



MTA Press Releases

Press Release

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[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

Traffic from East 125 Street to RFK Bridge On-Ramp at Second Ave Shifts to Temporary Ramp at First Avenue

New Traffic Pattern Begins Wednesday Night as RFK Ramp Work Moves Forward

Beginning Wednesday, February 24, traffic originating from East 125th Street in Harlem seeking access to the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge via the on-ramp at Second Avenue will be detoured onto a temporary access ramp at First Avenue. The detour will allow for staged demolition and reconstruction of the original ramp, which was built in the mid-1930s.

Implementation of the new traffic pattern starts at approximately 9 p.m. on Wednesday, February 24, and continues to 5 a.m. on Thursday, February 25. Once the transition is underway, the temporary ramp will accommodate traffic from East 125th Street bound for the RFK Bridge. This traffic shift will be in place for the duration of the project through the end of 2017.

“Use of the temporary ramp at First Avenue will keep the same traffic capacity available for customers as the East 125th-Second Avenue entrance,” said RFK Bridge Facility Engineer Irshad Huq. Signage will reflect the detour, and New York Police Department traffic enforcement agents will be posted to direct motorists.

“This ongoing ramp work is part of the \$1 billion in capital projects that MTA Bridges and Tunnels will commit through 2024 to maintain and improve our flagship Robert F. Kennedy Bridge, which is a vital regional transportation link,” said MTA Bridges and Tunnels Acting President Donald Spero.

The contract for reconstruction of the Manhattan East 125th Street approach ramps at the RFK Bridge was awarded to Defoe Corp., of Mount Vernon, N.Y., for \$69 million.

Motorists may experience delays during the initial transition as the detour is established, as with any shift in traffic pattern. Customers are urged to sign up for MTA e-mail/text alerts or to check the Service Status box at mta.info for the latest information on closures and planned work at MTA’s seven bridges and two tunnels.