The Proposed Ocean Parkway Shared-Use Path

Wantagh State Parkway at Jones Beach State Park
to
Robert Moses Causeway at Captree State Park

Project ID No.: 0006.11
Project Location Plan
The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is in the preliminary design stage to construct a 14.4 mile shared-use path for non-motorized use (bicyclists, pedestrians, etc.) along the Ocean Parkway in the Towns of Hempstead, Oyster Bay, Babylon, and Islip between the Wantagh State Parkway and the Robert Moses Causeway.

The provision of non-motorized transportation facilities is consistent with NYSDOT’s Smart Growth Policy.
Ocean Parkway is one of Long Island’s most scenic roadways, yet it is only accessible by automobile.

There are no areas along Ocean Parkway that are designated for use by bicyclists and pedestrians, and they are currently prohibited from using the parkway.

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Pedestrians, joggers, and bicyclists are frequently observed using the parkway pavement and grass shoulders, particularly in the vicinity of the Gilgo Beach, West Gilgo Beach, and Oak Beach communities.

Up to 2,000 users per day have been counted on the existing Wantagh State Parkway Path.
The lack of a designated facility for non-motorized transportation along the Ocean Parkway is a safety concern and has long been recognized as a deficiency in Long Island’s comprehensive regional transportation plan.

The provision of non-motorized transportation facilities is consistent with NYSDOT’s Smart Growth Policy.

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Local public officials and path users first identified the need for a non-motorized, multi-use path along the Ocean Parkway in the mid-1990s. The concept was presented to the Long Island State Park Commission and the NYSDOT initiated the project as a means of increasing transportation choices to access recreational and employment opportunities.

In January 2000, a Public Information Center for the Ocean Parkway Shared-Use Path was held at Jones Beach State Park.
The path would begin at the end of the existing terminus of the Wantagh State Parkway Path and terminate at Captree State Park, just east of Robert Moses Causeway.

The length of the path is approximately 14.4 miles (23.1 kilometers), the width of the path would generally be 13 feet (4 meters), and would conform to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

continued…
Project Features

- The path would be buffered from, and would not provide direct access to, the local residential communities.

- The path would be located entirely within the State parkway property right-of-way on the north side of Ocean Parkway.

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Project Features

- Locating the path on the north side of the parkway would eliminate potential environmental impacts on the south side of the parkway.

- Public facilities are expected to be accessible to path users at Jones Beach State Park, Tobay Beach, Cedar Beach Marina, and Captree State Park during normal operating hours.

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Project Features

- A new bike corral would be provided at Jones Beach State Park and Captree State Park

- Environmental and ecological enhancements including new nesting boxes and plantings, would be provided
Who will this project benefit?

- Bicyclists
- Hikers
- Joggers
- In-Line Skaters
- Naturalists
- Park Visitors
- Park Employees
Enhanced access to Long Island’s public beaches, shoreline, public beach facilities.

Safe, non-motorized, non-polluting alternative mode for transportation to recreational, employment, and residential areas along Ocean Parkway.

Increased transportation choices for commuting to work and recreation.

continued…
Project Benefits

- Greater opportunities for exercise and health improvements
- Additional active and passive recreation opportunities
- Environmental enhancements and landscape improvements

continued…
Project Benefits

- Better access to natural areas along the barrier beach
- Tourism opportunities
- Opportunities to reduce dependence on automobiles
Project Objectives

- To provide an environmentally sensitive and safe shared-use path for non-motorized modes of transportation along the north side of Ocean Parkway.

- Provide non-motorized access to recreational and employment facilities along Ocean Parkway.

- Reduce highway congestion and improve air quality by helping to transform motorized traffic into non-motorized transportation.
NYSDOT developed the proposed project based on input and suggestions from residents, businesses, local groups and public officials as well as the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP), NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the Town of Oyster Bay, the Town of Babylon, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sierra Club, and Audubon Society.

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Community Involvement

- In addition to numerous discussions and individual meetings with these groups, a Public Information Center was conducted in January 2000.

- A Public Hearing Meeting is being held on August 12, 2008 between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at the Theodore Roosevelt Nature Center at Jones Beach State Park.
Shared-Use Path Typical Section

Shared-Use Path on North Side of Ocean Parkway
Looking Westbound

NYSDOT.GOV
Shared-Use Path at Jones Beach State Park
Adjacent to Ocean Parkway

Existing Condition

Proposed Shared-Use Path

Looking West
PIN 0006.11 - Ocean Parkway Shared-Use Path Project

Shared-Use Path Typical Section

Shared-Use Path Close to Ocean Parkway
Looking Westbound

NYSDOT.GOV
Shared-Use Path at Oak Beach

Existing Condition

Proposed Shared-Use Path

Looking West
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Shared-Use Path Typical Section

Pedestrian Underpass without Underpass Extension
Looking Westbound
Shared-Use Path Typical Section

Pedestrian Underpass with Underpass Extension
Looking Westbound
Shared-Use Path at Tobay Beach
Pedestrian Underpass

Existing Condition
Proposed Shared-Use Path

Looking South

NYSDOT.GOV
Shared-Use Path at Gilgo Beach
Pedestrian Underpass

Existing Condition
Proposed Shared-Use Path

Looking West
Shared-Use Path at Jones Beach State Park
Connection to Existing Bikeway

Existing Condition

Proposed Shared-Use Path

Looking North
Shared-Use Path at Jones Beach State Park

Existing Condition

Proposed Shared-Use Path

Looking East

NYSDOT.GOV
The proposed path would be buffered from the communities at West Gilgo Beach and Gilgo Beach with landscape plantings.

The proposed path would cross the entrances to the West Gilgo Beach and Gilgo Beach communities, but would not provide direct access to the interior of the communities.

There would be no access to or from the Oak Beach Community.
PIN 0006.11 - Ocean Parkway Shared-Use Path Project

Shared-Use Path at West Gilgo Beach
Community Entrance

Existing Condition
Proposed Shared-Use Path

Looking West

NYSDOT.GOV
Shared-Use Path at Tobay Beach Parking Entrance

Existing Condition

Proposed Shared-Use Path

Looking West
Kiosks for interpretive signage are proposed for strategic points along the proposed Shared-Use Path.

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The proposed Shared-Use Path would not encroach on wetlands, and would be consistent with the existing distant views from the Parkway.

The alignment along the north side of the Parkway would eliminate potential impact on the ocean dunes and the protected species such as Seabeach Amaranth and Piping Plover.
The project would install new diamondback terrapin nesting sites, an osprey nesting pole, bird nesting boxes in the vicinity of the Kennedy National Wildlife Preserve, and plantings that would enhance monarch butterfly and northern harrier habitat.

**continued...**
The project would also install plantings in the Parkway median to discourage illegal crossovers at non-designated locations at Hemlock Cove and West Gilgo Beach. Plantings would include native species appropriate to the coastal zone.

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The NYSDOT is coordinating with the USFWS and State Parks to monitor illegal cross-over areas during construction and post-construction.

- Reducing illegal cross-overs would help protect ocean dunes and threatened species such as the Piping Plover and Seabeach Amaranth.
At Jones Beach State Park, the proposed Shared-Use Path would accommodate bicyclists, in-line skaters, joggers, and other users near Zach's Bay and around the amphitheatre parking lot.

All construction materials and design of the proposed Shared-Use Path would be sensitive to the historic character of Jones Beach State Park and in accordance with current architectural guidelines.
Additional parking is being proposed for Captree State Park as well as a bus stop that would allow bicyclists to park and ride to Robert Moses State Park.

Bicycle Parking Facilities are proposed for Jones Beach State Park and Captree State Park to accommodate visitors.
Anticipated Project Schedule

- Design Approval: Fall 2008
- Complete Final Design: 2009
- Construction: 2010 - 2011
Thank You For Coming!

For More Information or Comments:

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