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Press Release

April 23, 2012

[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

Throgs Neck Bridge LED Necklace Light Project Finished

MTA Bridges and Tunnels electrical and lighting crews finished replacing 142 old mercury vapor lights with new high-efficiency LED lights at the Throgs Neck Bridge just in time for Earth Day 2012.

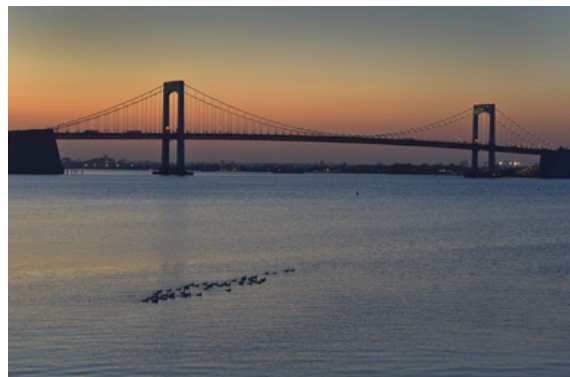
Three of the four suspended span bridges operated by the agency are now using energy-efficient LED (light-emitting diode) lights on its decorative necklaces. The Verrazano-Narrows was the first to be completed in 2009 where 262 lights were changed, followed by 190-lights at the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge in 2011. Work at the last suspended bridge, the Bronx-Whitestone, is expected to begin in 2014.

The new LED lights help reduce electric costs by 73 percent, are brighter and last longer, about seven years compared to two for ordinary mercury lights. This means fewer roadway closures to disrupt traffic while maintenance workers climb the cables to change lights.

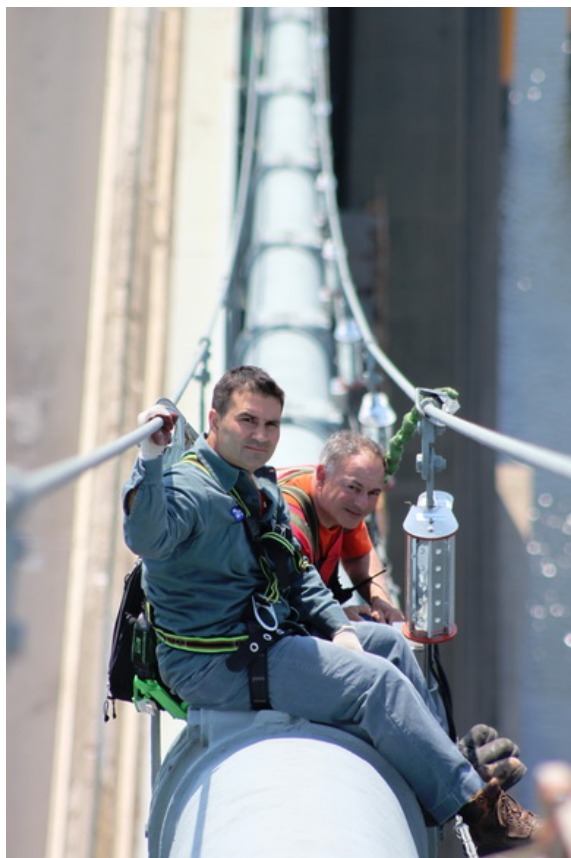
To learn more about the LED necklace light project, [click here](#) to view this 2011 MTA video.

In addition to the necklace light project, in 2011 Bridges and Tunnels replaced 832 lighting fixtures at the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel administration and ventilation buildings with high-efficiency lights. These replacements included more than 200 occupancy sensors that will help save 500,000 kilowatt hours annually, or about \$55,000 a year. The new sensors allow lights to operate at 20 percent output until motion is detected and illumination is raised to 100 percent. Work is now underway to do the same at the Queens Midtown Tunnel.

Both projects were done in partnership with the New York Power Authority (NYPA) through their high efficiency lighting program (HELP).



Throgs Neck LED lights: New LED necklace lighting on the Throgs Neck Bridge. View from Fort Totten Park in Queens. Photographer: MTA Patrick Cashin. April 2012.



LED: Bridges and Tunnels Maintainer Mike Giova (in green) and Ron Gagliardi (in orange) high above it all at the Throgs Neck Bridge.



LED1: Bridges and Tunnels Maintainer Jeff Calichio (standing) and Mike Rosofsky (kneeling) putting in new LED necklace light at the Throgs Neck Bridge.



LED2: (left) old mercury vapor light; (right) new, energy-efficient LED light