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Press Release

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[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

Henry Hudson Gate Free Operations Cuts Travel Time Through Toll Plaza And Eliminates Traffic Queues In E-ZPass Lanes

No traffic queues; no getting stuck behind someone in an E-ZPass lane_ in short, no delays. The first month of gateless E-ZPass operations at the Henry Hudson Bridge has been successful in both reducing E-ZPass travel times and in keeping traffic moving.

"Although we're just getting underway, Initial figures show that average travel times during peak morning hours have been significantly reduced and E-ZPass interventions have been totally eliminated," said MTA Bridges and Tunnels President Jim Ferrara. "This is good news for our customers and a terrific start for this pilot project where the overall goal is to collect tolls more efficiently and improve traffic flow."

The first phase of the program began Jan. 20th at the Henry Hudson Bridge when gate arms were removed from E-ZPass lanes. By early 2012, cash will be entirely eliminated and Henry Hudson will become one of the first urban all-electronic tolling (cashless) bridges in the nation. Beginning in 2012, drivers without E-ZPass at the Henry Hudson will receive mailed invoices based on license plate images.

In the first month since gate arms were removed, travel time into Manhattan from Kappock Street to the toll plaza during peak hours of 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. has been reduced from an average of 2:03 seconds with gates in 2010 to an average of just 50 seconds today.

Travel time was further helped because an average 260 daily E-ZPass interventions, which were made as a result of someone going through an E-ZPass lane without a tag or without an account in good standing, were eliminated. Each one of those stops meant lost time for drivers who were unlucky enough to get stuck behind one of these drivers.

During this phase of the project, cash is still being collected at the toll plaza and drivers who go through E-ZPass lanes without a tag will receive a \$50 violation notice in the mail. E-ZPass account holders can also avoid getting mailed notices by securing tags on their windshields (don't wave it) and by registering the license plates of all cars that use the account.

To obtain an E-ZPass, get additional mounting strips and register license plates, motorists can call 1-800 333-TOLL or visit the website at www.ezpassny.com

Some 23 million vehicles used the Henry Hudson Bridge, which links Manhattan and the Bronx, in 2010. It opened to traffic on Dec. 12, 1936.