



**TRANSPORTATION
ALTERNATIVES**



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GWB Bike and Pedestrian Crossings up for Recreation, Transportation

T.A., NJBWC Commend Port Authority for Installing Bicycle and Pedestrian Counter

Transportation Alternatives and the New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition would like to thank the officials who have committed to making the George Washington Bridge more bike- and pedestrian-friendly, including Governor Andrew Cuomo, Governor Chris Christie, Chairman John Degnan, Vice-Chairman Scott Rechler and the rest of the Board of Commissioners, Port Authority Executive Director Patrick Foye, Deputy Executive Director Deborah Gramiccioni, Cedric Fulton - Director, Tunnels, Bridges and Terminals, and Robert Durando - General Manager, George Washington Bridge.

Making the promised ADA-compliant improvements to the bridge will enable those who are physically challenged to enjoy the access that all of us have to the bridge. These improvements will also benefit the more than 500,000 cyclists who traverse the bridge each year for recreation and transportation purposes.

Our organizations commend the Authority for following our recommendation to install a state-of-the-art bicycle and pedestrian counter on the south path of the bridge. This counter will provide the Authority with additional guidance in accommodating active transportation on the bridge, and it further demonstrates the agency's commitment to alternative transportation.

The first set of counts, captured from July 17 to Sept 2, report an average of 1,700 cyclists and 900 pedestrians per day. Of the 123,000 people who crossed the bridge during this period, 66% used a bicycle and 34% were on foot. Weekday trends show highest usage for both pedestrians and bicyclists during the morning and evening rush hour peaks, clearly demonstrating the need for the bridge to accommodate those using active transportation as a means to reach their workplaces.



Weekend usage for cyclists peaks between 7 am and 9 am for outbound riders and reaches maximum inbound usage around 11 am, gradually tapering off through the afternoon hours as NYC-based riders return from their morning rides to northern New Jersey, and those riding into the city get a later start from across the river. Weekend pedestrian usage reaches an outbound peak at 7 am and an inbound peak at noon, which is likely a reflection of people walking to work in NJ on weekend mornings, and sightseers later in the day. Both outbound and inbound pedestrian usage remains rather constant from peak usage until about 7 pm, where it tapers off at sunset.

Saturday is the busiest day on the bridge for bicycle riders, with over 26% of the weekly total, and Sunday is the day for pedestrians to enjoy the bridge, with 18% crossing then. Fully 50% of the weekly bicycle traffic occurs on the weekend, while only 34% of pedestrian traffic occurs on the weekend, further reinforcing the need for the bridge to accommodate those who walk to work on both the NJ and NYC sides of the bridge.

During the period these counts were taken, Saturday, August 9 had the highest usage, with a total of 5,023 bicyclists and pedestrians crossing the bridge that day; 73% of those crossed on a bike. The weather on that day was sunny and 82 degrees for the high, which is perfect riding weather.