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Press Release

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[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

Bronx-Whitestone Bridge Bronx Approach Work^Switches To Southbound Lanes With New Traffic Pattern On Sat., Feb. 26th

A new traffic pattern will be in effect at the Bronx–Whitestone Bridge starting **Saturday, Feb. 26th** as work replacing the three southbound lanes (to Queens) at the Bronx approach of the bridge begins.

The work will require a permanent lane closure of a Queens–bound (south) lane through the end of the fall; however three lanes will remain open during peak driving times by using the center lane as a reversible traffic lane.

In order to establish the new traffic pattern, two lanes in each direction will be closed **Friday, Feb. 25th into Saturday, Feb. 26th from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.** Additional lane closures may be required throughout the weekend in order to complete the new configuration. To avoid delays motorists should use the Throgs Neck Bridge as an alternate.

Similar to the work that was completed on the Bronx–bound (north) lanes, construction will include lane–by–lane demolition of the bridge's original 72–year–old roadway decking and construction of a new roadway superstructure.

During the day from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. there will be three northbound lanes to the Bronx and two southbound lanes to Queens. From approximately 3 p.m. through the evening, there will be three southbound lanes to Queens and two northbound lanes to the Bronx. Signs will be in place to direct motorists.

"The project is on schedule and progressing well," said Acting Facility Engineer Chris Saladino. "We know that traffic delays can be an inconvenience and we appreciate our customers' patience while this important work, which will upgrade and improve the nearly 72–year–old bridge for decades to come, is completed."

The work is part of a four–year, nearly \$200 million project, awarded in December 2008 to Conti of New York, LLC. The first phase of the project, completed in early 2010, included the construction of new foundations and 15 new double–arch concrete piers, resulting in a wider approach roadway with 12–foot–wide lanes and safety shoulders on the bridge for the first time.

The current phase will result in the replacement of 1,785–feet of original roadway on the bridge's Bronx approach. The final stage of the project, to be completed in 2012, involves removing the old piers beneath the Bronx anchorage, as well as landscaping and drainage upgrades..

In 2010, some 41 million vehicles used the Bronx–Whitestone Bridge, which connects the Bronx to Queens and Long Island. The bridge opened to traffic the day before the New York World's Fair in Flushing, Queens on April 30, 1939.



Looking northbound to the Bronx, one of the newly reconstructed, wider approach lanes