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Downtown traffic gets green light

Most of lower Manhattan will be open to traffic today, marking the first time cars will be allowed to travel down Broadway south of Canal Street and into the South Street Seaport since the terror attacks.

Mayor Giuliani said if everything goes smoothly today, all the streets — except those cluttered by the remains of the World Trade Center — will remain open.

"We're going to open the downtown area east of Broadway to vehicular traffic and see how it works," said the mayor.

The city is also easing up by one hour on the ban on single-occupant vehicles entering into Manhattan.

Cars coming onto the island via the Brooklyn, Manhattan, Williamsburg and 59th Street bridges or the Midtown and Lincoln tunnels now must carry at least two people between the hours of 6 and 11 a.m. (instead of noon) Monday through Friday.

Also, alternate-side parking rules will continue to be suspended until Wednesday.

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