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Press Release

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[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

Rockaways Cross Bay Bridge Pedestrian Walkway Re-opens

The new, improved walkway at the Cross Bay Veterans Memorial Bridge in the Rockaways has re-opened to the public after nearly a year of reconstruction.

Work on this popular pedestrian and cyclist crossing was completed as part of MTA Bridges and Tunnels' overall \$56.9 million deck rehabilitation of the 38-year old bridge that will continue through spring 2010.

"We know the walkway provides important access for the community, which is why we provided free daily shuttle bus service during the closure," said Adrian Moshe, Facility Engineer of both the Cross Bay and Marine Parkway–Gil Hodges Memorial bridges. "So we're very pleased to present the reconstructed path for everyone's use going forward."

This part of the deck project reconstructed the span's existing 10-foot wide sidewalk, which is used by pedestrians and bicyclists. The rehabilitated walkway has new concrete barriers and railing, newly paved asphalt wearing surface, fire stand pipe and upgraded drainage. The overall project comprises rehabilitation of the deck and ramps under the authority's current capital plan. Three decades of wear-and-tear in the salt-water environment of the Rockaways made the work necessary. The project began in summer 2007 and El Sol Contracting & Construction Corp. of Maspeth, Queens is the contractor for the job.

The agency has been regularly briefing local community groups and elected officials about the walkway closing and other phases of the overall project, most recently at a Community Board 14 meeting in the summer.

"We are always mindful of our neighbors' concerns," said John Ryder, General Manager for the agency's two Rockaways crossings. "We appreciate their patience and that of our customers as this important work continues."

The Cross Bay Bridge ties the Rockaways, Broad Channel and the Jamaica Wildlife Refuge to the rest of Queens. The bridge, which opened to traffic in 1970, is a high-level fixed bridge with a concrete deck; it has six lanes of traffic (three 12-foot wide lanes in each direction), crossing over Beach Channel. Approximately 22,000 vehicles cross the bridge daily.

MTA Bridges and Tunnels nine facilities, which serve more than 830,000 daily customers, are the Bronx–Whitestone, Cross Bay Veterans Memorial, Henry Hudson, Marine Parkway–Gil Hodges Memorial, Throgs Neck, Triborough and Verrazano–Narrows Bridges, and the Brooklyn–Battery and Queens Midtown Tunnels.



Photo caption: Cross Bay Bridge Facility Engineer Adrian Moshe (left, foreground) presided at a ribbon-cutting for the newly opened pedestrian path, joined by Queens Community Board 14 District Manager Jonathan Gaska (right, foreground), and Bridges and Tunnels Law Enforcement, Maintenance and Operations staff. Completed sidewalk has new lighting, barriers, railing and asphalt wearing surface.

