

For Immediate Release: May 3, 2017 609-530-4280 **Contact:** Steve Schapiro Daniel Triana

Route 7 westbound ramp to Fish House Road closure required for Route 7 Wittpenn Bridge Project Ramp and lane closures necessary as construction advances

(Trenton) – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced the overnight closures of the Route 7 westbound ramp to Fish House Road and a single lane on Route 7 in both directions in South Kearny, as the Route 7/Wittpenn Bridge replacement project advances between Kearny and Jersey City in Hudson County.

Beginning at 10 p.m. tonight, Wednesday, May 3, until 6:00 a.m. Thursday, May 4, NJDOT's contractor, Union Paving and Construction, Inc., will close the Route 7 westbound ramp to Fish House Road, one right lane on Route 7 westbound, and one right lane on Route 7 eastbound in the vicinity of the Wittpenn Bridge/Hackensack River for drainage work and construction barrier installation. Motorists are advised to expect delays and plan accordingly. The following overnight detour will be in place:

Route 7 westbound to Fish House Road detour

- Motorists on Route 7 westbound wishing to access Fish House Road will be directed to stay left to take the CR508/I-280/ Harrison/Newark Interchange (located after the Fish House Road exit)
- Vehicles will stay right on the interchange to exit onto Route 7 eastbound/Jersey City to Fish House Road exit

In November 2011, NJDOT began construction on the first contract of the <u>\$480 million</u> project, to completely replace the existing structurally deficient Route 7 Wittpenn Bridge over the Hackensack River with a new, wider vertical lift bridge. Construction of the new bridge is being accomplished in <u>five separate contracts</u>. The first two contracts that built the river piers, fender system and the east approach spans for the new vertical lift bridge have been completed. The third and fourth contracts of construction that will build the west approach spans, the Fish House Road Pump Station, advance utilities, embankment and the new vertical lift bridge span & towers are currently under construction. The new bridge is expected to be open to traffic in 2019.

Portable variable message signs are being utilized to provide advance notification to the public of all traffic pattern changes associated with the work.

The precise timing of the work is subject to change due to weather or other factors. Motorists are encouraged to check NJDOT's traffic information website <u>www.511nj.org</u> for real-time travel information and for NJDOT news follow us on Twitter <u>@NJDOT info</u>.

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