

# News Release

For Immediate Release

April 1, 2016

Contact: Rodger Gottlieb • 609.573.5815 • [rodgergottlieb@yahoo.com](mailto:rodgergottlieb@yahoo.com)

## **Downbeach Express Announces Fare Increase**

*Express Pass customers to pay additional 10 cents per crossing effective April 18, 2016. Cash customers to pay 25 cents more per crossing.*

**Margate, NJ** -- The Downbeach Express, formerly the Margate Bridge and Causeway, has announced a toll increase of 10 cents per crossing for Express Pass customers and an increase of 25 cents per crossing for cash customers. Beginning April 18, 2016, Express Pass patrons will pay \$1.30 per crossing, and cash travelers will pay \$1.75 per crossing.

The Express Pass rate increase of 10 cents is the first such increase in more than four years, according to David Goddard, President of Ole Hansen and Sons, managing partner of the Margate Bridge Company, which owns and operates the Downbeach Express. The cash rate adjustment is the first in more than seven years. The Express Pass fare of \$1.30 per crossing represents a nearly 26 percent discount as compared to the cash rate.

“The fare increase is made necessary by the high cost of maintaining the four bridges and the more than two miles of roadway that comprise the Downbeach Express,” said Goddard. “These bridges are 85 years old and require continuing upkeep. We have spent and continue to spend millions of dollars in capital repair and maintenance costs to keep the bridges and roadway safe and well-conditioned. The only way to fund this work is through periodic toll adjustments.

“The Downbeach Express is an important access way for thousands of area residents and visitors,” added Goddard. “It is our responsibility to ensure their safety, and to ensure that the bridges and roadway remain operational. We take that responsibility very seriously, as evidenced by the on-going investment in the upkeep of the entire span, including the extensive repair and maintenance work done on the Risley Channel Bridge in November of 2015.”

Downbeach Express patrons may continue to purchase or replenish Express Pass Cards on-line via credit card at [www.downbeachexpress.com](http://www.downbeachexpress.com) or on Fridays at the Jewish Community Center in Margate via cash or credit card. Patrons can also replenish cards at the Bridge toll plaza via cash or credit card.