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One of the longest steel arch bridges in the world …

the Bayonne Bridge is also one of the most spectacular bridges in the metropolitan area. Opened to the public on November 15, 1931, it spans the Kill Van Kull to link Bayonne, New Jersey, with Staten Island, New York.

> VITAL CONNECTION
The Bayonne Bridge is one of three Staten Island bridges linking New York and New Jersey. On Staten Island, it leads to the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge via the Martin Luther King, Jr., Expressway and the westbound Staten Island Expressway (I-278). It also leads to the Goethals Bridge and Outerbridge Crossing via the westbound Staten Island Expressway. Used by thousands of commuters every day, the Bayonne Bridge is an important vehicular connection between Staten island, New York and Bayonne, New Jersey, and provides access to the commercial and industrial districts in Bayonne, including the Port Jersey-Port Authority Marine Terminal.

> INNOVATIVE DESIGN
The most architecturally salient features of the bridge are its length and distinctive steel arch. The design of the arch features a slender, slightly tapered hyperbolic curve over the roadway. The arch trusses form a pleasing repetitive pattern of geometric triangles. It was the first major bridge to use manganese steel for its main arch structural members and rivets. Further, the innovative use of falsework (temporary scaffolding that upholds an unfinished span) precluded the need for heavy anchorages at the arch base. It was the first time that falsework was used for the construction of an arch span of this magnitude.

> IMPORTANT LANDMARK
The Bayonne Bridge, designed by legendary engineer Othmar Ammann, is the fourth longest steel arch bridge in the world, and was the longest in the world at the time of its completion. In recognition of its innovative structure and design, the Bayonne Bridge has been widely heralded as a major engineering landmark. The American Institute for Steel Construction awarded it a “Most Beautiful Steel Bridge” prize in 1931. In 1985, the Bayonne Bridge was designated a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

> CONTINUING IMPROVEMENTS
The primary purpose of the historic Bayonne Bridge was to allow vehicular traffic from Staten Island to reach Manhattan via the Holland Tunnel. However, the Kill Van Kull is the primary shipping channel for cargo to reach our marine terminals: Port Newark and Elizabeth-Port Authority Marine Terminal in New Jersey, and Howland Hook Marine Terminal in Staten Island.

Since the original bridge was only 151 feet above the water, larger container vessels were unable to pass under it to bring goods into our region.

To that end, The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey took action to “Raise the Roadway” of the Bayonne Bridge to 215 feet above the surface of the water. The 64 feet of additional air draft under the bridge will allow the Port Authority to welcome larger, and more efficient vessels. The rehabilitation of the Bayonne Bridge and construction of the new roadway represent a significant investment in our region.

With the opening of the new elevated roadway in February 2017, the Bayonne Bridge began a Cashless Toll Collection operation and no longer accepts cash toll payments. The toll booths have been replaced with overhead equipment that instantly reads a vehicle’s E-ZPass tag. Vehicles without an E-ZPass tag are photographed and toll bills are mailed to their registered owners.

Benefits to Our Region
“Raise the Roadway” has significant long-term benefits:

- The newer, larger vessels, with cleaner and more efficient engines calling on our port will ultimately displace the need for multiple smaller vessel calls, and that will mean cleaner air for our neighbors.
- Wider lanes, new shoulders, and median safety dividers will upgrade the bridge to current design standards.
- A bikeway and walkway extending the entire length of the bridge will make traveling the bridge easier for all of us.
- New piers, a new roadway deck, and new approach roads will ensure that the bridge will last for generations.
- The new Bayonne Bridge design will allow for future mass transit service.

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Bayonne Bridge
The Beautiful Arch

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