
* Other Resources: Google Maps, Bike Maps NYC, NYCDOT: Vision Zero website

**YOUTH DRIVEN DATA AND INSIGHTS**

Survey of GWH Student Body

* 62.3 percent out of students feel safe crossing the streets in downtown.
* Most of the student (40.7%) choose 3, on a scale of 1 to 5, how they feel about pedestrians and bicyclists outside of GWHS on Tillary ST.
* Cars driving too fast (44.2%)and construction (32.7%) were the top 2 safety hazard to pedestrians and bicyclist in GWHS for us students.
* The result of our school survey was that student and teachers do not feel safe on Tillary ST. construction work and cars driving too fast are the main problem.
* The majority of the people who took the survey agree that our environment is in need of many changes and repairs.

Site Mapping

* GWHS is located on Tillary St. between Jay St and Flatbush Ave Ext, between the Brooklyn Bridge and Manhattan Bridge.
* There are 7 schools located around Tillary Street where students must cross to get to school.
* In 2016, Vision Zero View reports:
  + 17 pedestrian injuries
  + 10 bicyclist injuries

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**SHORT-TERM (1-6 Months)**

* We had the idea to make a safety awareness campaign for pedestrian, bikers, and drivers. We wanted to educate the public about how to stay safe, and thought these drawings did that.
* As a next step, we want to create computerized versions of the drawings and potentially turn them into signage for Tillary St.

**LONG-TERM (1-3 Years)**

* Remediate the broken sidewalks on Tillary St. There are many cracks and trip hazards, which could be fixed to bring about greater safety.
* Widen the median sidewalks, which is currently only 5 feet wide, in the middle of a heavily trafficked 8-lane road.
* Separate space for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers. Some ideas we had were to create a pedestrian “sky-walk”, an underground walkway tunnel, and a median separate bike lane.

**NEXT STEPS AND SHARED ACCOUNTABILITY:**

* We hope that we can work with a graphic designer or we can ask one of the participants if they can computerized our safety campaign.
* The NYCDOT and the Department of Design and Construction had a project called: HWK639W Plan. This plan began in 2009 to increase safety on Tillary St. This project began because the crash rate is nearly nine times the New York state average, with 117 crashes between 2008 and 2010. The project start at Tillary St. and Adams St. but it stops before reaches our area due to funding issue. We want to work with these partners to ensure that the plan is funded so that it can reach our area where the seven schools are located and greatly affected by safety issues.