YOUR NEW KOSCIUSZKO BRIDGE

PROJECT UPDATE

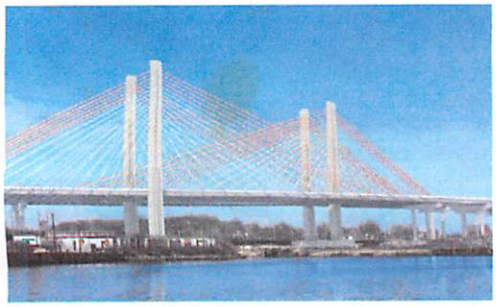
SEPTEMBER 2015

NY WORKS | NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. | Department of Transportation

Matthew J. Driscoll, Commissioner
Sonia A. Pichardo, Regional Director
Robert Adams, Project Director

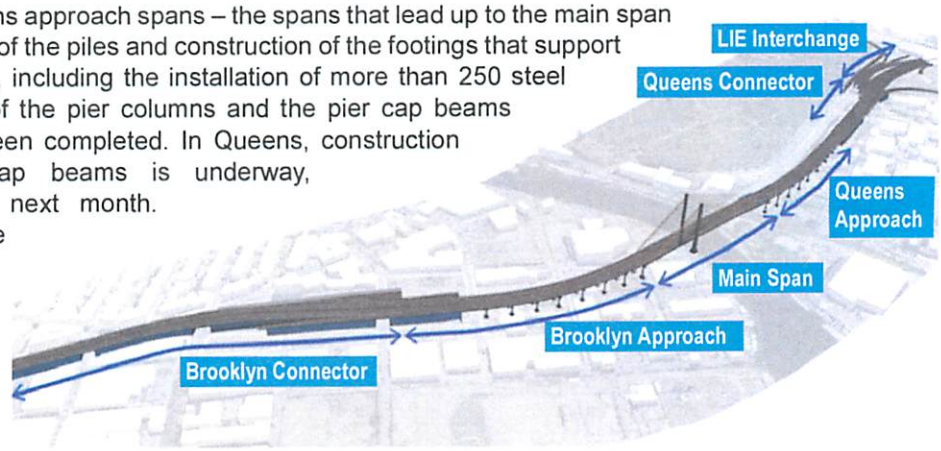
Making Progress

The new Kosciuszko bridge construction project has shifted into high gear. Construction activities over the past year have been very impressive! All buildings and billboards within the State-owned right-of-way have been removed; utility relocations in both Brooklyn and Queens are almost complete; and the new realigned segment of Cherry Street in Brooklyn has been opened to traffic. The contractor has also begun construction of a new sewer to collect stormwater runoff from the new bridge.



The tower for the new Queens-bound bridge is quickly rising from the Brooklyn shoreline, with construction of the concrete tower now extending above the height of the existing roadway. Earlier this year, the contractor completed drilling all eight shafts for the main span tower. These shafts are eight feet in diameter, extend approximately 180 feet below ground and are drilled into rock. These shafts support the tower that will support the cable-stayed main span. The tower footings have been completed and the first nine lifts, or vertical sections of the tower, have been completed. There is a large tower crane extending over the existing bridge and drivers on the existing bridge will see construction of the tower grow week by week to approximately 275 feet above ground.

Construction of the Brooklyn and Queens approach spans – the spans that lead up to the main span – is also advancing quickly. Installation of the piles and construction of the footings that support the approaches have been completed, including the installation of more than 250 steel pipe piles. In Brooklyn, construction of the pier columns and the pier cap beams that will support the roadway have been completed. In Queens, construction of the pier columns and pier cap beams is underway, with completion anticipated in the next month. Concrete beams to support the bridge deck are being cast in Virginia. Installation of several of the beams in Brooklyn has been completed. The remaining approach beams will be set over the next few months.



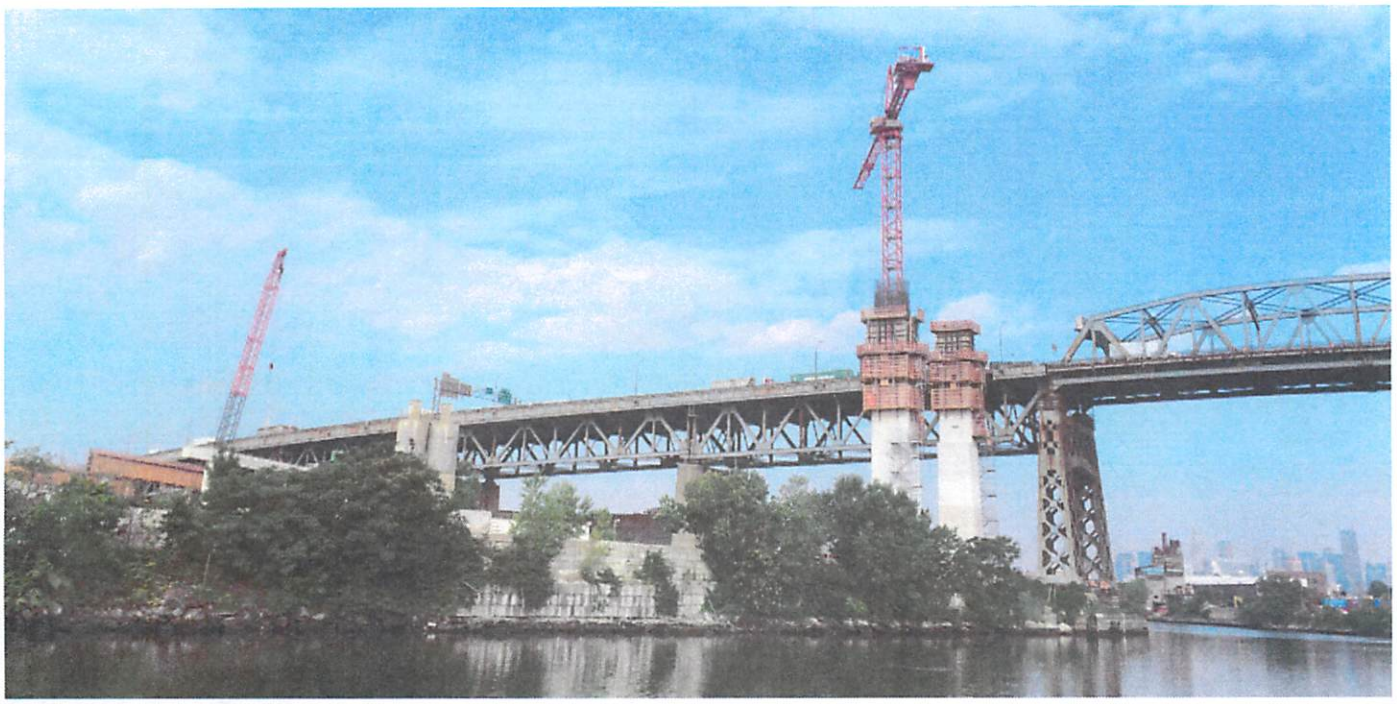
The Brooklyn Connector will connect the existing BQE to the new bridge. This segment of the bridge is being constructed in stages in order to minimize impact to traffic. Traffic has been shifted on both eastbound and westbound Meeker Avenues to allow for removal of the brick faced walls, which is now complete. Traffic has also been shifted on the BQE along this length of the bridge to allow for removal of a portion of the existing structure. The construction of new retaining walls to support the new Queens-bound roadway is underway.

Traffic will be transferred off the existing bridge and onto the new Queens-bound bridge by early 2017. Construction of the Brooklyn-bound bridge will be completed in Phase II, once the existing bridge is removed in late 2017.

The results will be well worth the wait! The new cable-stayed Kosciuszko Bridge will transform the skyline between Brooklyn and Queens. It will reduce traffic congestion and improve safety. A new bikeway/walkway with spectacular views of Manhattan will be constructed on the Brooklyn-bound bridge. The project also includes new parks and open spaces in the local communities and improved waterfront access.

The project is allocating $77 million for small businesses in the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program – and the contractor is striving to exceed that goal. Currently, there are signed contracts with DBE firms totaling $63 million. The contractor is also promoting local business expenditures for a variety of services, such as construction supplies, equipment rentals, cleaning services, office supplies and food services. More than $8.8 million has already been spent on local businesses – with more than $3.4 million spent in Brooklyn and over $5.3 million spent in Queens.

Work Activities



Main Span Tower Construction and Tower Crane

Main Span Tower Construction

Main Span Tower Construction
Adjacent to Existing Bridge

Main Span Tower Construction
and Tower Crane Foundation

FUN FACTS

- At $555 million, this is the largest single contract in the history of NYSDOT – and the first cable stayed bridge in New York City.
- We will use 211,943 cubic yards (about 5,700,000 cubic feet) of concrete on the project. This is enough concrete to cover all 1.3 square miles of Manhattan's Central Park with about two inches of concrete.
- The main span tower of the new bridge will be approximately 275 feet tall – nearly the height of the Statue of Liberty, which stands at 305 feet tall.
- We will use approximately 10,924,648 lbs (or 5,147 tons) of reinforcing steel on the job. An average elephant weighs 15,000 lbs (or 7.5 tons) – so this would account for the weight of about 686 elephants.

Approach Pier Columns and Pier Cap Beam

Approach Girder Installation

Connector T-Walls

Connector Abutment and T-Walls

UPCOMING FALL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

BROOKLYN:

- Approach Girder Installation Underway
- Brooklyn Connector Eastbound Roadway Replacement Underway
- Brooklyn Connector Wall Installation Underway
- Complete Utility Relocations Required for New Bridge Approach and Connector
- Tower Construction Underway
- Complete Anchor Pier Construction
- Main Span Steel Girder Installation to Begin

QUEENS:

- Complete Anchor Pier Construction
- Complete Approach Pier Columns
- Complete Approach Pier Cap Beams
- Approach Girder Installation to Begin
- Utility Relocations Underway
- Queens Connector Wall Installation Underway
- LIE Interchange Construction Underway

Phase 1	2014				2015				2016				2017				2018			
KOSCIUSZKO BRIDGE PROJECT TIMELINE ACTIVITY	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Notice to Proceed		★	May 23, 2014																	
Design																				
Construction of Eastbound Bridge																				
Removal of Existing Bridge																				
Full Traffic Switchover to New Bridge													★							
Contract Completion Date																				

PARTNERING WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

From the initial stages of project planning and design to the current active construction phase, NYSDOT has partnered closely with the community to plan for and build a structure that respects the history, current needs and future aspirations of the constituencies it serves. The ongoing dialogue has helped to shape a process that is mindful of both the immediate impacts of major construction **on vibrant local neighborhoods and the immense benefits of the completed bridge and its amenities.**

Jim Lau, NYSDOT, Reviews Green Space Opportunities at June 25, 2015 SAC Meeting

As has been NYSDOT's practice since project initiation in 2002, critical construction-related issues are being addressed collaboratively with its Stakeholders Advisory Committee (SAC). This group of elected officials, local residents, key agencies, and community organizations provides support, advice, and creative insights that have been essential to the success of the project to date. Through this process:

- **The permit to perform work on westbound Meeker Avenue has been revised. Work is now permitted during daytime hours; the original permit stipulated nighttime hours only. This has enabled the contractor to minimize noise and light intrusion in the Greenpoint residential area during the night.**
- **Traffic Enforcement Agents (TEAs) have been assigned to major intersections to ensure safe and smooth flow of traffic.**
- **A temporary traffic signal has been installed at the intersection of Lombardy Street and Vandervoort Avenue to facilitate traffic movement resulting from detours in nearby congested areas.**

A number of new initiatives have also been incorporated into the community outreach program:

- **Block captains on residential streets are assisting with the distribution of notices and explanation of upcoming activities to their neighbors.**
- **Block meetings are being scheduled, as needed, to strengthen relationships with local constituencies and to ensure that everyone is well-informed and provided with opportunities to offer input on issues of concern.**

An extensive notification program is being implemented on an ongoing basis to "keep everyone in the loop." It includes notices of upcoming activities (water shut-offs, street closures, etc.); monthly construction advisories to provide a look ahead of upcoming work; weekly lane closure notices for the BQE and local streets; and monthly summaries of critical activities that have been completed or are in progress. As appropriate, materials are hand-distributed, eblasted to an extensive distribution list, and posted on the project website: www.dot.ny.gov/bridge.

STAKEHOLDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

During recent months, the SAC has met to receive project updates and address issues crucial to SAC members and their organizations; review plans for the new Sgt. Dougherty Park prior to its presentation to Brooklyn Community Board #1 and the City's Public Design Commission; and begin the discussion of streetscaping opportunities in Brooklyn and Queens.

Robert Adams, NYSDOT, Responds to Questions on Open Space Opportunities at June 25, 2015 SAC Meeting

MEET YOUR COMMUNITY LIAISON: CHRISTINE HOLOWACZ

Christine Holowacz has been serving as the full-time on-site community liaison for the Kosciuszko Bridge project since June 2014. Christine addresses the public's day-to-day concerns and inquiries.

Community Liaison Office

Brooklyn Community Office:
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