



The automatic coin machines are being removed from the mainline barrier toll plazas on the Garden State Parkway. The coin lanes are being replaced with Full Service or E-ZPass Only lanes. Here are some answers to your **frequently asked questions** about this change.

Q

I use a coin lane regularly. How will this change affect me?

A

The impact should be minimal. The mainline barrier plazas are staffed at all hours. If you want to continue using exact change, you simply will be handing it to a toll collector instead of dropping it into a coin basket. Just make sure you select a Full Service lane rather than an E-ZPass Only lane.

Q

Does this change affect every toll plaza?

A

No. Only the 11 mainline barrier plazas will be affected. With one exception, the 23 plazas on the entry and exit ramps will still have automatic coin machines. [The exception is exit 125 in Sayreville, which has been E-ZPass only since it opened in 2017.]

Q

Why are you making this change?

A

The coin machines are nearing the end of their useful lives and have become expensive and difficult to maintain. Original manufacturer's parts are no longer available, and parts from third-party vendors are becoming scarce. The New Jersey Turnpike Authority will use parts from the 37 coin machines removed from the mainline barrier plazas to extend the useful lives of the machines in use on the entrance and exit ramps.

Q

Do most drivers pay their tolls in the coin lanes?

A

No. The vast majority of drivers use E-ZPass. Nearly 83 percent of the 240.3 million transactions at the mainline barrier plazas in 2017 were paid with E-ZPass. About 12 percent were paid with cash. And just under 5 percent were paid in the coin lanes.

Mainline Barrier Plazas

The mainline of the Garden State Parkway runs from Cape May in the south to the New York State Line in the north. The "mainline barrier plazas" are the toll collection points along that route. The term is used to distinguish them from the toll collection points on exit and entrance ramps. Those are the "ramp plazas," and they will not be affected by this change. These are the mainline barrier plazas:

Pascack Valley

Milepost 166.1 Southbound

Bergen

Milepost 160.5 Northbound

Essex

Milepost 150.7 Southbound

Union

Milepost 142.7 Northbound

Raritan

Milepost 125.4 Southbound

Asbury Park

Milepost 104.0 Northbound

Toms River

Milepost 84.7

Northbound And Southbound

Barnegat

Milepost 68.9 Southbound

New Gretna

Milepost 53.5 Northbound

Great Egg

Milepost 28.8 Southbound

Cape May

Milepost 19.4 Northbound

The Work Schedule

The work to remove the automatic coin machines and convert the lanes to Full Service or E-ZPass Only will take place over the course of about six weeks at the rate of two plazas per week.

The work will be done by two different crews, one will start at the north and work south, the other will start at the south and work north.

It will begin on or about September 24th. The schedule is subject to change based on weather and other factors, but the anticipated sequence for removing the coin machines and converting the lanes to Full Service or E-ZPass is as follows:

Week 1

Pascack Valley
Cape May

Week 2

Bergen
Great Egg

Week 3

Essex
New Gretna

Week 4

Union
Barnegat

Week 5

Toms River
Raritan

Week 6

Asbury Park

Q

Wow. Eighty-three percent of the mainline transactions are paid with E-ZPass? How do I open my own E-ZPass account?

A

Fill out an online application at www.ezpassnj.com. Call 888-AUTO-TOLL (888-288-6865) to speak to a customer service representative. Or visit an E-ZPass walk-in center at 375 McCarter Highway, Newark; 420 N. 6th Street, Camden; or I-295 and New Castle Avenue, New Castle, DE.

Q

Will drivers who use E-ZPass be limited to the E-ZPass Only lanes ?

A

No. E-ZPass will be accepted in all lanes at the barrier plazas – Full Service and E-ZPass Only. The coin lanes on the entrance and exit ramps will be the only Parkway toll lanes where you will not be able to use E-ZPass.

Q

Will the work disrupt traffic at the toll plaza?

A

The work will involve switching the toll lanes over to their new modes and posting signs at and near the plazas. It will require the temporary, short-term closure of some toll lanes. The work will be done during the day, outside of the peak travel periods, and we don't expect it to cause significant traffic disruptions.

