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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

### Throgs Neck Bridge Bronx Approach Cleaning and Paint Project Set To Begin

The Bronx approach steel structures at the Throgs Neck Bridge will be repainted as part of a \$47 million rehabilitation project that includes removing the last lead paint from the bridge, cleaning and repairing steel and applying new paint.

This project is the last phase of an overall, \$100 million paint program at the Throgs Neck Bridge, which began in 2006, and to date has included the cleaning and painting of the suspended spans, towers and the Queens approach structures.

The work, which will begin in early June, is being done under full environmental containment in strict accordance with Federal, New York State and New York City regulations. It will take place through November in 2012 and again in March through November in 2013.

A total of 2.5 million square feet of steel on the Bronx approach will be cleaned and repainted using about 45,000 gallons of paint. The project is scheduled to be completed by early 2014.

"The abrasive blasting to remove the old paint is noisy and we ask for our Bronx neighbors' patience while this necessary work is being done," said Facility Engineer Ed Knightly. "The best news is that once this project is completed the entire bridge will be lead free and it will not need to be repainted for at least another 20 years."

Keeping bridges properly painted is critical to keeping them in a state of good repair. The paint, which is specially designed for use on bridges, protects the steel structures against corrosion.

During the paint removal, negative air pressure is maintained inside the containment to prevent dust and other particulates from escaping. Continuous environmental monitoring will be performed throughout the project, including air, noise and visible inspections of the containment system.

The work will be done Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturdays to make up any rainy days during the week. In an effort to be a good neighbor, contractor Ahern Painting of Queens will begin Saturday work at 8 a.m. instead of 7 a.m.

The Throgs Neck Bridge, which carried 40.4 million vehicles in 2011, links the Bronx and Queens and is a key part of the Interstate corridor linking upstate New York and New England to the north and the Long Island suburbs to the south.

