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## *'Morning Drive Live,' an Alternative to Road Rage, Is Set for Monday*

By RANDY KENNEDY

City officials announced yesterday that they planned to start showing a daring new reality television show, packed with action, suspense, heartbreak and maybe even violence: "New York City Traffic Jams."

Actually, the program will have a much more optimistic name, "Morning Drive Live," but when it begins Monday morning on the city's Crosswalks NYC Television Network, the plot will exclusively focus on that famously slow, frustrating and dispiriting automotive slog known as the morning commute.

The aim, clearly, is not entertainment. Instead, city officials want people to tune in — and watch live pictures from traffic cameras around the city — so that they can avoid becoming bit players themselves in the epic clogs

that develop around the city most weekday mornings.

"City commuters will be able to make choices by looking at our live cameras," said Iris Weinshall, the transportation commissioner, whose department collaborated with the city's Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications to create the program.

"For example," Ms. Weinshall said, "a Queens commuter might choose the Queens-Midtown Tunnel over the Queensboro Bridge, or vice versa, depending upon driving conditions that they will see on television that particular morning."

The program, which will appear from 6:30 to 9 a.m. weekdays, will probably not pose a ratings threat to "Good Morning America" or "Today."

Crosswalks, Channel 74 on both Cablevision and

Time Warner Cable, is a kind of C-Span for city government.

Viewers who usually turn to the channel to see replays of City Council hearings or mayoral announcements will instead be offered, without theme music or commercial interruptions, eight-second snatches of live video from 22 high-traffic places around the city. The views will rotate, showing part of the Van Wyck Expressway, for example, and then switching to the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway or the Franklin D. Roosevelt Drive or the Manhattan Bridge.

"What happens if they see a nightmare at all 22 places?" Ms. Weinshall asked. "Then they should turn off the television and take mass transit. You can quote me as saying that."