



## **Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority**

One East Shore Road | P.O. Box 437 | Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835-0437

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 10, 2020**

# **NEWPORT PELL BRIDGE EASTBOUND TOLL BOOTHS HOURS OF OPERATION TEMPORARILY CHANGE DUE TO REDUCED TRAVEL**

## **TRAVEL REMAINS OPEN AT ALL TIMES WITH ELECTRONIC TOLLING**

**JAMESTOWN, R.I.** – [The Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority \(RITBA\)](http://www.ritba.org) is announcing that due to reduced overnight traffic due to the effects of COVID-19, the toll booth cash collections on the Newport Pell Bridge going eastbound will temporarily be suspended from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m., effective Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, until further notice. This change follows the same change made for the westbound lanes on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

The eastbound toll booth (towards Newport) will be open for cash collections during the day from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. However, from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m., RITBA will close the toll booths and send all traffic through the open road tolling (ORT) lane. The tolls will be collected utilizing the existing open road tolling (ORT) technology. This technology reads E-ZPass transponders for tolling. If a vehicle does not have a transponder, a photograph of the vehicle's license plate will be taken, and a bill will be mailed to the address of the registered owner of the vehicle. The billed toll amount will be the same as if the vehicle were paying at the toll booth with cash or credit card. This temporary eastbound toll booths' closure is in addition to the westbound toll booths' closure, which will now also be from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. RITBA is redeploying the toll booth employees to other areas of RITBA to maintain timely and effective operations.

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The tolls can be paid via mail, at the dropbox located at the Jamestown office, online at [www.ezpassritba.com](http://www.ezpassritba.com), or over the phone Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1-877-743-9727. RITBA is encouraging customers to sign up for E-ZPass and utilize the online tools available to manage their accounts and pay for tolls, as call volume is expected to increase as a result of these changes. RITBA is asking its existing customers to log in to their accounts and update all vehicle, address, and credit card information to avoid unpaid tolls.

The temporary closure of the eastbound toll booths from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. will necessitate the closure of the Conanicus Avenue entrance ramp to the eastbound lanes of the toll plaza. Local traffic will be required to access the bridge via North Road and Route 138. (See attached diagram for detour routes).

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### **CONTACT:**

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# DETOUR ACCESS TO NEWPORT PELL BRIDGE FROM JAMESTOWN

