

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-352

OFFERED BY: Stoltz

SECONDED BY: Shockley

**RESOLUTION URGING PORT AUTHORITY OF NEW YORK
AND NEW JERSEY TO WIDEN THE
GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE'S SIDEWALKS**

WHEREAS, the George Washington Bridge's sidewalks are the only connection across the Hudson River between New Jersey and New York City 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 the 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 own Bicycle Policy states that its goals are to integrate "improved bicycle access" and "safe bicycle lane," and to "promote the safe co-existence 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 pedestrians 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 Carlstadt, Bergen County, New Jersey, hereby calls upon the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to widen the George Washington Bridge's sidewalks to comply with national standards as part of the upcoming renovation and reconstruction project in order to support the growth of cycling throughout the region.

DATED: November 13, 2017

APPROVED: Craig LaHullier
CRAIG LAHULLIER, MAYOR

ATTEST: Claire Foy
CLAIRE FOY, BOROUGH CLERK

ROLL CALL VOTE				
COUNCIL MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Zimmermann	X			
Stoltz	X			
Bartlett	X			
Lenoy	X			
Emerson				X
Shockley	X			

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Carlstadt, New Jersey on

November 13, 2017
Claire Foy
Claire Foy, Borough Clerk