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Press Release

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[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

Staten Island Company Awarded \$1.9 Million Small Business Mentoring Contract For Queens Midtown Tunnel Sandy Work

Work Will Require Six Non-Consecutive Weekend-long Closures of One Tube

MTA Bridges and Tunnels announced today that a Staten Island construction firm has been awarded a \$1.9 million contract under MTA's Small Business Mentoring Program to remove damaged ceiling panels at the Queens Midtown Tunnel.

BHW Contracting, Inc., a New York State certified Minority Business Enterprise, will remove ceiling panels from both tubes that were destroyed during Superstorm Sandy when nearly 12 million gallons of water flooded both tunnel tubes. The work will take place over the next two months and will require six, non-consecutive weekend-long tube closures of the Queens-bound tube.

The first tube closure is scheduled for **May 15-18 beginning 10:30 p.m. Friday through 5:30 a.m. Monday**. One lane will be open in each direction in the remaining tube for cars and buses. All other commercial traffic must use an alternate route while two-way traffic is in effect.

The Small Business Mentoring Program has been successfully implemented at Bridges and Tunnels over the past several years with 29 contracts with a value of more than \$14 million awarded to various area businesses. The overall goal of the program is to stimulate the growth and development of small businesses, including certified Minority, Women-owned and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (MWDBE), develop a larger pool of qualified contractors, reduce MTA construction costs and create local jobs within the small business and MWDBE community.

During this work, Queens-bound motorists should enter the tunnel at 34th Street between Second and Third avenues. Manhattan-bound motorists can exit normally at the 37th Street exit to head uptown. Downtown Manhattan-bound traffic should use the Marginal tunnel exit to 38th Street and then continue on to Second Avenue. The 34th Street and Second Avenue ramps will be closed to traffic exiting in Manhattan.

Traffic agents and signs will be in place to help direct motorists.