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Press Release

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[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

MTA Bridges And Tunnels Gives Motorists Real Travel Time Information Via New Electronic Roadway Signs, Web And Smart Phone Tools

MTA Bridges and Tunnels is installing new electronic travel time signs that will give motorists real time information to major regional destinations and connecting highways. New electronic message signs will eventually be installed at all nine crossings, and are already in place at the Robert F. Kennedy, Verrazano–Narrows, Throgs Neck and Henry Hudson Bridges.

"Giving motorists real travel time information not only allows drivers to make more informed driving choices, it also helps us improve traffic flow at our crossings," said Bridges and Tunnels Chief Technology Officer Tariq Habib.

For example, one sign just before entering the Verrazano–Narrows Bridge in Brooklyn tells Staten Island–bound drivers how long it will take to reach the toll plaza on both the upper and lower levels. "By directing traffic to the level that has the least amount of vehicles at that particular time we are able to balance the flow of traffic," Habib said. Another Verrazano message gives real travel time to the Goethals Bridge and Outerbridge Crossing.

The Manhattan–bound electronic message sign before the Henry Hudson Bridge toll plaza provides motorists the time to 57th Street in Manhattan, while signs at the RFK Bridge in the Bronx give travel time to the Long Island and Brooklyn Queens Expressways via the Grand Central Parkway, and in Queens to the George Washington Bridge via the Major Deegan Expressway or the Harlem River Drive.

Other messages may include information to area airports like JFK and La Guardia and Yankee Stadium and Citi Field, home of the New York Mets.

In the last Capital Program, Bridges and Tunnels installed or replaced 27 electronic message signs and plans to install or replace another 30 in the current 2010–2014 Capital Program.

In addition to the electronic signs, motorists can also go to the Bridges and Tunnels webpage, accessed via www.mta.info and see traffic conditions at each crossing before they get in their cars. Using anonymous data collected from E–ZPass transponders, an online virtual application provides graphically animated views of current travel speeds and times. The information is based only on time from the toll plaza through or across the bridge or tunnel, and does not take into account traffic leading up to the toll plaza. This information can also be accessed through mobile websites on BlackBerry and iPhones.

B&T is also working to develop a one–touch application for iPhone users that will give them access to a variety of different information including streaming video near toll plazas, toll information, and real travel times at B&T crossings. This information, of course, is not meant to be accessed by motorists while driving. It is useful to access before motorists leave home or by passengers.

"We are pleased to be able to bring the most up–to–date travel information to our customers, to help them make more informed choices and improve traffic in the New York," Habib said.



***One of MTA Bridges and Tunnels new Real Travel Time information signs,
located at the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge.***