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Press Release

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MTA Headquarters

IMMEDIATE

MTA Adopts New Toll Rates for Its 7 Bridges and 2 Tunnels

Expected to Increase Revenue by 7.5%

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) today approved a series of toll rate changes that are expected to yield a 7.5% increase in revenue collected at the MTA's seven bridges and two tunnels. This revenue increase, along with one planned for 2013, was agreed upon with the Legislature as part of the MTA financing package enacted last year. The proposal adopted today increases E-ZPass tolls by 5%, a reduction from the 10% increase originally proposed. Cash tolls increase by \$1 at the major bridges and tunnels and the Henry Hudson Bridge, and by 50¢ at the Rockaway crossings. The increase will take effect on December 30.

When the MTA presented its preliminary plan in late July, it proposed an "across the board" level increase for cash and E-ZPass users. During the public hearing process conducted in September, the MTA received comments in favor of raising only cash tolls in order to encourage the use of E-ZPass and thereby reduce toll collection expenses and traffic congestion. After reviewing the pros and cons of these alternatives, the MTA Board settled on a final proposal that incorporates elements of each proposal.

While the MTA is encouraging the use of E-ZPass, it is also making it more attractive and convenient for current cash customers to use E-ZPass. MTA Bridges and Tunnels intends to introduce a new card next year that will allow customers to go to hundreds of retail locations in the region and reload their E-ZPass accounts with cash using the same process that prepaid debit card customers use to reload these cards today. This card will be linked to customer's E-ZPass accounts and will permit customers to refill their accounts with cash through an existing debit card network.

The new toll rates appear in the table below:

Toll Type	Current Toll	Toll Effective Dec. 30, 2010
Major Crossings		
Cash	\$5.50	\$6.50
E-ZPass	\$4.57	\$4.80
Staten Island Resident E-ZPass Toll at Verrazano-Narrows Bridge	\$2.74	\$2.88
Staten Island Carpool Toll at Verrazano-Narrows Bridge	\$1.28	\$1.34
Henry Hudson Bridge		
Cash	\$3.00	\$4.00
E-ZPass	\$2.09	\$2.20
Rockaway Crossings		
Cash	\$2.75	\$3.25
E-ZPass	\$1.71	\$1.80
Rockaway Resident E-ZPass Toll	\$1.13	\$1.19

The Major Crossings are the Bronx-Whitestone Bridge, Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel, Queens Midtown Tunnel, RFK Bridge, Throgs Neck Bridge and Verrazano-Narrows Bridge. Tolls on the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge are collected in the westbound direction only, so rates quoted above should be doubled for that direction.

The Rockaway Crossings are the Cross Bay Veterans Memorial Bridge and the Marine Parkway-Gil Hodges Memorial Bridge.