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Press Release

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[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

RFK Bridge's Manhattan-Queens Ramp Project Completed Ahead of Schedule

MTA Bridges and Tunnels announced Wednesday that the \$50.7-million project to reconstruct the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge's 54,000-square-foot Manhattan to Queens ramp was completed a month ahead of schedule. The successful design/build project, which began in 2012, was done with minimal impact to customers.

The two-lane reconstructed ramp, which most motorists use to drive from Manhattan across the RFK Bridge's Queens suspended span into Queens, now has a smoother riding surface, safety shoulders, drainage improvements and meets the latest design requirements, including seismic improvements. The original ramp was built in 1967. Final touches, including re-striping, were completed during the early morning hours on Fri., Aug. 29.

"Motorists will now be able to drive on a brand new ramp that will last for many decades to come, and it was built with as little disruption to daily traffic as possible," said MTA Bridges and Tunnels Assistant Facility Engineer Adam Rose. During the construction, a temporary, two-lane bridge was built in an open, unused space between the old ramp and the main roadway while the original, 1960s-era ramp was demolished, and new piers and steel support structures were constructed.

It was the second successful design/build process used by MTA Bridges and Tunnels on a roadway structure. The first was the \$9 million successful reconstruction of the southbound RFK Harlem River Drive ramp in 2011. Using the design/build method allows construction to proceed alongside the design phase, accelerating the project schedule and minimizing the impact to the public.

The design/build team on the project was Halmar International, of Pearl River, N.Y., and its design partner, Hardesty & Hanover. The construction management team on the project was LiRo Engineers, of Long Island.

The 78-year-old Robert F. Kennedy Bridge, which includes three bridges, a viaduct and 14 miles of approach roads, connects Manhattan, the Bronx and Queens and carries an average 170,000 vehicles daily. To see photographs of the work click [here](#).