



TRANSPORTATION NEWS

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STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ANNOUNCES START OF SAFETY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT ON THE GRAND CENTRAL PARKWAY IN QUEENS Entrance and Exit Ramps Will Be Connected to Ease Merging and Reduce Congestion along Nearly a Mile of Highway

New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez today announced that work is getting underway on a project to enhance safety and mobility along a nearly one-mile section of the Grand Central Parkway between Francis Lewis Boulevard and 188th Street in Queens. The project, located on the westbound Grand Central Parkway, will combine seven entrance and exit ramps to create a continuous lane for merging on and off the highway. In the eastbound direction, the project will connect the entrance ramp from 188th Street with the exit ramp at Francis Lewis Boulevard.

“Governor Cuomo is making unprecedented investments in transportation across the state, enhancing safety, supporting economic growth and building more resilient infrastructure,”

Commissioner Dominguez said. “These improvements on the Grand Central Parkway will ease merges, improve traffic flow and reduce congestion for the tens of thousands who travel it every day.” The \$8.2 million project, scheduled for completion in the summer of 2021, also will upgrade guiderail and install new pavement markings and LED lighting to enhance visibility.

State Senator John Liu said, “DOT’s project to improve the Francis Lewis Boulevard and 188th Street exits off the Grand Central Parkway will result in eased mobility and enhanced safety on this important roadway. We appreciate the commencement of this essential infrastructure project and look forward to improved travel for local residents and for those traveling to and from New York City.”

Assemblyman David Weprin said, “I am very happy to hear that the New York State Department of Transportation will be beginning a Safety Enhancement Project to improve the road from Francis Lewis Boulevard to 188th Street in Queens. These much needed changes, like the recalibration of seven entrance and exit ramps into a continuous lane for vehicles coming onto and leaving the highway along with the installation of a new guardrail, pavement markings and LED lights on the road, will not only make the parkway safer for drivers, but also reduce traffic on this heavily used stretch. I look forward to using this improved thoroughfare myself upon completion of this project and thank New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez for initiating this important enhancement.”

New York City Council Member Barry Grodenchik said, “The Grand Central Parkway is a major artery across eastern Queens and points beyond. The newly-connected ramps and lighting will make the roadway safer for motorists, and I look forward to the completion of the project.”

For real-time travel information, motorists should check New York State's official traffic and travel information source, 511NY, before traveling. Call 5-1-1, visit www.511NY.org or download the free 511NY mobile app on iTunes or Google Play. The free service allows users to check road conditions, view traffic cameras and link to air and transit information. The app features Drive mode, which provides audible alerts along a chosen route while a user is driving, warning them about incidents and construction.

It is imperative that motorists drive carefully through the construction zone, for their own safety and the safety of workers. Fines are doubled for speeding in a work zone. In accordance with the Work Zone Safety Act of 2005, convictions of two or more speeding violations in a work zone could result in the suspension of an individual's driver's license.

Motorists are urged to slow down and safely move over when approaching roadside vehicles displaying red, white, blue, amber or green lights, including maintenance and construction vehicles in work zones. To learn more about the Move Over law and what we're doing to keep workers and motorists safe in highway construction zones, visit www.ny.gov/workzonesafety.

NYSDOT is promoting a [public service announcement](#) and social media campaign focused on the importance of driving responsibly in work zones. The video highlights the importance of paying attention in work zones and obeying New York State's "Move Over" laws.

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