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Press Release

May 24, 2011

[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

MTA Wishes Drivers A Safe Memorial Day Weekend

All Temporary Construction And Maintenance Work Will Be Suspended To Help Keep Traffic Moving

MTA Bridges and Tunnels will suspend all routine maintenance work beginning at **Noon on Friday, May 27th** through the end of the morning rush on **Tuesday, May 31st** to accommodate motorists traveling this Memorial Day weekend.

Memorial Day weekend is traditionally among the busiest travel times at the agency's seven bridges and two tunnels. In 2010, Memorial Day weekend, including early Thursday getaway day through Monday, was the busiest of the three long summer weekends (others include July Fourth and Labor Day weekends) with some 4 million motorists using MTA bridges and tunnels.

"All routine maintenance and construction work will be suspended over the holiday weekend in an effort to make traveling easier for our customers," said Bridges and Tunnels Vice President and Chief of Operations James Fortunato. "We wish all our customers a safe and happy Memorial Day weekend."

The exception will be long-term construction closures at the Bronx-Whitestone and Henry Hudson bridges, which cannot be lifted. As a result, one of three lanes will be closed northbound to the Bronx at the Bronx-Whitestone Bridge, where the roadway decking across all six lanes at the bridge's Bronx approach is being replaced, and one of three lanes will be closed on the northbound Henry Hudson Bridge to the Bronx, where a three-year, \$33 million project to replace the original, 1930s steel curb stringers that support the roadway on either side of the bridge, has just begun. Motorists should take these closures into account and allow extra travel time.

Here are a few more tips to make holiday travel this year even smoother:

Use E-ZPass. The electronic transponder is accepted at all Bridges and Tunnels' toll plazas in designated E-ZPass lanes, as well as in 14 states from Maine to Virginia and west to Illinois. New York Service Center E-ZPass customers also receive an average \$1.70 discount over cash tolls at most MTA crossings.

Make sure your E-ZPass is secured on your windshield. If it is not properly mounted electronic equipment may not be able to read the tag and the gate arm will not go up, causing delays. At the Henry Hudson Bridge where a gateless pilot program is underway, if your tag cannot be read a violation notice may be given. Delays and violations can be avoided by managing your account balance and updating your account with the license plates of all cars associated with it. To do this, please visit www.ezpassny.com or call 1-800-333-TOLL.

Cash customers can speed their trips by having exact toll amounts ready before they reach the toll plaza.

Sign up for e-mail and text alerts at www.mta.info to get up to date information on accidents or delays for MTA crossings before you head out.

Know before you go: Before leaving home, check B&T's Travel Time information on the MTA website to see how traffic is moving. Click on Bridges and Tunnels and look for the Travel Time link on the right-hand side of the B&T homepage.



Throgs Neck Bridge toll plaza where it is clear that E-ZPass is the
way to go!