



Office of General Services

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OGS ANNOUNCES PROJECT TO REHABILITATE EMPIRE STATE PLAZA BUS LOOP & INFRASTRUCTURE

Parking Lot Shuttle Buses Will Be Temporarily Rerouted

New York State Office of General Services Commissioner RoAnn Destito today announced that a project to rehabilitate the Empire State Plaza bus loop and surrounding infrastructure, including sidewalks and roadways, will begin in mid-March. Four Capital Region contractors will do the bulk of the work during the first seven months of this \$8.5 million, four-phase project that will be completed over 16 months. Forty years of bus traffic and exposure to water and salt necessitates these critical repairs for the bus loop.

“The bus loop is an integral piece of the Plaza’s infrastructure, and one only has to look at the cracks in the roadway and the water leaking from above to understand the need for these repairs.” Commissioner Destito said. “At its completion, this project will ensure the integrity of the Empire State Plaza bus loop for at least the next 40 years.”

The bus loop serves as an access point to the Plaza’s concourse level for emergency first responders, people evacuating the Plaza during an emergency, large maintenance equipment, transportation for the disabled, taxi service, oversized displays on the concourse, vehicles that are displayed on the concourse, and more than 1,200 commuters who work at the Plaza and Capitol.

To ensure the safety of all who use the loop and the integrity of the Plaza’s support structure, the project will involve completely replacing the progressively deteriorating roadway, repairing sections of the Plaza’s

supporting infrastructure that have been damaged by water leaking from above, and replacing waterproofing and drainage systems.

The project will be done in stages, with impacts on shuttle bus routes, parking, and traffic patterns occurring during various stages of the reconstruction. The bus loop will be closed to bus and pedestrian traffic from April 4 to early October, 2016. During that time, buses that transport people to and from the OGS-managed parking lots will be rerouted to a temporary bus stop on the Plaza level.

Bette & Cring Construction Group of Latham will serve as the construction contractor for the bus loop project with Stilsing Electric, Inc. of Rensselaer handling the electric work; Family Danz Mechanical, LLC of Albany responsible for HVAC and mechanical work; and DiGesare Mechanical, Inc. of Schenectady doing the plumbing work.

Work on the bus loop will coincide with the New York State Department of Transportation's Empire State Plaza Expressway rehabilitation project. That project involves replacing the concrete driving surface on the four bridges that carry the expressway over I-787 and city streets, and making structural repairs to the bridges and to the pavement that leads into the tunnels under the Plaza.

Bus Loop Project Schedule:

Phase 1, Fixing Overhead Leaks

Mid-March – Early June, 2016:

- The bus loop and the bus stop vestibule between the Empire State Plaza Concourse and the bus loop will be closed April 4.
- Shuttle services to OGS parking lots will be rerouted from April 4 to early October, with the pick-up and drop-off location for shuttle riders relocated up on the Plaza's red brick road, between Agency Buildings 2 and 3.
- Trees, grass, and soil will be removed from the concrete planters on the Plaza between Agency Buildings 2 and 3 to provide access to the expansion joint and rubber membrane below.
- The membrane and irrigation systems at the bottom of the planters will be replaced, and the planters will be waterproofed, and soil, grass, and trees will be replaced.

- The bicycle storage area, currently located at the bus loop, will be permanently relocated to a space on parking level P2 North at the end of March. Bicycles must be removed from the existing area before March 28.

Phase 2, Rehabilitating Bus Loop Roadway and Sidewalks April 4 – Early October, 2016:

- The bus loop will be closed on April 4.
- The roadway and sidewalks will be replaced
- The bus stop vestibule will remain closed for renovation.
- Damaged areas of the Plaza's waffle-shaped substructure will be repaired where necessary.
- Shuttle services to OGS parking lots will continue to be rerouted until early October, with the pick-up and drop-off location for shuttle riders relocated up on the Plaza's red brick road between Agency Buildings 2 and 3.
- Access to and from the P3 North underground parking garage will be closed intermittently between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., and motorists will be rerouted to the ramp at the P2 North garage entrance.
- The roadways under the Plaza will be reduced to a single lane at times during this phase of the project.

Phase 3, Rebuild Empire State Plaza Expressway Feeder Roads Late July – Early October, 2016:

- The bus loop will reopen in early October.
- The feeder roads that connect the Empire State Plaza Expressway to the bus loop and Swan Street Building will be rebuilt and will reopen with the bus loop.
- Bus services to OGS parking lots served by the shuttles will be rerouted for a portion of this phase with the pick-up and drop-off location relocated to a yet-to-be-determined location.
- Any impacts on the use of the Swan Street building garage and loading dock during this phase of the project will be communicated in advance to those affected.

Phase 4, Rebuild "Ram's Horn" Ramps

Spring, 2017:

- The ram's horn-shaped ramps that connect the Plaza's red brick road to the Empire State Plaza Expressway feeder roads will be rebuilt, and new drainage systems and security gates will be installed.

Project Updates:

Updates on the bus loop project will be posted once the projects gets underway on the OGS Downtown Albany Employee Parking Website – www.parking.ogs.ny.gov, and additional information about the project will appear on the Empire State Plaza Concourse wall at the bus stop vestibule.

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