

TZ Bridge Blog: Merry Christmas!

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Be gone, tumult and congestion in Tarrytown — at least until January. Project officials halted construction activities today, AND they've temporarily re-opened Ramp E, which got lots of attention after its closure nearly three weeks ago.

Nightmarish traffic delays and gridlock-beyond-imagination resulted from closing the bridge entrance off South Broadway — compounded by the snowstorm. That was then, this is now. And until it closes again in January, it's open.

Last weekend, a ginormous, 400-foot-long crane left Oakland Harbor near San Francisco, and is expected some time between February 1 and 15 near our very own Tappan Zee Bridge — to help build its replacement.

The “Left Coast Lifter” was one factor that distinguished design-build team Tappan Zee Constructors, LLC from its two bidding competitors. Named for its use in replacing the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge's eastern span, the largest floating crane in the world has no problem hoisting the equivalent weight of 12 Statues of Liberty.

Where will it go? Well, none the worse for wear after traveling 6,000 miles from through the Panama Canal and the Gulf of Mexico, and up the East Coast — oh, you want to know where the new bridge will be built.

And then people wanted to know why north, and why it has a larger curve, and will the (cash) tolls really go to \$14?

“I heard we can walk onto the new bridge.” Yes, and bicycle, too. The northern span's shared use path will also have viewing areas, so no more quick head turns while driving — although it's TBD where people who use these areas will park in Nyack and Tarrytown.

Since February — when meetings were opened to the public; the first two were closed meetings — the mass transit task force has discussed county-specific and regional solutions. It appears the group might be stuck — no lead agency to oversee the new transit system, and some members aren't happy with the short, mid, and long-term proposals.

Meantime, numerous [EarthCam®](#) construction cameras in Rockland and Westchester offer 24/7 views of the bridge, current project information and an interactive archive calendar. They're accessible via the New NY Bridge website, and are well-situated for catching sunrises and sunsets on the water. Well, that's mostly why I check them.

