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To Whom it May Concern,

Vision Long Island would like to express our support for the South Shore Blueway Project. The Blueway will provide a safe water path for kayaks and other paddle boats to navigate undisturbed by motor boats.

This project will utilize Long Island's waterways and increase economic opportunities for development and at designated boating access points. Vision Long Island recognizes that this project takes advantage of one of the Island's most valuable natural corridors, which will encourage tourists to visit for sight-seeing and recreation. The South Shore Blueway Project will enable paddlers to pass by Long Island's barrier islands and observe its wildlife without disturbing it.

Paddle boating does not have a major learning curve, and it is an easy way to engage in nature and healthy living. The blueway will be best suited to avoid hazardous areas of the south shore waters, such as locations of high motor traffic or heavy pollution, to further ensure the safety and appeal of recreational boating.

As a Smart Growth planning organization, Vision Long Island finds that the Blueway Plan correlates with our goals for economic development and an improved quality of life. With the increased waterway mobility, people will be more likely to experience what makes Long Island unique as a natural environment.

Should you wish to discuss the merits of this project further or have any questions concerning Vision Long Island's support, please feel free to contact our office at (631) 261-0242

Sincerely,

Eric Alexander
Executive Director

Vision Long Island advances more livable, economically sustainable, and environmentally responsible growth on Long Island through Smart Growth. Smart Growth focuses on infill, re-development, and open space preservation. It supports mixed-use, mixed-income communities that are convenient, attractive, pedestrian-friendly, and that make affordable housing and public transportation desirable and realistic.

Over the past 15 years Vision has counseled downtown Villages and Towns, and has been a resource for the County, State, and Federal governments, as well as the business and civic community on downtown revitalization, planning and infrastructure. Vision has made over 1,800 presentations, performed 20

community visionings and advanced over 60 public and private planning projects towards implementing the goals of Smart Growth on Long Island.