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Private Company To Build New Goethals Bridge

By: NY1 News



A new Goethals Bridge is in the works, but the Port Authority is not building it.

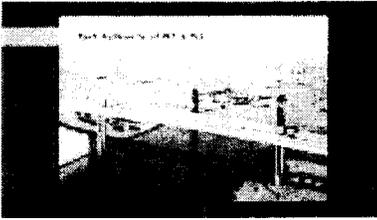
A private company will build, maintain and front the money for the project.

It is the first time in more than 100 years that a private sector company will take on the task of building a bridge in the city.

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A rendition of the new Goethals Bridge.

The Port Authority will ultimately pay off the billion-dollar price tag in a 30-year installment plan.

The private company will front 10 percent of the money and get federal transportation bonds for the rest.

The Port Authority will own the new bridge and collect the tolls.

The current four-lane Goethals Bridge is considered too old and too small to handle modern traffic.

"I think it's every Staten Islander's experience driving the Goethals Bridge, feeling like the car next to you is sitting in your lap," said Staten Island Councilman James Oddo. "And that's part of the problem. The size of the bridge, the width of the bridge is antiquated. I think every Staten Islander wants to see a new Goethals Bridge."

The new bridge will have six 12-foot-wide lanes, with shoulders and a pedestrian walkway.

The span is set to open in 2017, after which the old bridge will be torn down.