

**BOROUGH OF EMERSON
COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION**

No: 277-17

**RE: 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 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, 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 does 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; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Emerson that the Borough supports the widening of the George Washington Bridge sidewalks.

COUNCIL	M O V E D	S E C O N D E D	A Y E S	N A Y E S	A B S E N T	A B S T A I N
DiPaola		X	X			
Falotico			X			
Lazar			X			
Knoller	X		X			
Downing					X	
Worthington					X	

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was duly adopted by the Borough of Emerson at a meeting held on December 5, 2017.

Attest:


Municipal Clerk