

TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF
COUNTY OF BERGEN
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION #18-138

INTRODUCED: *Shanley*

SECONDED: *Rubenstein*

MEETING DATE: March 6, 2018

REFERENCE: Requesting the Port Authority
of NJ/NY to Widen the Sidewalks on the
George Washington Bridge

VOTE: BOONSTRA MADIGAN RUBENSTEIN SCANLAN SHANLEY

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-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 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,

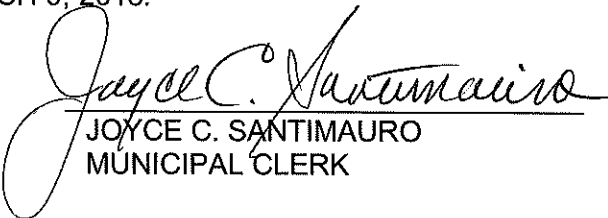
WHEREAS, the planned renovation project presents a unique opportunity to build sidewalks that would be able to safely and comfortably accommodate the increasing number of pedestrians and bicyclists expected to use the bridge in the decades to come.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Wyckoff, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey that they do hereby request that the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to widen the sidewalks on the George Washington Bridge for bicycle and pedestrian usage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Clerk shall send a certified copy of this resolution to Governor Murphy, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Chairman Kevin J. O'Toole, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Executive Director Rick Cotton, Bergen County Executive James Tedesco, Senator Corrado, Assemblymen Rooney and DePhillips.

CERTIFICATION

I, JOYCE C. SANTIMAURO, MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF, CERTIFY THE ABOVE TO BE A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE ON MARCH 6, 2018.


JOYCE C. SANTIMAURO
MUNICIPAL CLERK