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Borough of East Newark

JOSEPH R. SMITH
MAYOR

October 17, 2017

Kevin J. O'Toole, Chairman
Port Authority of NY & NJ
4 World Trade Center
150 Greenwich Street
New York, New York 10007
kevotoole@panynj.gov

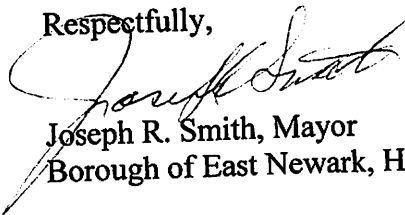
Dear Chairman O'Toole:

The Borough of East Newark, Hudson County, New Jersey calls upon the Port Authority to widen the bicycle-pedestrian paths on the George Washington Bridge to comply with national standards as part of the upcoming recabing in order to support the growth of cycling throughout the region.

We believe that wider GWB paths will spur the development of connected facilities, enhancing tourism, public health, property tax revenue, sustainability and resilience. It will also provide New Jersey residents with new trans-Hudson capacity and commuting options—which should prove critical if regional transit disrupted by planned upgrades to the PA Bus Terminal, Penn Station, emergency repairs to the Hudson rail tunnels or any number of natural or man made events.

We further believe that the upcoming reconstruction, during which the existing paths will be ripped out and restored, represents the ideal opportunity to accomplish the widening.

Respectfully,



Joseph R. Smith, Mayor
Borough of East Newark, Hudson County, New Jersey 07029

Cc: PANYNJ Executive Director Rick Cotton-rcotton@panynj.gov
Cc: Hudson County Executive Thomas A. DeGise-tdegise@hcnj.us
Cc: Hudson Freeholder Chairman Anthony P. Vaineri-asantos@hcnj.us
Cc: Senator Nicholas J. Sacco-sensacco@njleg.org
Cc: Assemblywoman Angelica M. Jimenez-aswjimenez@njleg.org
Cc: Assemblyman/Speaker Vincent Prieto-asmprieto@njleg.org

RESOLUTION: CALLING UPON THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY TO
WIDEN THE GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BRIDGE SIDEWALKS

Introduced by Councilmember TELEPHONE POLE ON

Seconded by Councilmember 10-17-2017

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 cross 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 feet 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

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 won Bicycle Policy states that its goals are to integrate "improved bicycle access" and "safe bicycle lanes" and to "promote the safe co-existence of motor vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians" as its facilities; and

WHEREAS, the width of the bridge's sidewalks 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 bicyclists expected to use the bridge in the decades to come;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of East Newark within the County of Hudson, State of New Jersey calls upon the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to widen the George Washington Bridge's sidewalks.

ROLL CALL:

AYE

NAY

ABSTAIN

ABSENT

Councilmembers:

Lucas

X

Salas

X

Sheehan, Sr.

X

Silva

X

Tighe

X

Zincavage

X

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE
MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF EAST NEWARK

ON TELEPHONE POLL ON 10-17-17.



ROBERT B. KNAPP, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK