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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

Bronx-Whitestone Bridge's 3rd Avenue Exit Will Be Closed To All Traffic Beginning Jan. 7th

The 3rd Avenue exit, the last exit in Queens before entering onto the Bronx-bound Bronx-Whitestone Bridge, will be closed to all traffic beginning **Monday, Jan. 7th** as part of a \$109 million reconstruction of the bridge's Queens approach.

Separate car and truck detours will be in place while the northbound 3rd Avenue exit ramp is closed. Signs will be in place and traffic agents will be on hand when the detours begin in January. The closure is expected to remain in place for approximately two years.

Passenger vehicles driving from the Bronx-bound Cross Island Parkway will have to exit at Utopia Parkway (Exit 33N), and those driving from the northbound Whitestone Expressway will get off past the 20th Avenue exit and merge onto the Cross Island Parkway. All commercial vehicles must exit the Whitestone Expressway at 20th Avenue (Exit 15).

The ramp is being closed to accommodate construction work being done nearby. The work is part of a Capital construction project to reconstruct and widen the 1,010-foot-long Queens approach roadway structure.

E.E. Cruz of Manhattan and Tully Construction Co., of Queens were awarded a joint-venture contract for the 42-month project in July, 2011 and have already relocated the playground beneath the bridge and are now reconstructing the bridge's support foundations and building six double-arch concrete piers to support the approach roadways wider 12-foot lanes and new emergency shoulders.

Lane by lane demolition of the existing roadway and the roadway superstructure will begin in the spring. This work will require a permanent lane closure for approximately a year. A movable barrier will be used to maintain three lanes of traffic during peak morning and afternoon drive times.