



NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:
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Route 72 to be closed and detoured near Marsha Drive in Stafford tonight as project advances Closure necessary to shift traffic to create a center work zone

(Trenton) – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced lane closures on Route 72 in both directions near Marsha drive on Friday night as the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project advances in Stafford, Ocean County.

Beginning at 8 p.m. tonight, Friday, March 25 until 6 a.m., Saturday, March 26, NJDOT's contractor, CJ Hesse Inc., is scheduled to close Route 72 in both directions to restripe the road and shift traffic to the right onto the newly widened portion of Route 72 near Marsha Drive in Stafford. In addition to restriping the road, a temporary traffic signal will be activated. The traffic shift is necessary to create a work zone in the center of the roadway to construct new lanes and a median barrier, as well as drainage work. Access for emergency vehicles will be maintained overnight. By Saturday morning traffic in both directions will be shifted to the right. The following detours will be in place Friday night:

Route 72 eastbound detour:

- Motorists traveling on Route 72 eastbound will be directed to take the Mill Creek Road South/Beach Haven West exit
- Follow Mill Creek Road
- Turn left onto Jonathan Drive, which becomes Jennifer Lane
- Turn left onto Morris Boulevard
- Turn right onto Route 72 eastbound

Route 72 westbound detour:

- Motorists traveling on Route 72 westbound will be directed to take the Bay Avenue exit immediately after the bridge
- Turn left onto East Bay Avenue/CR 50
- Turn left onto Mill Creek Road
- Turn right onto Route 72 westbound

This work is part of the Contract 1A & 1B, of the Route 72/Manahawkin Bay Bridge project. This final construction contract is designed to improve safety and reduce congestion in Stafford at the Marsha Drive/Route 72 intersection and in Ship Bottom on Long Beach Island. In Stafford, Marsha Drive will be widened to provide double left turn lanes onto Route 72, and a third lane will be added on Route 72 in both directions near the intersection.

In Ship Bottom, approximately 3,000 feet of Route 72 (locally known as 8th and 9th Streets) and three cross streets (Barnegat Avenue, Central Avenue and Long Beach Boulevard) will be widened. Two-way traffic will be restored along Central Avenue and Long Beach Boulevard. Five traffic signals will be reconstructed, and a new traffic signal will be installed at the intersection of 8th Street and Long Beach Boulevard. In addition, a new storm drainage system and new outfalls will be installed in an effort to reduce frequent flooding along Route 72 and these intersections. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2024. For more information go to the NJDOT [project website](#).

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 www.511nj.org for construction updates and real-time travel information. For NJDOT news follow us on Twitter [@NewJerseyDOT](#) and our [Facebook page](#).

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