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Press Release

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[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

### MTA Bridges and Tunnels: Drive Smart, Drive Safe and Have A Happy New Year!

MTA Bridges and Tunnels would like to wish its customers a happy and safe New Year and remind motorists to never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Nearly a third of all traffic-related deaths are linked to drivers who get behind the wheel under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

"This is something we take very seriously," said Vice President and Chief of Operations James Fortunato. "The safety of all of those who use our crossings is among our highest priorities, and our Bridge and Tunnel Officers, Sergeants and Lieutenants will be stopping and checking any driver who is suspected of driving under the influence."

Through mid-December, Bridges and Tunnel personnel have made 310 DUI arrests at its seven bridges and two tunnels. Historically, DUI arrests at Bridges and Tunnels rise during summer months, and again during the holiday period beginning after Thanksgiving.

Fortunato urged drivers to use mass transit or assign a designated driver to help prevent alcohol-related road accidents, and never allow anyone who has been drinking or using drugs to get behind the wheel.

He also urged all motorists to be aware of how others are driving and watch for cars that are driving erratically, including those going too fast or too slow. Drivers also should always wear their seat belts, refrain from talking on cell phones while driving and make sure small children are secured in child safety seats. In 2011, Bridges and Tunnels officers issued more than 3,700 summonses for these offenses.

Traffic volume at MTA crossings is typically lower over the New Year holiday. Last New Year's Eve, 621,000 trips were taken at B&T crossings. On New Year's Day, which is typically the least traveled day of the year for Bridges and Tunnels, there were 561,000 trips.

In 2011, the daily average number of weekday trips at B&T crossings was 805,000 and the daily average number of trips on the weekend was 720,000.