



**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RELEASE # 07-81**

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Contact: Molly Gordy (212) 442-7033

Craig Chin

## **Lower Roadway of the Manhattan Bridge to Reopen Early with *Priority for Buses and Car Pools for Reduced Travel Time into Manhattan***

The New York City Department of Transportation announces the reopening of the lower roadway of the Manhattan Bridge to vehicular traffic. The lower roadway, closed in October 2006 will reopen on Monday October 1, 2007, earlier than the scheduled completion date of October 14, 2007.

With the opening of the Manhattan Bridge lower roadway, the bridge, for the first time in decades, will be fully open for all modes of transportation – buses, carpoolers and motorists, bicycles, pedestrians, and subway service on a new or rehabilitated structure.

The reopening of the lower roadway of the Manhattan Bridge has provided the City with an opportunity to better optimize the use of this important interborough connection – by opening a new HOV 2+ lane on the upper roadway. The first regular HOV access into Lower Manhattan over an East River Bridge, the lane will be in effect Monday – Friday 6 am to 10 am.

“With the new HOV lane, the Manhattan Bridge has it all – pedestrians, bicycles, subway trains and priority for buses and carpools. It symbolizes the better balanced, sustainable transportation system that Mayor Bloomberg has called for in PlaNYC,” said DOT Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan.

The HOV lane will help to reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles and satisfies one of the City’s requirements to secure hundreds of millions of dollars of funding from the federal government to implement the transportation initiatives of PlaNYC 2030. The lane will add to the growing network of HOV facilities in New York City, including the Gowanus Expressway, the Long Island Expressway, the Queensboro Bridge and Central Park.

Opened in 1909, the Manhattan Bridge supports seven lanes of vehicular traffic, four subway tracks, a bikeway and a walkway. Its average daily traffic volume in 2006 was approximately 75,000 vehicles. Part of the \$3 billion effort to rehabilitate the East River Bridges, this \$150 million project to reconstruct the Manhattan Bridge’s



lower roadway represents part of the Department's ongoing commitment to pursuing a state of good repair for the City's infrastructure.

The following improvements in traffic flow over the Manhattan Bridge will be implemented to reduce the number of vehicles traveling into Manhattan, and decrease travel time.

**CARS AND BUSES TO MANHATTAN:** May use the upper roadway at all times. From 6:00 am to 10:00 am the left lane of the upper roadway is reserved for cars with two or more people and buses. Drivers to Manhattan may use the lower roadway from 5:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday to Friday and weekends. Drivers wishing to go to Canal Street westbound toward the Holland Tunnel (5:00 am 3:00 pm Monday to Friday and weekends) should use the lower roadway.

**CARS AND BUSES TO BROOKLYN:** May use the upper roadway at all times and lower roadway from 3:00 pm to 5:00 am Monday to Friday.

**ACCESSING THE HOV 2+ LANE:** Between the hours of 6:00 am and 10:00 am Monday to Friday cars with two or more people and buses may use the HOV lane to Manhattan (left lane of the inbound upper roadway). They may access the lane from the Brooklyn Queens Expressway (BQE) eastbound Exit 29A or from Flatbush Avenue (follow signs) or from the BQE westbound Exit 29 then turn right onto Gold Street or proceed straight onto Flatbush Avenue.

In Manhattan the left turn from the upper roadway onto Canal Street at Chrystie Street is prohibited from 5:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday to Friday. Vehicles utilizing the HOV lane will have access to Chrystie Street northbound and Canal Street eastbound.

**TRUCKS TO MANHATTAN:** Must use the lower roadway from 5:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday to Friday, during which time trucks will be prohibited from using the BQE eastbound Exit 29A "Manhattan Bridge." During that time trucks must use the BQE eastbound Exit 29B "Brooklyn Civic Center/Tillary Street" to access the lower roadway at Flatbush Avenue.

**TRUCKS TO BROOKLYN:** May use the upper roadway at all times and lower roadway from 3:00 pm to 5:00 am Monday to Friday.

**WEEKENDS:** On weekends Friday 9:00 pm to Monday 5:00 am the lower roadway will operate Manhattan bound. Manhattan bound cars and trucks may use the lower roadway or upper roadway. Manhattan bound drivers wishing to go to Canal Street westbound toward the Holland Tunnel should use the lower level.



**New York City  
Department of Transportation**

**Janette Sadik-Khan, Commissioner**

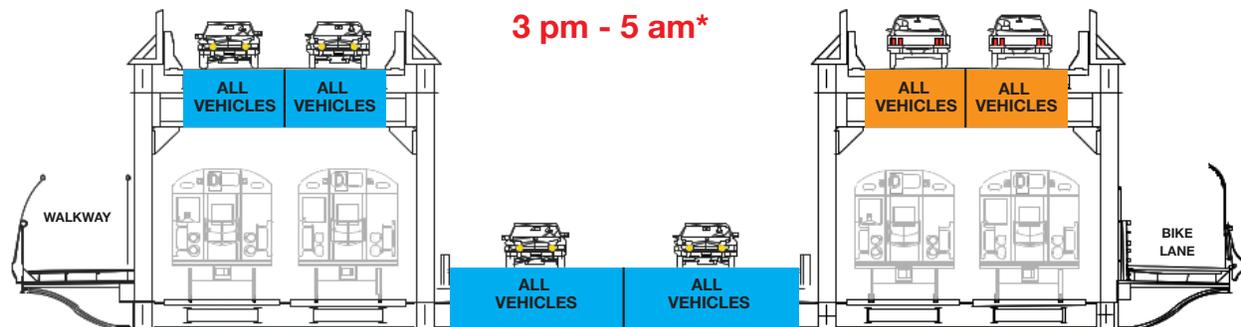
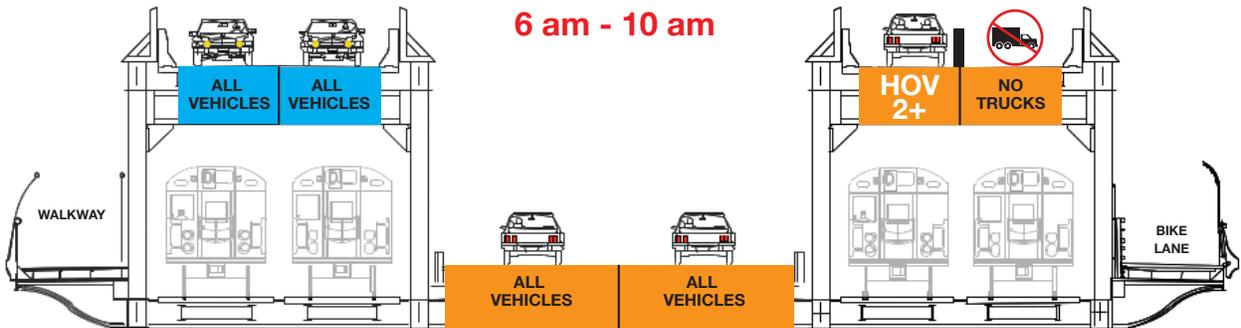
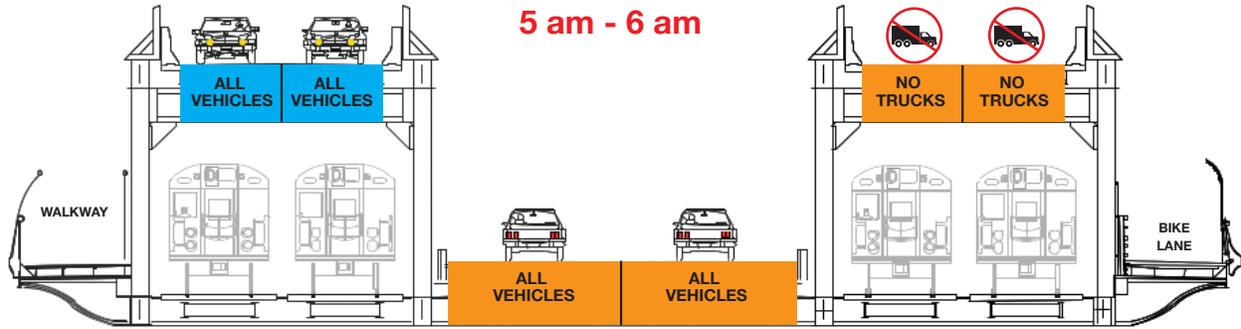
Public Information Division  
40 Worth Street, Room 1010  
New York, New York 10013  
Tel: 212/442-7033 Fax: 212/442-7044

Web: [www.nyc.gov/dot](http://www.nyc.gov/dot)

**PEDESTRIANS/ BICYCLISTS:** The north bikeway is reopened and the south walkway has reverted to pedestrian use only.

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# WEEKDAYS



**\*Lower Roadway Will Revert To Manhattan Bound At 9 pm On Fridays**

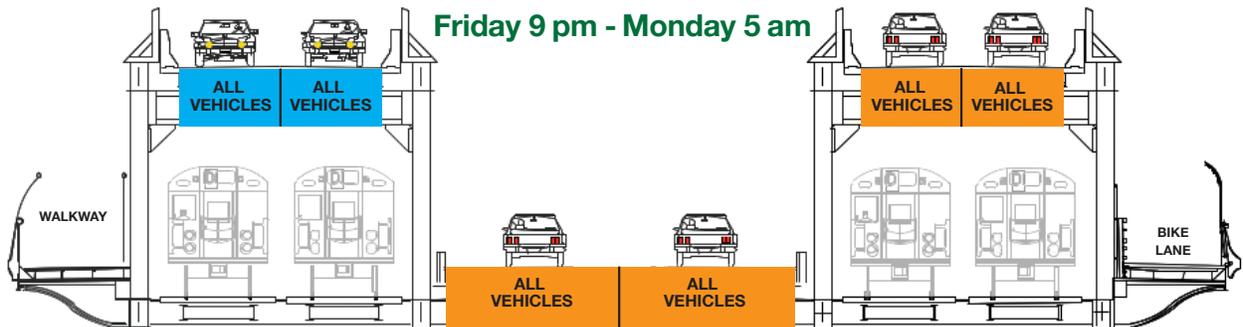
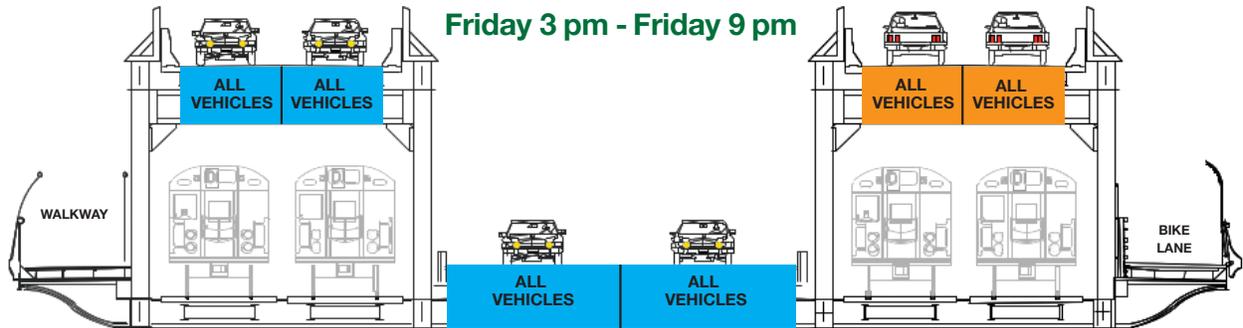
**LEGEND:**

 BROOKLYN BOUND

 MANHATTAN BOUND

 NO TRUCKS

# WEEKENDS



**LEGEND:**

 BROOKLYN BOUND

 MANHATTAN BOUND