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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020**

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**Blue Water Bridge continuing work to "flatten the curve" amid nationwide COVID-19 outbreak**

 **March 17, 2020** -- In accordance with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' [recommendations designed to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.michigan.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F0%2C9753%2C7-406-98163-521463--%2C00.html&data=02%7C01%7CHallJ20%40michigan.gov%7C32bbe1435bb54597709c08d7c9ee4fb2%7Cd5fb7087377742ad966a892ef47225d1%7C0%7C0%7C637199897682341851&sdata=pmWEMQTLFivAhwVyBg6qVfpbAi4%2FLS4hdd%2B%2BmrD66%2BI%3D&reserved=0), the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), as well as other agencies, are working diligently to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

**Why is the Blue Water Bridge (BWB) eliminating private passenger vehicles from cash payment amid the COVID-19 outbreak?**

Reducing the exchange of cash may help to protect BWB toll operators as well as the customers they service. Paying with cash and requiring change being handed back to a customer creates additional contact points that are unnecessary as we work to practice social distancing.
 **What can customers do to reduce their risk while exchanging payment at a bridge crossing?**
Customers are being encouraged to reduce their contact with toll operators by paying with credit/debit cards. While this does not create a touchless payment, it does reduce the contagion potentially exchanged during payment between both the customer and the toll operator. In accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations, customers are also encouraged to increase their hand washing and avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth.

**What can customers do if they reach the toll booth and do not have a credit/debit card?**
Toll operators will continue to accept cash forms of payment in emergency situations; however, lanes with the ability to accept cash will be limited. The move to eliminate cash is a precautionary measure to reduce person-to-person contact and is not intended to completely eliminate travel, especially when deemed necessary.

**Who can customers direct questions to?**
Questions can be directed to the BWB at 810-984-3131 or visit the BWB website at www.Michigan.gov/BlueWaterBridge.

**Where can we find more information about the COVID-19 outbreak and managing the spread?**

For current and up-to-date information regarding the coronavirus, visit [http://www.Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.michigan.gov%2FCoronavirus&data=02%7C01%7CHallJ20%40michigan.gov%7C32bbe1435bb54597709c08d7c9ee4fb2%7Cd5fb7087377742ad966a892ef47225d1%7C0%7C0%7C637199897682341851&sdata=NMjlyhLpQhSVvtReGbTZTtFj96qN4PGQJF9SMFdisgc%3D&reserved=0) or [http://www.CDC.gov/Coronavirus](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2FCoronavirus&data=02%7C01%7CHallJ20%40michigan.gov%7C32bbe1435bb54597709c08d7c9ee4fb2%7Cd5fb7087377742ad966a892ef47225d1%7C0%7C0%7C637199897682351807&sdata=NrNo9%2BaaJg%2FskGnmuIAKFiFWKl%2BWTLmwmXuZ99QZwjA%3D&reserved=0).

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