

Advisory



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UPDATE: Indefinite closure of the Delaware River Turnpike Bridge to last at least eight more weeks as repair work continues on fractured truss

The bridge connecting the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Turnpikes will remain closed to traffic until at least early April as work continues toward repairing a fractured truss beneath the approach span on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River.

When the fracture was discovered on Jan. 20th, officials from the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission announced that the bridge would be closed to traffic indefinitely. That remains the case. The purpose of this advisory is to provide the public with the latest information on what is known about the repair timeline.

The design and construction of eight temporary 80-foot towers to carry the weight of the bridge began shortly after the fracture was discovered and continues today. Construction crews are also reinforcing the structure and installing instrumentation to monitor it. That work is expected to take approximately one more month. Once the towers and instrumentation are in place, hydraulic jacks will be used to attempt to lift the bridge back to its original position.

Under the best case scenario, the bridge will return to its original position and the construction team will be able to install a permanent repair splice on the fractured steel member. The bridge would then be load tested, the temporary towers would be removed, and the structure could reopen to traffic by early April. It is possible, however, that the process will reveal the need for a more complex repairs or possibly even replacement of the entire structure, in which case the closure would last longer.

“We want to get this bridge reopened to traffic as soon as we are safely able to do so,” said New Jersey Transportation Commissioner Richard T. Hammer, who serves as chairman of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority board. “Safety is the key. We understand the inconvenience this closure creates for tens of thousands of drivers every day. We are working around the clock to get it reopened. But we won’t allow a single car to cross that bridge until we are absolutely certain that it is safe.”

The bridge is owned jointly by the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. The agencies are leading an emergency repair task force that includes several private engineering and construction firms as well.

The bridge, which opened to traffic in 1956, is 1.2 miles long and carries about 42,000 vehicles per day.

Drivers are encouraged to check the NJTA [website](#) for information about suggested alternate routes and to call 511 or download the SafeTripNJ app for real-time information on traffic conditions.