

April 7, 2025

Sustainable Saratoga Comment Letter to City of Saratoga Springs regarding the [MJ Engineering Draft Report on truck traffic on Church and Van Dam](#)

Dear City of Saratoga Springs:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the draft Broadway, Van Dam, and Church Street Traffic Assessment, dated February 27, 2025. Sustainable Saratoga has been following the issue of truck traffic impacting the city for some time and appreciates that the city has begun to collect information that assesses the problem. We have the following specific comments to offer:

1. Other than a brief mention of noise in the Introduction, and mention that Concept A would address the issue of vibration and noise, no data was collected that addressed these concerns. Neighbors mentioned these issues extensively in the correspondence and their concerns deserve a more robust response than it received in the city's draft.
2. We are generally in favor of efforts to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety. Presumably, if funding were provided, there would be more detailed engineering studies prior to implementation, and we would provide specific comments then.
3. The real problem is trucks through this area. Pages 26 and 27 attempt to address this by comparing the truck traffic percentages on Church and Van Dam to what the CRTC admits is an arbitrary determination by CRTC that unless the percentage is in excess of 10 percent, then there is no problem. The statements by people who live in this corridor suggest otherwise and should be taken more seriously.
4. We agree with the assessment that a simple bypass of trucks onto other streets would be problematic, simply shifting the problem. We also agree with the recommendation on page 32:



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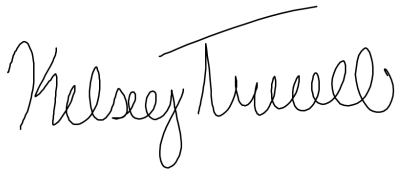
- a. *We recommend the City engage State and Federal elected officials to pursue a long-term solution to heavy vehicle traffic in the City, while at the same time implementing the short-term recommendations listed below.*

We recognize that a potential solution to this issue has been suggested to construct a bypass through Spa State Park. Sustainable Saratoga addressed this possibility [in an issue paper last year](#). We concluded that:

Rather than jumping to a quick fix that would compromise protected lands and valuable natural resources, the City should work with the community, using a methodical, data-driven, and transparent process, to find sustainable and publicly acceptable solutions.

We oppose any truck bypass through the park. It is clear that the local issue of noise, vibration, and traffic disruption felt by the residents of Church and Van Dam Streets is not just a local issue, but a regional one. To move beyond the stalemate that this issue has been in for decades, we recommend that a comprehensive study of truck route alternatives other than those that go through the state park be initiated with adequate budget and time to address the issue thoroughly.

Sincerely,



Kelsey Trudell, on behalf of Sustainable Saratoga's Land Use Committee
Executive Director



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