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Press Release

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[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

### New Traffic Pattern Returns Two-Lanes To Throgs Neck Bridge's Bronx-Bound Cross Island Parkway Ramp

With the nearly \$100 million project to replace the Queens approach roadway decking on the Throgs Neck Bridge almost complete, MTA Bridges and Tunnels said today the Bronx-bound, Cross Island Parkway (CIP) ramp will return to two lanes, beginning with Tuesday's evening rush.

"We are taking a fresh look at how we can improve traffic flow on the Throgs Neck CIP on bound ramp now that construction work on the Queens approach is winding down and we have more roadway to work with," said MTA Bridges and Tunnels President Jim Ferrara.

The rehabilitation project at the Throgs Neck Bridge, which began in late 2008, included the replacement of more than 140,000 square feet of roadway decking near the Queens end of the bridge. The work, being done by contractor E.E. Cruz, is nearly completed within budget and several months ahead of schedule.

Under a trial traffic pattern, the ramp will be restored to two lanes but the merge point will be moved several hundred feet to near the top of the ramp. The earlier two-lane configuration often resulted in cars on the ramp failing to safely merge, resulting in accidents with trucks traveling in the center lane of the bridge.

The ramp was changed to a one-lane configuration in the summer of 2009 to accommodate the ongoing construction work and reduce accidents.

Ferrara praised Throgs Neck Facility Engineer Mike Prigge for his efforts in

re-designing the ramp and merge configuration. "By thinking outside of the box, he was able to improve traffic flow while keeping the safety of the motorists who use our bridge in mind."

If the new traffic pattern is successful, Ferrara said the new configuration would be made permanent. "Customer safety is our first and foremost concern, as always," Ferrara said, "but we are also willing whenever we can to make improvements that will keep traffic moving."

MTA Bridges and Tunnels' crossings, which connect the five boroughs of New York City, are the Throgs Neck, Bronx-Whitestone, Henry Hudson, Verrazano-Narrows, Robert F. Kennedy, Cross Bay Veterans Memorial and Marine Parkway-Gil Hodges Bridges and the Queens Midtown and Brooklyn-Battery Tunnels.



View from Cross Island Parkway leading onto the Throgs Neck Bridge's Bronx-bound (north) CIP ramp, showing new modified two-lane pattern.