

**BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION R-328-17**

CONSENT AGENDA

**RESOLUTION BY: COUNCILMAN GOLABEK
SECONDED BY: COUNCILMAN CHIRDO**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ADVOCACY TO WIDEN BIKE PATHS
ON THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE**

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-used 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 replaved and new ramps that will provide access to the sidewalks will be constructed, but the sidewalks will not be widened; 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 "promote the safe co-existence of motor vehicles, bicycles and bicycle access" and "safe bicycle lanes" and to "promote the safe co-existence of motor of motor vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians" at 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 pedestrian and bicyclists expected to use the bridge in the decades to come.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Elmwood Park calls upon the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to widen the George Washington Bridge's sidewalks; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the Bergen County Executive and the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

APPROVED: September 21, 2017


Robert Colletti, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Keith Kazmark, RMC/CMC/MMC
Borough Clerk

Record of Council Vote on Passage

	AYE	NAY	Abstain	Absent		AYE	NAY	Abstain	Absent
Chirido	X				Vuoncino	X			
Dombrowski				X	Work				X
Golabek	X				Giandomenico	X			

This resolution was approved by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Elmwood Park at a Regular scheduled meeting held on the 21st day of September 2017. Signed and sealed before me.

Keith Kazmark, RMC/CMC/MMC
Borough Clerk

Date