



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

1 Centre Street, 19th floor, New York, NY 10007
(212) 669-8300 p (212) 669-4306 f
431 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027
(212) 531-1609 p (212) 531-4615 f
www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov

Gale A. Brewer, Borough President

June 23, 2021

**Recommendation on ULURP Application C180024 MMM
Restore The George City Map Change
By the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey**

PROPOSED ACTIONS

The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (“the Applicant”) is seeking approval to amend the City Map to eliminate, discontinue, and close West 178th, 179th, and 180th Streets between Haven Avenue and Cabrini Boulevard; to eliminate, discontinue, and close Haven Avenue between West 177th Street and 180th Streets; and to establish a turn-around at the newly formed Haven Avenue dead end (“the Actions”). The Actions would facilitate the construction of new bicycle and pedestrian ramps on the north and south sides of the New York side of the George Washington Bridge (“GWB”).

BACKGROUND

The GWB was built in 1931 and is a vital link between New York and New Jersey. The bridge is the busiest vehicular crossing in the world. In addition to carrying vehicular traffic, the bridge also carries bicycle and pedestrian traffic. The bicycle and pedestrian paths across the GWB are the only such links for non-vehicular traffic between New York and New Jersey. The effort to improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities on the GWB is part of the Applicant’s 10-year, \$1.9 billion plan to renovate the bridge.¹

The streets listed in the Actions are unbuilt and do not serve any residential or commercial structures. Since the time of the bridge’s construction, the City Map has not been amended to reflect the fact that these streets have not operated as roadways.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The Applicant proposes to remove the aforementioned unbuilt streets (West 178th, 179th, 180th Streets, and Haven Avenue) from the City Map. Removing these unbuilt streets is a part of the Applicant’s efforts to improve access to the GWB. Part of these efforts include the construction of new bicycle and pedestrian pathways on the bridge. The proposed new paths for bicyclists and pedestrians would be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”).

¹ [Restoring the George: 10-Year Capital Construction Program.](#)

Area Context

The site of the proposed City Map change is located within Manhattan Community Board 12 in Washington Heights. The site is located near several landmarks and destinations in Washington Heights including Fort Washington Park, J. Hood Wright Park, The Little Red Lighthouse, Holyrood Episcopal Church-Iglesia Santa Cruz, and the George Washington Bridge Bus Station. The site is close to the 175th Street and 181st Street subway stations along the A line. Also nearby are bus stops along the M4, M5, M98, M100, Bx3, Bx7, Bx11, Bx13, Bx35, and Bx36 routes.

Site Description

The site consists of the existing ramps to the GWB. The unbuilt streets cover an area of 115,857 square feet. The surrounding area is zoned R7-2 and R8 with multifamily residential buildings that vary in height but are generally five to six stories. Just east of the area is a C4-4 zone which encompasses the George Washington Bridge Bus Station and Broadway, the main commercial thoroughfare of the area. To the west of the area is the GWB, the Henry Hudson Parkway, and Fort Washington Park.

COMMUNITY BOARD RESOLUTION

Manhattan Community Board 12 held a Full Board meeting on May 25, 2021. The Board voted to recommend approval of the application by a vote of 33 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 recusals.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

This change to the City Map is long overdue, as these streets were never constructed. I support the installation and upgrade of new bicycle and pedestrian ramps. The new ramps will finally bring this access point to the GWB into ADA compliance and provide an upgraded experience for bicyclists and pedestrians. During this pandemic, we have seen an increase of people commuting via bicycles and this project is a good step toward providing adequate infrastructure and better access to vital transportation links.

I appreciate the Applicant's efforts to engage with and inform the community throughout the ULURP process.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

Therefore, the Manhattan Borough President recommends approval of ULURP Application No. C180024 MMM – Restore The George City Map Change.



Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President