



Contact:

Christopher Steber | csteber@nysba.ny.gov | (845) 691-7245

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BRIDGE AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES DATE FOR CASHLESS TOLLING AT THE RIP VAN WINKLE BRIDGE

The New York State Bridge Authority has announced that cashless tolling will be implemented at the Rip Van Winkle Bridge at midnight on the morning of Monday, November 1, 2021. 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 will be 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 NY.

Cashless tolling is already in use on the Authority's Newburgh-Beacon and Bear Mountain bridges. The new tolling system will be implemented at the Kingston-Rhinecliff and Mid-Hudson bridges in the months ahead. The conversion to cashless tolling is expected to be fully complete across all Authority spans by March 2022.

The new cashless tolling system will allow for safer and more seamless travel on the bridge's west approach. The current tollbooths, opened in 2003, will be demolished soon after the switch to cashless tolling takes place. Eastbound traffic will proceed through the current vicinity of Lane 1, then pass under the overhead gantry.

In spring 2022, the toll plaza reconfiguration project will kick off, leading to straighter travel lanes for traffic going in both directions. Notably, westbound travelers who have just crossed the bridge will no longer need to hook to the right to pass around a tollbooth. Rather, they will keep traveling straight through, in the vicinity of where Lanes 2 and 3 of the tollbooth currently are. By not having to change lanes, engage in stop-and-go traffic, or pass through a narrow tollbooth lane, traffic is expected to proceed at a safer pace with fewer chances of accidents in the toll plaza area.

In addition to smoother and safer travel, cashless tolling also offers environmental benefits due to less engine idling and wasted fuel, leading to fewer vehicle emissions.

All drivers without an E-ZPass tag are strongly encouraged to obtain one to take advantage of savings and convenience. Tags can be ordered at www.e-zpassny.com or picked up at a number of [retailers](#) across the State. NY E-ZPass users pay discounted toll rates at Bridge Authority facilities and on other toll roads within the E-ZPass network.

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

The Bridge Authority recommends all drivers download the [Tolls NY mobile app](#) to easily keep track of E-ZPass statements and pay Tolls by Mail invoices.

Information about the cashless tolling project can be found on the Bridge Authority's website, www.nysba.ny.gov, and its social media pages.

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 www.nysba.ny.gov. The New York State Bridge Authority can be found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NYSBridge and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/NYSBridge.

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