



CB9M

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COMMUNITY BOARD #9, MANHATTAN

Gale Brewer
President, Borough of Manhattan

June 21, 2016

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Hon. John J. Degnan
Chairman of Committee on Operations
The Port Authority of New York/New Jersey
4 World Trade Center
150 Greenwich Street
New York, NY 10007

Resolution calling upon the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to widen the George Washington Bridge's sidewalks

Dear Chair Degnan,

At its regularly scheduled General Board meeting held on Thursday, June 16, 2016, Community Board No. 9 Manhattan approved the following **Resolution re: The Widening of the George Washington Bridge's Sidewalks** by a vote of 34 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

Whereas, The George Washington Bridge's sidewalks are the only connection across the Hudson River between New York City and New Jersey for pedestrians, runners, and bicyclists; and

Whereas, The paths are heavily used, with an average of 1,700 cyclists and 900 pedestrians crossing each day; and

Whereas, The sidewalks are ten feet wide except where the bridge's suspender ropes pass through, where they are less than seven feet wide: and

Whereas, According to Federal Highway Administration guidelines, shared-use paths should be at least ten feet wide and up to fourteen wide if they are heavily used; and

Whereas, The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is planning an extensive renovation that will replace all of the bridge's suspender ropes beginning in 2017 and lasting until 2024; and

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Whereas, As part of the project, the sidewalks will be replaced and new ramps that will provide access to the sidewalks will be constructed, but the sidewalks will not be widened; and

Whereas, New York City has made efforts in recent years to make its roadways safer and more convenient for pedestrians and bicyclists, particularly through the Vision Zero street safety initiative and the expansion of the bicycle lane network; and

Whereas; The Port Authority's own Bicycle Policy states that its goals are to integrate "improved bicycle access" and "safe bicycle lanes, and to "promise the safe co-existence of motor vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians" at its facilities: and

Whereas, The width of the bridge's sidewalks to do not meet federal standards for high-use pedestrian and bicycle paths, and

Whereas, The planned renovation project presents a unique opportunity to build sidewalks that would be able to safely and comfortably accommodate the increasing number of pedestrians and bicyclist expected to use the bridge in the decades to come; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Manhattan Community Board No.9 supports the Council of the City of New York in calling upon the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to widen the George Washington Bridge's Sidewalks to 10 FEET.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or District Manager, Eutha Prince at (212) 864-6200.

Sincerely,



Padmore John
Chair

cc: Hon. Bill DeBlasio, Mayor
Hon. Charles Rangel, Congressman
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Bill Perkins, State Senator
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, State Senator
Hon. Keith Wright, Assemblymember
Hon. Daniel O'Donnell, Assemblymember
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Assemblymember
Hon. Mark Levine, City Councilmember
Hon. Inez Dickens, City Councilmember
Patrick Foye, Executive Director, The Port Authority of New York/New Jersey
Karen Eastman, Secretary, The Port Authority of New York/New Jersey
Maxine Griffith, Vice President Government Affairs and Exterior Relations, Columbia University
Victoria Mason-Ailey, AICP, Associate Vice President for Planning & Community Affairs, Columbia University