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Press Release

July 25, 2008

[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

Brooklyn-bound Lower Level Construction at Verrazano-Narrows Bridge Is Complete: All Lanes Open by Monday, July 28th

MTA Bridges and Tunnels has announced that the entire lower level to Brooklyn will be open to vehicular traffic on or before Monday, July 28th, nearly six weeks ahead of the Labor Day target date.

Construction on the eastbound lanes has reached an end, and all three lanes of the roadway will be restored to normal operation and newly striped, weather permitting. Any further lane closures will be temporary and only during off-peak hours; in addition, a concrete barrier will remain in place to isolate the shoulder area for minor work.

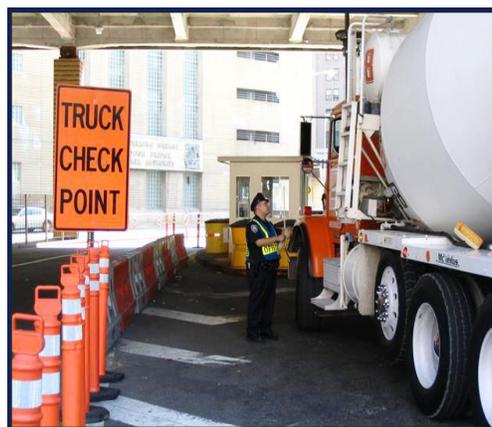
"The reconstruction of the bridge's lower level approaches—eastbound and westbound—is now complete, six weeks ahead of the incentive deadline we set," said David Moretti, Acting President of MTA Bridges and Tunnels. "We appreciate the patience of our customers and the community throughout all phases of this major project."

In response to community concerns, the MTA negotiated incentives with contractor El Sol totaling \$6.85 million to expedite the job, in addition to reconfiguring traffic patterns, and adding more signs and traffic agents to ease congestion. The incentives had sped up the target completion date from the original March 2009 to Labor Day 2008. A relatively mild winter made it feasible to further accelerate the work on the lower level westbound, which re-opened to motorists on June 18th, allowing for increased traffic flow toward Staten Island and New Jersey in advance of the summer travel season.

The work in both directions involved removal and replacement of the existing roadway, sidewalks, expansion joints and bearings—all dating from the original construction more than four decades ago. The new deck approaches will last for at least another 50 years. The total project cost was \$64.7 million.

The Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, which opened to traffic on November 21, 1964, carries nearly 200,000 vehicles every day.

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. The agency is the largest toll authority in the nation, helping more than 850,000 vehicles and more than a million people reach their destination each day.



#1 Lower level new roadway



#2 Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, aerial view from Brooklyn