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Press Release

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[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel Additional Evening Lane from Manhattan to Continue

MTA Bridges and Tunnels has announced that homeward-bound express buses and other commuters will continue to have an additional lane through the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel in the evening out of Manhattan.

Adding a lane, created by reversing an inbound lane last November, was originally designed as a temporary measure to ease the trip for bus commuters until completion of a construction project at the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, further along on the bus route. The project is finished but, in weighing the benefits of the lane to transit users and to overall evening traffic flow in Lower Manhattan, MTA Bridges and Tunnels decided to keep the lane, called a contraflow lane, in operation. The agency coordinated with MTA NYC Transit, which operates 500 express buses daily through the tunnel, and the New York City Police Department on the action.

Keeping this extra tunnel lane open is a significant value added for Staten Island and Brooklyn bus commuters, as well as other traffic going out-bound: approximately 24,000 people use the tunnel between 4 PM and 7 PM, the hours the extra lane is in operation—about 15,000 of them are in buses, the remainder in cars. By contrast, in-bound during this period, the tunnel is used by a total of 6,000 vehicles.

Overall, the benefits of the evening rush contra-flow lane mirror those of the long-standing, successful morning contra-flow lane.

Evening rush hour street congestion on the Battery Place approaches to the tunnel has also been significantly reduced. MTA will continue to monitor the effects of the lane, including in-bound Gowanus Expressway traffic during these hours, although the impact has so far proven to be relatively minor (an average of three-to-five minute delays, primarily from the merging of the five toll lanes into one tunnel tube).

MTA Bridges and Tunnels' facilities, which connect the five boroughs of New York City, are the Triborough, Throgs Neck, Bronx-Whitestone, Henry Hudson, Verrazano-Narrows, Cross Bay Veterans Memorial and Marine Parkway-Gil Hodges Bridges, and the Queens Midtown and Brooklyn-Battery Tunnels.

Photo caption: Express bus leaving Manhattan via the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel.



Photo caption: Express bus leaving Manhattan via the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel.