

REVISED

NONCONSENT



2017 BERGEN COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS RESOLUTION

*MWB
2-5-17*

MEMBERS	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Amoroso	/			
Ganz	/			
Ortiz	/			
Sullivan	/			
Tanelli	/			
Voss	/			
Chairwoman Zur	/			
TOTALS	7	-	-	-

Resolution No. 1147-17
 Date: December 6, 2017
 Page: 1 of 2
 Department/Division: Planning & Engineering
 Purpose: Resolution in Support of Widening
GWB Pedestrian/Cycling Path in
Compliance with ADA, FHA and
AASHTO Requirements
 Account No. _____
 Contract No. _____
 Dollar Amount: N.A.
 Prepared By: JF/JB

Offered by: Voss
 Seconded by: Tanelli
 Approved by: KR

Certified as a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders on above date at the Regular Meeting by:

Lara Rodriguez Clerk, Board of Chosen Freeholders, Bergen County, New Jersey

WHEREAS, The George Washington Bridge (GWB), spanning the Hudson River between Fort Lee, New Jersey and Washington Heights in New York City, is over 80 years old and the busiest motor vehicle bridge in the world; 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, 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 approximately 345,000 bike riders and 205,000 pedestrians make their way across the George Washington Bridge annually, based on data obtained from the bike & pedestrian counter on the south path of the bridge; and

WHEREAS, the existing shared-use paths are 10-foot wide and narrow to 7-foot wide where the suspender ropes pass through and are non-compliant with FHA guidelines; and

WHEREAS, The Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) is comprehensive Federal civil rights legislation adopted to prohibit discrimination against people with disabilities and the existing share-use paths are non-compliant with ADA requirements; and

WHEREAS, the American Association of State and Highway Traffic Officers (“AASHTO”) 2012 Guide for Development of Bicycle Facilities guidelines have been broadly accepted as “best practices” by Departments of Transportation across the U.S. and its Shared Use Path Level of Service Calculator sets forth levels of service; and

WHEREAS, Federal Highway Administration (“FHA”) guidelines provide that 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’s planned renovation project presents a unique opportunity to build FHA, AASHTO and ADA compliant sidewalks to safely and comfortably accommodate today’s pedestrians and bicyclists and those expected to use the bridge in the decades to come.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the County of Bergen supports the widening of the George Washington Bridge sidewalks and urges the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey’s to design and construct widened sidewalks and approaches so that they are compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act, the Federal Highway Administration (“FHA”) guidelines and AASHTO.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that cycling and ADA compliant pedestrian access be maintained at all times throughout the renovation process, or if this is not feasible, cost free alternative ADA compliant transportation for all pedestrians and bicycles be provided during the normal hours of operations that are currently in force for the Bridge’s sidewalks.