

BOROUGH OF NEW MILFORD
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION

No. 2017: 267

Offered by:..... Councilman Grotsky

Seconded by:..... Councilwoman Duffie

Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent
SIROCCHI-HURLEY	✓			
DUFFIE	✓			
GRANT	✓			
GROTSKY	✓			
LANGSCHULTZ	✓			
ALONSO	✓			
MAYOR (tie)				

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE WIDENING OF THE
GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE SIDEWALKS**

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, 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 sidewalks are currently ten feet wide except where the bridge’s suspender ropes pass through, where they are even less than seven feet wide; 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, by the sidewalks will not be widened; and

WHEREAS, the Port Authority’s bicycle policy states that its goals are to integrate “improved bicycle access” and “safe bicycle lanes” and to “promote the safe coexistence 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

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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 Governing Body of the Borough of New Milford that the Borough fully supports the widening of the George Washington Bridge sidewalks.

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Council of the Borough of New Milford at the meeting held on October 11, 2017.

Cristine Demus

SEAL



ANN SUBRIZI
Mayor

Borough of
New Milford

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HEDY GRANT
Council President

Council Members
AL ALONSO
THEA SIROCCHI-HURLEY
IRA GROTSKY
RANDI DUFFIE
KELLY LANGSCHULTZ

CHRISTINE DEMIRIS, RMC, CMC
Administrator/Borough Clerk

October 11, 2017

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

Dear Chairman O'Toole,

The Mayor and Council of the Borough of New Milford are calling 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 provide NJ residents with new commuting options. This will be critical new capacity should regional transit disrupted by planned upgrades to the mid-town 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,

Mayor Ann Subrizi
Borough of New Milford, NJ

cc: PANYNJ Executive Director Rick Cotton - rcotton@panynj.gov
Bergen Executive James Tedesco - countyexecutive@co.bergen.nj.us
Bergen Freeholder Chairwoman Tracy Silna Zur - Tracyzur@co.bergen.nj.us
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