

Contact: Christopher Steber | <u>csteber@nysba.ny.gov</u> | (845) 691-7245

For Immediate Release: May 25, 2021

BRIDGE AUTHORITY CONVERSION TO CASHLESS TOLLING BEGINS SUMMER 2021

Drivers Encouraged to Sign-Up for E-ZPass <u>Here</u> to Avoid Paying Tolls by Mail

Incremental Roll-Out of Cashless Tolling at Five Bridge Toll Crossings in Hudson Valley Will Start with Newburgh-Beacon Bridge in July 2021; All Five Spans to Be Fully Converted to Cashless Tolling by Spring 2022

The New York State Bridge Authority (NYSBA) is announcing that its five bridge toll crossings in the Hudson Valley are set to convert to cashless tolling beginning in Summer 2021. The conversion to cashless tolling at NYSBA's toll crossings will be rolled out in phases, starting in July 2021 at the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge, which already has some structural elements for cashless tolling that were installed during the initial phase of the current deck replacement project.

"This conversion to cashless tolling will bring great benefits, such as reduced congestion, to drivers who use the Bridge Authority system," **said Tara Sullivan, Acting Executive Director of the Bridge Authority.** "We're excited to bring this 21st century technology and improved driving experience to travelers in the mid-Hudson region."

The implementation at Newburgh-Beacon will take place after the July 4th holiday weekend, with an exact date to be announced.

Projects to convert to cashless tolling on the other four spans operated by the Bridge Authority – the Bear Mountain, the Mid-Hudson, the Kingston-Rhinecliff and the Rip Van Winkle Bridges – will begin in subsequent months, with the conversion to cashless tolling on all five spans to be fully complete by Spring 2022. When cashless tolling is operational at these five bridge crossings, motorists will experience non-stop travel under gantries with state-of-the-art sensors and cameras that read E-ZPass tags and take license plate images.

Vehicles with E-ZPass tags are automatically charged and vehicles without E-ZPass tags will have their license plate image captured and a toll bill mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle via Tolls by Mail.

Non E-ZPass customers have a number of options to pay including by mail, over the phone, online, and via the TollsNY app. Customers who call **826 from most mobile devices will receive a text message with a link to the Tolls by Mail website and information on how to pay their toll bill.

Get E-ZPass Today

Motorists are encouraged to sign up for E-ZPass, the easiest and quickest way to pay tolls. All drivers, regardless of residency, can sign up for a New York E-ZPass account at E-ZPassNY.com or by calling the E-ZPass Toll Free Customer Service Center at <u>800-333-TOLL</u> (8655).

Current E-ZPass customers are encouraged to sign up for mobile alerts and to properly mount Tags to their windshield. Customers can login to their account at E-ZPassNY.com for more information.

TollsNY App

The <u>new TollsNY mobile app</u> has been released to help drivers manage E-ZPass accounts, find and pay Tolls by Mail invoices, and get important account alerts for tolls accrued at tolling sites. The TollsNY app is available free in the <u>Apple Store</u> and <u>Google Play</u>.

The Bridge Authority will offer updates on its social media pages about the upcoming stages of its cashless tolling conversion, including the roll-out schedule. These can be found on NYSBA's Facebook and Twitter profiles at www.facebook.com/NYSBridge and www.twitter.com/NYSBridge.

About the New York State Bridge Authority

The New York State Bridge Authority operates the Bear Mountain, Newburgh-Beacon, Mid-Hudson, Kingston-Rhinecliff and Rip Van Winkle Bridges. It also owns and maintains the structure of the Walkway Over the Hudson pedestrian bridge. The Authority is funded principally from bridge tolls and receives no state or federal tax monies for bridge maintenance and operation. Learn more at <u>www.nysba.ny.gov</u>.