

Bike and pedestrian path to be added to Scudder Falls bridge

By Times Staff Writer

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NEW HOPE, Pa. — Bicycle advocates received a joyous jolt Monday when they learned that the new nine-lane Scudder Falls bridge will have a bike and pedestrian path.

The facilities had been lobbied for by hiker and bicycle advocates last year at meetings of the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission, which will build the new span that has a price tag of \$310 million. The bridge connects I-95 in New Jersey with its Pennsylvania counterpart.

"The bicycle-pedestrian facility was easily the topic that received the most comments during the public hearing process we conducted late last year and early this year," said Frank G. McCartney, executive director of the commission.

"It always was the commission's intention to include this path in the final design of the project, provided we could properly address the cost issues." The bridge widening is thought necessary to handle increasing traffic.

McCartney said it was too early to estimate the precise cost of the accommodation for pedestrians and bikers.

Response from bike-path advocates was enthusiastic.

"Wow, what great good news," said John Boyle, advocacy director for the 1,600-member Philadelphia Bicycle Coalition.

"This will be a major impact for bicyclists," said Boyle. "The site will be an icon. It will become a destination point in itself where people can go to the middle of the bridge and see the beautiful scenes along the Delaware River."

The existing span is roughly 1,700 feet long, towers over the river surface, and offers commanding views of the surrounding countryside. So far motorists have been able to enjoy those views only while in motion.

By Curt Yeske/SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

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