

# STREETS BLOG NYC

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## GWB Will Get Bike-Ped Upgrades as Part of Cable Rehab Project

by Stephen Miller

Yesterday, the Port Authority board authorized a \$1.03 billion rehabilitation of the George Washington Bridge's suspension cables that will also fix problem spots for cyclists and pedestrians using its shared paths. But the upgraded biking and walking routes will still be two feet narrower than the recommended width for shared-use paths.

Today, users of the south path face a hairpin turn on the Manhattan side. The north path, which remains closed, has staircases on both sides of the Hudson. Under the plan, both paths would be upgraded to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, eliminating the hairpin turn and the stairs.

The north path will receive upgrades first and then reopen to the public before the south path is closed for construction.

The fixes were welcomed by Transportation Alternatives and the New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition, which both worked with the Port Authority as it was planning the project.

In his testimony, Neile Weissman, who serves as president of the New York Cycle Club, also praised the changes but prodded the Port Authority to widen the paths, which at 8 feet would fall below federal guidelines, which call for a minimum of 10 feet, or up to 14 feet for busy shared-use paths.

"We have a budget and a limited amount of revenue," Port Authority spokesperson Chris Valens told Streetsblog. "We did what we thought we could accommodate based on the project and the cost of the project." Valens added that with both the north and south paths open, it might be possible to designate one path for cyclists and another for pedestrians, though no final decision has been made.

<http://www.streetsblog.org/2014/03/20/gwb-will-get-bike-ped-upgrades-as-part-of-cable-rehab-project/>



Say goodbye to these stairs on the George Washington Bridge path... in ten years. Photo: [Google Maps](#)