

# NEW YORK CITY TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMISSION

## Notice of Promulgation

Notice is hereby given in accordance with section 1043(b) of the New York City Charter (“Charter”) that the Taxi and Limousine Commission (“TLC”) promulgates amendments to its rules relating to the payment of round-trip tolls within the City of New York, specifically, the Verrazzano Narrows Bridge.

The rule is promulgated pursuant to section 1043 and 2303 of the Charter and section 19-503 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York. This rule was published in the City Record on July 10, 2023 for public comment. On August 9, 2023 a public hearing was held virtually by the TLC and the rules as adopted by the Commission on October 18, 2023.

## Statement of Basis and Purpose

TLC’s current rules require that passengers pay only for tolls incurred driving *to* the passenger’s destination and no tolls for the *return* trip on all trips within the City of New York, except for trips over (1) the Cross Bay Veterans Bridge and (2) the Marine Parkway-Gil Hodges Memorial Bridge, both of which connect to the Rockaway Peninsula.

Although still within the City of New York, these two bridges operate with a two-way tolling system, which refers to the practice of collecting a toll over a bridge in each direction as opposed to only collecting a toll in one direction. Passengers are required to pay both the *to* and *from* tolls for these two bridges to prevent the Driver from incurring an additional expense to re-enter the rest of the City from the Rockaway Peninsula.

Since December 2, 2020, the Verrazzano Narrows Bridge has operated with a two-way tolling system. There is no way to return from Staten Island to the other four boroughs without again crossing the Verrazzano, just as there is no way to return from the Rockaway Peninsula without again taking the Cross Bay Veterans Bridge or the Marine Parkway-Gil Hodges Memorial Bridge.

The amended rules will add the Verrazzano Narrows Bridge to those bridges within the City for which passengers must pay the return toll.

In addition, based on written and oral comments received during the public hearing on August 9, 2023, TLC will amend its existing rules so that passengers leaving Staten Island or the Rockaway Peninsula do not have to pay the toll from either of those areas. This ensures that residents and visitors of these specific areas are not overcharged. Further, TLC will eliminate the *to* and *return* concept relating to what tolls are paid by the passenger. Instead, the rule will simply state what toll is paid in what direction. For example, if a passenger enters Staten Island by taking the Verrazzano Narrows Bridge, the passenger will need to pay the toll two times, i.e., the toll to enter and the driver’s toll to leave because of the two-way tolling. However, a passenger leaving Staten Island by taking the Verrazzano Narrows Bridge will not have to pay the toll in that direction.

TLC's authority for these rules is found in sections 2303 and 1043(a) of the New York City Charter and section 19-503 of the New York City Administrative Code.

New material is underlined.

[Deleted material is in brackets.]

Section 1. Paragraph (1) of subdivision (f) of section 58-26 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended to read as follows:

(f) *Tolls – What Tolls are Paid by Passenger.*

(1) On all trips within the City of New York, the passenger must pay:

(i) All tolls incurred [driving to the passenger's destination] during the trip except for trips as follows:

A. From the Rockaway Peninsula over the Cross Bay Veterans Bridge to Queens

B. From the Rockaway Peninsula over the Marine Parkway – Gil Hodges Memorial Bridge to Brooklyn

C. From Staten Island over the Verrazzano Narrows Bridge to Brooklyn

(ii) [No tolls for the Driver's *return* trip, except for trips over] Two times the amount of the toll if incurred during the trip:

A. [The Cross Bay Veterans Bridge] From Queens over the Cross Bay Veterans Bridge to the Rockaway Peninsula

B. [The Marine Parkway – Gil Hodges Memorial Bridge] From Brooklyn over the Marine Parkway – Gil Hodges Memorial Bridge to the Rockaway Peninsula

C. From Brooklyn over the Verrazzano Narrows Bridge to Staten Island

Section 2. Paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of section 59A-23 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended to read as follows:

(b) *Tolls – What Tolls are Paid by Passenger*

(1) On all trips within the City of New York, the passenger must pay:

(i) All tolls incurred [driving to the passenger's destination] during the trip except for trips as follows:

A. From the Rockaway Peninsula over the Cross Bay Veterans Bridge to Queens

B. From the Rockaway Peninsula over the Marine Parkway – Gil Hodges Memorial Bridge to Brooklyn

C. From Staten Island over the Verrazzano Narrows Bridge to Brooklyn

(ii) [No tolls for the Driver's *return* trip, except for trips over] Two times the amount of the toll if incurred during the trip:

- A. [The Cross Bay Veterans Bridge] From Queens over the Cross Bay Veterans Bridge to the Rockaway Peninsula
- B. [The Marine Parkway – Gil Hodges Memorial Bridge] From Brooklyn over the Marine Parkway – Gil Hodges Memorial Bridge to the Rockaway Peninsula
- C. From Brooklyn over the Verrazzano Narrows Bridge to Staten Island

Section 3. Paragraph (1) of subdivision (g) of section 82-26 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended to read as follows:

(g) *Tolls – What Tolls are Paid by Passenger.*

(1) On all trips within the City of New York, the passenger must pay:

(i) All tolls incurred [driving *to* the passenger's destination] during the trip except for trips as follows:

- A. From the Rockaway Peninsula over the Cross Bay Veterans Bridge to Queens
- B. From the Rockaway Peninsula over the Marine Parkway – Gil Hodges Memorial Bridge to Brooklyn
- C. From Staten Island over the Verrazzano Narrows Bridge to Brooklyn

(ii) [No tolls for the Driver's *return* trip, except for trips over] Two times the amount of the toll if incurred during the trip:

- A. [The Cross Bay Veterans Bridge] From Queens over the Cross Bay Veterans Bridge to the Rockaway Peninsula
- B. [The Marine Parkway – Gil Hodges Memorial Bridge] From Brooklyn over the Marine Parkway – Gil Hodges Memorial Bridge to the Rockaway Peninsula
- C. From Brooklyn over the Verrazzano Narrows Bridge to Staten Island