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For Release

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## RFK Bridge North Walkway from E.126<sup>th</sup> St to Randall's Island Reopens 12/22; RFK Bridge E.125 St Entrance Ramp to Reopen 12/29/16 South Walkway from East 124<sup>th</sup> St to RI Closed for Construction

Effective 12/22/16, the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge Harlem River span north side pedestrian path between Manhattan and Randall's Island will reopen to the public. The walkway had been closed during reconstruction of the bridge's East 125<sup>th</sup> Street exit ramp, while the South Walkway remained open. Pedestrians can enter or exit the North Walkway from E 126<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

One week later, on 12/29/16, the South Walkway, which leads to and from E 124<sup>th</sup> St. and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. in Harlem, will be closed for reconstruction. At the same time, the newly reconstructed north lane of East 124<sup>th</sup>/East 125<sup>th</sup> Street entrance ramp to the bridge will open to traffic while the lane closure shifts to the south lane to complete the same work.

Reconstruction of the RFK Bridge North and South Walkways is part of a \$69 million contract with Defoe Corp. of Mount Vernon, New York, for rehabilitation of the RFK Bridge's Manhattan approach ramps in Harlem. This project entails major repairs or replacement of the entrance and exit ramps, which will be completed in late 2017. Construction of the pier foundations for a future direct connection from the bridge to the northbound Harlem River Drive is also part of this project. The work is being carefully coordinated with the New York City Department of Transportation project on the Harlem River Drive viaduct.

The three-spanned Robert F. Kennedy Bridge (formerly Triborough), which connects Manhattan and Randall's Island, the Bronx and Queens, includes 14 miles of roadway and carries an average 170,000 vehicles daily. It opened on July 11, 1936.

Motorists can sign up for MTA e-mail or text alerts at <u>www.mta.info</u> and check the Bridges and Tunnels homepage or Facebook page for the latest information on planned work.

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