



Testimony presented to the Board of Commissioners of the Port Authority of NYNJ at their board meeting on March 19, 2014:

My name is Cyndi Steiner and I am the Executive Director of the New Jersey Bike + Walk Coalition. Thank you for your time today. On behalf of NJBWC, I would like to thank Chairman Samson, Executive Director Patrick Foye, Deputy Executive Director Deborah Gramiccioni, Cedric Fulton - Director, Tunnels, Bridges and Terminals, and Robert Durando- General Manager, George Washington Bridge, for undertaking the changes on the George Washington Bridge that will provide continued and safe bicyclist, pedestrian, and ADA access during the upcoming cable replacement project and beyond. We applaud the Authority for providing alternatives to driving across the bridge, so that all road users are accommodated, including those who are accessibility challenged, and whether they are commuting to work in NYC or NJ, taking a recreational ride, or taking a walk or stroll to see the Hudson River and to enjoy the magnificent view the bridge affords. Providing access to all road users is the new standard in transportation, and we applaud the Authority for being ahead of the curve.

We appreciate the significant challenges ahead and the resources required to remove the north side staircases and the south hairpin and are impressed with the Authority's engineering department in proposing these changes and endeavoring to make them a reality. The removal of the north side staircases has been on the agenda of cyclists in New Jersey for many years. The opening of the north path after

these changes are completed will be a spectacular day for bicycle riders and for the Authority.

We encourage the Authority, when the project is complete, to segregate bicyclists on one side of the bridge and pedestrians on the other.

This collaboration began in February 2013 and has been ongoing since then. I'd like to point out that the Port Authority is the first public agency to work with the New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition. We view this collaboration as a success to date and encourage other agencies to follow the Authority's example. We look forward to continued collaboration as the project progresses and in the years beyond, and we thank you very much for working with us.

Thank you for your time today.