



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 28, 2016

Contact: Brian Zumhagen, Transportation Alternatives (646) 873-6008

Cyndi Steiner, New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition (973) 886-4142

**NJ Bike & Walk Coalition, TransAlt support PA's Accessibility changes to GWB**  
*PANYNJ Now Has Definitive Counts for GWB Bike and Pedestrian Crossings*

Transportation Alternatives and the NJ Bike & Walk Coalition support the ADA changes to the George Washington Bridge that the Port Authority will be implementing as part of the upcoming suspender rope replacement project. Those changes include removal of the stairs on the north path, on both the New York and New Jersey side, the removal of the hairpin turn on the south path on the New York side, and separating bike riders onto the north path and pedestrians on the south path.

The Port Authority has shared with the two organizations definitive counts of the number of bike riders and pedestrians crossing the George Washington Bridge in 2015. These counts are available for the first time, and were obtained from the bike and pedestrian counter that the two organizations urged the PA to install.

“The George Washington Bridge continues to be a popular route for active transportation between New York City and New Jersey,” said Cyndi Steiner of the New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition.

Data from Eco-Counters first installed in July 2014 show that last year, there were a total of 382,433 bike trips and 226,047 pedestrian trips across the bridge. That means an average of 524 cyclists and 309 pedestrians made round-trips each day. The total number of vehicular crossings over the George Washington Bridge in the eastbound tolled direction in 2015 was 50,456,000, meaning that mode share was 0.38% for cyclists; 0.12% of people crossing the bridge are pedestrians.

On weekdays, the busiest hours for both cyclists and pedestrians correspond to peak commuting hours to and from New York City. On weekends, travel patterns indicate recreational trips to and from New Jersey are taking place in the morning and early afternoon. Sunday is the busiest day of the week for cyclist and pedestrian crossings, when more than 30% and 22%, respectively, of total bike riders and pedestrians cross the bridge.

“These findings show that cyclists and pedestrians are increasingly choosing to use the George Washington Bridge for both commuting and recreation, and the Port Authority should be encouraged to make the maximum possible allocation of space for them,” said Paul Steely White, Executive Director of Transportation Alternatives.

Transportation Alternatives and the NJ Bike & Walk Coalition continue to monitor these counts in Partnership with the Port Authority in their efforts to make the bridge more cyclist- and pedestrian-friendly. These organizations have a long history of advocating for access to the bridge, including successfully urging the Port Authority to make the bridge ADA-compliant in March of 2014.

111 John Street, Rm 260 New York, NY 10038

☎ (212) 629-8080 📠 (212) 629-8334

[www.transalt.org](http://www.transalt.org)