
NYSDOT PRESS RELEASE

**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Prospect Expressway Reconstruction Project, Brooklyn, NY
(Contract #D256442)**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, October 9, 1997

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**PROSPECT EXPRESSWAY RAMP TO REOPEN
& ALL LANES ON INBOUND GOWANUS EXPRESSWAY
RESTORED TO TRAFFIC AHEAD OF SCHEDULE**

Brooklyn, New York - In time for the morning rush hour on Friday, October 10, 1997, the new entrance ramp (Ramp E) from inbound Prospect Expressway onto inbound (Manhattan-bound) Gowanus Expressway, and the right lane of inbound Gowanus Expressway, between 25th Street and the Gowanus Canal, will be reopened to traffic.

Both Ramp E and the right lane of the inbound Gowanus were completely closed for construction activities since December 1996.

NYSDOT Commissioner Joseph H. Boardman said "The reopening of Ramp E two months ahead of schedule is an example of how, under Governor Pataki's leadership, the Department is seeking to speed up construction and reduce disruption to the traveling public. The Prospect Expressway reconstruction contract included innovative construction concepts such as incentive/disincentive clauses featuring financial rewards to the contractor for completion of critical work ahead of schedule and financial penalties if critical work is delayed. NYSDOT plans to incorporate innovative construction concepts and better work strategies to reduce construction duration into our major projects in the future."

The completed reconstruction work included the demolition and removal of the original Ramp E entrance ramp, and construction of a new realigned entrance ramp that is longer and wider to make the merge onto Gowanus Expressway smoother and safer. Construction of the new entrance ramp included placement of new structural steel, installation of a new concrete roadway, bridge parapet, lighting, roadway drainage, and lane striping.

NYSDOT Regional Director Richard A. Maitino said, "I'm pleased to announce that the Prospect Expressway Reconstruction project is ahead of schedule and moving to completion. The contractor and state supervisors have done an excellent job of managing the project."

In keeping with the Department's commitment to reduce travel times, the Gowanus BUS/HOV lane will be temporarily kept in service during the morning rush hour until traffic studies are completed to evaluate its effectiveness and impact on communities. The one-lane contraflow ramp that was provided for inbound Prospect Expressway traffic during the morning rush hour to provide access to the inbound Gowanus will no longer be in service since the new Ramp E entrance will be available for inbound traffic.

The following traffic patterns will be in effect during the weekday morning rush hour for operation of the Gowanus BUS/HOV lane:

- **Gowanus Expressway BUS/HOV 2+ lane:** Between 6:00 AM and 10:00 AM, the left lane of outbound Gowanus Expressway is reversed between 58th Street and the Gowanus Canal and used as a BUS/HOV lane for Manhattan-bound Brooklyn Battery Tunnel traffic. The BUS/HOV lane is designated for buses, taxis & cars with two or more occupants. An E-Z Pass electronic toll collection tag is required on all vehicles using the Gowanus BUS/HOV lane.
- **Ramp F:** The ramp that connects outbound Gowanus Expressway to outbound Prospect Expressway is **closed** between 5:00 AM and 11:00 AM.
- **Ramp D:** The street-level entrance ramp from 3rd Avenue to outbound Gowanus Expressway is **closed** between 5:00 AM and 11:00 AM.
- **Ramp C:** The ramp connecting inbound Gowanus Expressway to outbound Prospect Expressway is **open**.
- **Ramp E:** The ramp connecting inbound Prospect Expressway to inbound Gowanus Expressway is **open**.
- **Ramp M:** The exit ramp from inbound Prospect Expressway to Hamilton Avenue is **open**.

Regional Director Maitino said, "I want to thank the area's elected representatives and community boards for their continuing attention to and comments about the Prospect Expressway Reconstruction project. I would also like to thank the MTA Bridges & Tunnels, and the NYC Department of Transportation and Police Department for their cooperation and assistance during this important reconstruction project."

While the ramps and roadway reconstruction of Prospect Expressway are virtually completed, NYSDOT's engineers and contractor still have work remaining to finish the project. There are construction activities scheduled for late October that will involve significant lane or ramp closures during two consecutive weekends. A Travel Advisory notice will be distributed to inform the media, local officials and the motoring public of these closures. For project information, call #1-888-GOWANUS.

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