

**BOROUGH OF CLOSTER**  
**COUNTY OF BERGEN**

**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 repaved 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 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 Closter, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey calls upon the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to widen the George Washington Bridge’s sidewalks; and

**NOW 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.

COUNCILPERSON	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Councilwoman Amitai			X			
Councilman Barad		X	X			
Councilwoman Chung			X			
Councilman Di Dio			X			
Councilwoman Latner	X		X			
Councilman Yammarino			X			

Adopted: November 8, 2017

**APPROVED BY:**

  
John C. Glidden, Jr., Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Loretta Castano, Borough Clerk

Certified to be a true copy of Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Closter on November 8, 2017.

  
Loretta Castano, Borough Clerk