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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

# Henry Hudson Bridge Three Year, \$33 Million Project To Rehabilitate Bronx Bound Upper Level Roadway Support Structure Begins In May

A three-year, nearly \$33 million construction project at the Henry Hudson Bridge to replace the steel curb stringers that support the upper level roadway on either side of the bridge is set to begin in May.

This work will require one Bronx-bound lane to be closed round-the-clock for the length of the project as the curb stringers and bridge bearings are replaced and electrical wiring is updated. With the introduction of the gateless E-ZPass pilot project at the bridge earlier this year, which has resulted in increased traffic flow, closing one Bronx-bound lane is expected to have a minimal impact on traffic.

"The curb stringers are part of the original 1930s structure and after nearly 73 years they have suffered much wear and tear and need to be replaced," said Henry Hudson Facility Engineer Walter Hickey. The lower level of the Henry Hudson Bridge, which turns 75 this year, opened to traffic Dec. 12, 1936. The bridge proved to be so popular that an upper level was added two years later.

The far left (west) lane from just after the toll plaza across the full-length of the bridge will be closed first for approximately a year. Two lanes will remain open during peak, weekday travel times. Contractor Judlau Inc., of Queens, will install a concrete barrier to protect the work area. In 2012, the work will be repeated on the far right (east) side of the bridge.

In addition to replacing the steel curb stringers and installing 3,600-feet of new bridge decking, new energy-efficient roadway lighting will also be added. The new light poles will replicate the original 1938-style light poles in keeping with the bridge's Depression-era design.

Motorists will also benefit from the removal of an unused, maintenance sidewalk on the upper level which is closed to the public. Once eliminated, the lanes will be restriped, resulting in wider traffic lanes of 11-feet-6-inches across the bridge. Bridge lanes are currently about 10-feet wide.

The lower level pedestrian walkway **will remain open** while this work is done.

The Henry Hudson Bridge connects the Inwood section of Manhattan to the Riverdale section of the Bronx. In 2010, an estimated 23 million vehicles used the Henry Hudson Bridge.



Aerial view of Henry Hudson Bridge. Photo courtesy of MTA Bridges and Tunnels Special Archive.