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Press Release

April 11, 2012

[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

### Rockaway Resident Toll Rebate Program Reinstated Effective Immediately Thanks To State Funding

The MTA announced today (Wednesday) that all tolls for eligible residents using the Cross Bay Veterans Memorial Bridge will once again be fully rebated by the MTA thanks to \$4 million in funding provided in the State budget.

"We are pleased to be able to return this program to the residents of the Rockaways and Broad Channel," MTA Chairman and Chief Executive Joseph Lhota said. "Following the approval of a budget that will allow the MTA to complete a very aggressive capital plan, restoration of the rebate program is another sign of support that Governor Cuomo and the Legislature recognize the need to maintain and provide an efficient, affordable mass transit system."

The restoration of the rebate plan will be retroactive to April 1st when the state budget was passed. Residents in the six valid zip codes (11691, 11692, 11693, 11694, 11695, and 11697) will continue to be charged for the first two trips within a 24-hour period on the same E-ZPass tag until back office software modifications to the resident E-ZPass tags are completed by late July. Once these back office operations are accomplished, customers will receive credit for tolls incurred on the bridge retroactive to April 1st.

The Rockaway resident rebate program was modified in July 2010 as part of the MTA's efforts to close a large budget deficit. Under the modified plan, residents in the six valid zip codes paid the discounted resident E-ZPass rate of a \$1.13 for each of the first two trips across the bridge. All subsequent trips taken in the same day on the same E-ZPass tag were rebated by the MTA.

As a result of the State funding, all trips for those in the Cross Bay program will be rebated by the MTA. If funding for the program is eliminated, the modified Cross Bay rebate plan will go back into effect.

The rebate plan is only valid at the Cross Bay Veterans Memorial Bridge for passenger vehicles using E-ZPass and enrolled in the Rockaway Resident Program. It does not apply to commercial trucks, motorcycles, taxis, buses or limousines.

In 2009, prior to the rebate plan's modification, 3.6 million trips were taken by residents participating in the Cross Bay Resident Rebate program. In 2011, 3.2 million trips were taken.