



COMMUTER NEWSLETTER

January 2022

TOLL INCREASES IN NY, NJ AND PA



As you know, 2020 and 2021 were financially difficult years for our industry. As we start 2022, we are being dealt yet another hardship- a number of states have raised their tolls for buses effective January 1. Tolling authorities announcing increases include New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York.

The use of toll increases are widely thought in some states to be a good way to raise funding to support the critical improvements for long-term programs. Some of the state increases include:

- Effective January 1, officials in New Jersey added an annual overall increase of up to 3% on the New Jersey Turnpike and Garden State Parkway. Drivers who use the Atlantic City Expressway will also see a 3% toll increase starting January 8. Then, beginning February 1, tolls on five Jersey Shore bridges that connect beach towns in Cape May and Atlantic

counties will rise from \$1.50 to \$2 for passenger vehicles. Rate for other vehicles will increase proportionately.

- In Pennsylvania, a 3% increase is in place to travel the state's turnpike.
- In New York, toll increases became effective on January 2, affecting the Lincoln and Holland tunnels, the George Washington, Bayonne and Goethals bridges, and the Outerbridge Crossing. The scheduled bus toll adjustments will increase every other year by varying amounts from 2020 to 2026. According to the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, the toll structure is designed to provide bus companies with ample time to plan for and accommodate the increases. They propose that if bus companies pass toll increases on to their riders on a roughly proportional, per-passenger basis, bus customers would generally be charged only additional pennies per ride.

Note: Trans-Bridge Lines will absorb this cost, rather than pass it along to our passengers.



[VIEW FEBRUARY FARES >](#)



EFFECTIVE JANUARY 8, 2022

The Clinton Park and Ride ticket office will operate with the following weekend hours:
Saturday & Sunday
7:50 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Easton Intermodal Transportation Center ticket office will be closed on Saturday and Sunday until further notice.



EFFECTIVE TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022

Changes affect:
ALLENTOWN/CLINTON/NEW YORK*
NEWARK AIRPORT &
WIND CREEK BETHLEHEM CASINO

*SPECIAL NOTE:
Westbound Runs 108 & 110 have exchanged location stops & times, with further modifications to times.

[VIEW SCHEDULES >](#)



On Friday, January 14, Trans-Bridge Lines received an email communication from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT). That email outlined restrictions set to go into effect at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, January 16. It was a Tier 2 emergency roadway plan with orders for vehicles to avoid the following highways:

- All interstates south of

Interstate 80

- PA Turnpike I-76 (Mainline) from the Ohio border to the New Jersey border, including all western extensions
- PA Turnpike Northeast Extension (I-476) from I-276 to I-80
- The entire length of U.S. 22 and
- The entire length of Route 33

This order affected commercial vehicles including motorcoaches, and forced us to cancel several buses on our Sunday schedules. Our team communicated our cancellations in a timely manner, however we understand this may have caused an inconvenience for our passengers, and we apologize for that.

Please understand that we must follow PennDOT's emergency plan orders despite what changes there may be to weather forecasts or what weather conditions we actually experience. We are obligated to remain off of the designated roadways until we receive an additional notice that the road bans are lifted.

Trans-Bridge Lines will communicate all weather alerts and schedule changes due to inclement weather on social media via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#). We will also update our [Alerts page](#) on [www.transbridgelines.com](#), and send out an email to all passengers who are signed up for our Commuter Email Alerts. If you are not signed up for email alerts, you may do so [HERE](#).

JANUARY IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH



According to the White House, the people most vulnerable to human trafficking in the U.S. include youth in the welfare or juvenile justice system, runaway and homeless youth, undocumented immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ+, people with disabilities, and people with substance use disorder.

Is the Commute Worth It?

Many people live in the suburbs of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania and commute to New York City every day. But is it worth it?

Commuting to New York City IS worth it. You can take advantage of job and educational opportunities available in New York City while enjoying the quiet of the suburbs or a more peaceful city, as well as better air quality and a cheaper cost of living.

If you already live outside the city, it is worth commuting to New York City for work purposes? Yes, you will have to spend a little extra time commuting, but the job opportunities in New York are vast. You can build a career in a way that may not be possible elsewhere. New York City is the biggest city in the United States, and it is the financial capital of the world.

Enjoy a Better Social Life

Commuting allows you to the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. New York City has a great nightlife, and you can take advantage of that after work.

Avoid the High Cost of Rent and General Cost of Living

One of the worst things about New York City is that rent is notoriously high. If you are working in Manhattan, and choose to live in a more affordable part of the city far from Manhattan, you wouldn't have a quicker commuting time than living outside the city. Traffic in New York City can be bad, and it can take a long time to drive from one side of the city to the other, especially during rush hours.

Rent is not the only thing that can raise the cost of living in New York City. There are many things that are expensive in the city, from restaurants to clothing. By living in a cheaper area, you can save money on necessities.

Avoid the High Parking Fees, Take the Bus!

You can avoid the expensive parking fees, tolls, and wear-and-tear that come along with driving your car into New York City. For this reason, many workers avoid the frustration of traffic and the costs of parking in exchange for a comfortable bus ride, where they can sleep or get a head start on their day's work.

Whether you live outside the city and are thinking of working in the city or you are already working and living in the city and are thinking of moving out while retaining your job, it is easy with bus commuting. Take the leap!

The vast majority of human trafficking is perpetrated by someone known to the victim. It is very rare that people are kidnapped by strangers and forced into trafficking situations via force and violence.

Understanding what trafficking looks like is important, but it's difficult to determine whether a stranger is being trafficked without jumping to conclusions.

Bus drivers, bus station employees, and bus passengers are in a critical position to help combat human trafficking. Traffickers recruit victims at bus stops or bus stations and utilize buses in transporting them, either following an initial online recruitment — when they are using a bus to bring their victims to them — or using a bus to take their victims to and from places where they will be sold. When victims are able to get out, a bus or bus station may be the first place they'll go to find safety or escape.

If you believe you have identified someone in a trafficking situation, report it or let your bus operator know immediately. It may be unsafe to attempt to rescue a trafficking victim. You have no way of knowing how the trafficker may react and retaliate against the victim and you. If, however, you identify a victim who has



escaped the trafficking situation, there are a number of organizations to whom the victim could be referred for help with shelter, medical care, legal assistance, and other critical services. In this case, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888.



The TSA under federal law has extended the mask mandate through March 18, 2022.

Passengers will continue to be required to wear a face covering while boarding, en route, and disembarking all motorcoaches.

Failure to comply may result in denial of boarding or removal from the motorcoach by authorities. Refusing to wear a mask is a violation of federal law, and passengers may be subject to penalties under federal law. Trans-Bridge Lines follows all TSA directives on face coverings.

Please note that drivers are not required to wear a face covering when operating the motorcoach, as it impedes vision for some drivers. Drivers are expected to wear a face covering when boarding and disembarking passengers, loading baggage, and anytime he/she has direct contact with a passenger.

[READ TSA DIRECTIVE >](#)



Trans-Bridge Lines was recently featured in National Bus Trader magazine's January issue. The article details our 80 years in the business!

[READ TBL NATIONAL BUS TRADER ARTICLE >](#)



SMART TIPS WORTH THE REMINDER

As you ride the bus during the winter months, there are good habits you can practice to ensure safer travel.

- 1. Dress warmly.** Safe winter bus travel begins with warm attire. Since winter road conditions affect all traffic, expecting bus delays means dressing appropriately for the cold. Start with a few layers of warm clothing and be sure to wear a hats, gloves, and snow boots.
- 2. Be visible.** On dark winter mornings and evenings, it's important that you make yourself visible to an approaching bus. Wear light-color clothing is helpful for ensuring drivers can see you.
- 3. Stand back.** When your bus arrives, be sure to put some distance between you and the vehicle. Icy roads can lead to slipping wheels, so protect yourself by stepping back from the curb or arrival area.
- 4. Wait in a cleared place.** When experiencing winter weather, bus pickup areas may be completely covered in snow and ice. If possible, avoid standing knee-deep in snow. Stay comfortable by standing in the nearest cleared area closet to the usual pickup location.
- 5. Step carefully.** While every effort is made to keep bus floors clear of snow and ice from passengers shoes, it's important to step with care. Please use handrails when boarding the bus to ensure safety.
- 6. Expect delays.** Winter weather affects all traffic. During these times, we are working to get you safely to your destination, and buses move only as quickly as traffic allows. If there is snow or ice, consider taking an earlier bus to ensure that you arrive on time.
- 7. Be kind to your driver.** Please be respectful to your driver. If your bus is late, remember that your driver is doing his or her best to make sure you arrive at your destination despite bad road conditions.



TRANS-BRIDGE TOURS
Tours and Vacation Travel

Our tour planners have been working diligently to include new Multi-Day and One-Day Tours in 2022. New and exciting tours include:

Multi-Day

Villa Roma Resort, Music in the Catskills, May 2-3
Pittsburgh & Heroes, Pittsburgh, PA, May 13-15
Cruise, Dine & Mine, Mohawk Valley, NY, July 17-18
Civil War Trail, Manassas, Harper's Ferry, Antietam & Gettysburg, Sep 6-8
Mackinac Island & Frankenmuth, MI, Sep 10-15
DC Wine Country, Loudoun County, VA, Oct 17-18
A New England Experience, Western Massachusetts, Oct 21-23
A Magical Amish Holiday, Lancaster, PA, Nov 10-11
Coastal Virginia Holiday, Virginia Beach & Norfolk, VA, Dec 2-4



One-Day

"Sound of Music" at Fulton Theater, Mar 16
David" at Sight & Sound Millennium Theatre, Apr 20
All Aboard for Springtime in the Poconos, Waterfront at Silver Birches, June 1
"Jersey Boys" at Fulton Theater, July 30
Coney Island, Aug 1
Medieval Times, Aug 28
West Point & Hudson River Cruise, Sep 16
Farm to Table Experience & Wine Tasting Tour, Mount Hope Estate & Winery, Oct 19
Gettysburg Ghost Tour, Oct 21
"Saturday Night Fever" at Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre, Nov 5
'Yuletide' at Winterthur, Nov 30



To view the full itineraries and the complete list of 2022 tours, please visit www.TransBridgeTours.com.

Interested in booking a tour? Call 610-868-6001 or click [HERE](#) to Request a Reservation.

WHY MADDEN TRAVELED BY BUS - THE MADDEN CRUISER

John Madden took a flight from Tampa Bay to San Francisco in 1979. He only made it to Houston before he disembarked the plane.

It marked the final time that Madden would fly.

Madden controlled his fear of flying during his 10-year NFL coaching career, but he gave up on the practice as a broadcaster. Instead, he rode to games in his "Madden Cruiser," a luxury bus designed to allow him to get from place to place without flying. It gave him a chance to roam the country and experience various parts of America while he was on the road.

Madden admitted in 2008 that his fear of flying was caused by claustrophobia. He last flew in 1979. He was on a flight from Tampa Bay to San Francisco when he had a panic attack after the flight attendant closed the cabin door.

Madden spent the first six years of his post-flying broadcasting career traveling across the country by train and bus. However, he preferred busing places when he could, as it allowed him to see more of the country.

"People used to say to me, 'It must be great coaching and traveling and seeing all the things you do.'" "Well, I'd get on the airplane, and then I'd get off the airplane, get on a bus and go to the hotel. Then the stadium, then the airplane again. I thought I'd traveled



all over, but I hadn't seen anything. You've got to be on the ground to see things."

Madden's preference for bus travel wasn't known until 1987. Once it was revealed in an interview, then-CBS executive producer

Terry O'Neil rented Dolly Parton's tour bus for Madden during a week in which he had to work football games in Atlanta and Philadelphia as well as a billiards event in Las Vegas, per the

Baltimore Sun. Madden enjoyed that arrangement, and that led to the birth of the "Madden Cruiser."

The Madden Cruiser was a luxury bus that Madden took around the country to get to the NFL games he was calling. It was given to him by Greyhound bus lines as part of a 1987 endorsement deal that covered all expenses for the bus, including a personal driver.

The Madden Cruiser became the broadcaster's preferred method of travel, and he has put hundreds of thousands of miles on his buses over the years. It also became a legend in the NFL community, as Madden often hosted meetings and interviews on the bus during his career.

The original Madden Cruiser was brought to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2018.

SportingNews.com

URGENT NEED FOR BLOOD



MILLER-KEYSTONE
BLOOD CENTER

EMERGENCY ALL BLOOD TYPES NEEDED



"In the past, Miller-Keystone has been able to import blood products from other centers across the nation," explained Ms. Clemens. "That is not the case this year, as blood supplies across the United States are at a historically critical low. Blood is perishable and there is no substitute -- the only source is from volunteer blood donors."

In order to donate, individuals must be 16 years of age* or older, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be feeling healthy; they must not have donated in the past eight weeks, however platelet donors are eligible within 8 days of a donation.

All donors must also provide valid identification. Masks are required at this time regardless of vaccination status, and donations are accepted by appointment only in order to accommodate current social distancing guidelines.

Schedule your blood donation by calling 800-B-ADONOR (223-6667) or visit GIVEaPINT.org.

* Parental consent required for 16-year-old donors.

WHY GIVE BLOOD?

There is no substitute for human blood. From cancer patients to accident victims, premature babies and more, your generosity contributes to saving lives right here in our community.

Miller-Keystone is the only blood supplier to 22 hospitals in our region and they need 450 donors to meet the daily needs of transfusion patients.



WHY ARE PLATELETS IMPORTANT?

Platelets are tiny, colorless, disc-shaped particles circulating in blood that help control bleeding and bruising. They activate a substance in plasma, which forms a clot and allows a wound to heal. Since platelets help control bleeding, they are very important for heart surgery patients, burn victims, organ transplant patients, bone marrow transplant patients, accident victims, premature babies, and especially cancer patients.

In fact, cancer is the #1 patient group that needs Platelet transfusions. Some treatments can result in anemia and a loss of Platelets, and many cancer patients require daily Platelet transfusions for several weeks. When Platelet levels fall too low, they are transfused into patients to replenish their supply and prevent life-threatening hemorrhages.

Platelets have the shortest shelf life of all blood components, lasting only seven days. That means they are in constant demand for life-saving treatments.

You can give Platelets every two weeks, up to 24 times per year.

450

Units of blood are needed every day in the 12 counties served by Miller-Keystone Blood Center.

43000

Units of blood are used each day in the United States.

29

Miller-Keystone Blood Center is the only blood supplier to 29 hospitals in our region. No other blood organization supplies these hospitals.