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Press Release

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[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

Spanning the Narrows: The Verrazano Bridge at 50

New York Transit Museum exhibition opening Nov. 1

The New York Transit Museum's newest exhibition celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, a masterpiece of engineering that transformed the region as the final link in the metropolitan arterial highway system. Materials from the MTA Bridges and Tunnels Special Archive, including photographs, architectural and engineering drawings, maps, models, public relations materials and Robert Moses' correspondence provide fascinating documentation of the bridge's planning and construction. *Spanning the Narrows: The Verrazano Bridge at 50* opens on November 1 and runs through Fall 2015 at the Transit Museum in Downtown Brooklyn.

The exhibition's timeline begins well before groundbreaking, examining proposed plans for a Brooklyn – Staten Island connection, highlighted by a detailed 85" X 45" model of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge and its approach routes, used as a planning tool in the late 1950s by Robert Moses. Earlier documents include a 1925 Rapid Transit Map of Greater New York showing a proposed subway tunnel connecting the boroughs that was never built, and a 1949 City of New York Parkways, Expressways, Bridges and Tunnels map from Moses' office that features hand-written notes and a key with plans for a "Future Narrows Crossing."

The exhibit also examines the complex, dangerous and physically demanding work of bridge building, aided by 16" X 23" reproductions of illustrator Lili Réthi's on-site sketches. Rivets, bolts, and a 4" thick piece of suspender cable removed during maintenance on the bridge help tell the construction story.

In conjunction with the exhibition, at 6:30 pm on **Thursday, November 13**, the Transit Museum will bring together two renowned New York journalists and authors, Gay Talese and Sam Roberts, to discuss Talese's book, *The Bridge*. Originally published in 1964 and re-released this fall, *The Bridge* chronicles the politics, engineering, and intimate human drama involved in the creation of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge. Roberts and Talese will be joined by Joe Spratt, an iron worker whose grandfather worked on the Verrazano's construction and who is featured in the book's new afterword. A book signing will follow this free program.

Register Here: <https://51281.blackbaudhosting.com/51281/The-Bridge-Celebrating-Gay-Taleses-Chronicle-of-the-Building-of-the-Verrazano-Narrows-Bridge>

MTA Bridges and Tunnels Archivist Mary Hedge will lead public tours of the exhibition at **2 pm on Friday, December 5 and Saturday, December 13**. The tours are free with paid museum admission (\$7 adults, \$5 children and seniors).

The General Contractors Association of New York City is the lead sponsor of *Spanning the Narrows: The Verrazano Bridge at 50*. Education programs are sponsored by Time Warner Cable. New York Transit Museum exhibitions are made possible, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

What: *Spanning the Narrows: The Verrazano Bridge at 50*

When: November 1, 2014 – Fall 2015

Where: New York Transit Museum Boerum Place and Schermerhorn Street Downtown Brooklyn

For information about the Verrazano-Narrows 50th celebration, interviews and historic photos contact Judie Glave at the MTA Press Office.

For information about events at the Transit Museum, contact 718-694-4915.