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Press Release

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[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

### MTA Board Confirms \$600K Contract Incentive for Pre-Independence Day Finish of Verrazano-Narrows Bridge Westbound Roadway Work

The MTA Board today ratified a \$600,000 contractor incentive that will complete approach deck replacement on the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge lower level westbound before 4th of July instead of by Labor Day. All lanes toward Staten Island on the bridge's lower level will be in normal service before the holiday. The \$64.7 million project involves the east- and west-bound lower level roadways. Eastbound (to Brooklyn) work started later and will finish by Labor Day.

"We are very pleased to be able to do this because the westbound approach closure has been difficult for customers and the community," said Bridges and Tunnels Acting President David Moretti. "We appreciate everyone's patience. When this necessary project is done the new deck approaches will be safe and sound for another 50 years."

The agency previously negotiated a \$6.2 million incentive last summer to speed up the completion date from the original March 2009 to Labor Day 2008. A relatively mild winter made it feasible to further accelerate the westbound work, allowing for increased traffic flow in advance of the summer travel season.

The contractor, El Sol Contracting & Construction Co., Inc. of Maspeth, New York, must meet the deadline to receive the incentives.

The Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, which opened to traffic on November 21, 1964, carried 71 million vehicles in 2007.

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.



*Photo caption: Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, view from Staten Island*