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Route 495 eastbound traffic to be shifted to new stage on Friday night, September 27 as bridge deck replacement advances Route 3 eastbound cattle chute removed as traffic will be shifted to the right

(Trenton) – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced Route 3 eastbound traffic onto Route 495 eastbound will be shifted to the right onto a portion of the newly completed lanes, and the single-lane Route 3 eastbound cattle chute will be removed as the bridge deck replacement project moves into a new stage in North Bergen.

In order to establish the traffic shift on Route 495, there will be overnight lane closures Friday, September 27 on Route 3 eastbound express lanes and the ramp from the New Jersey Turnpike to Route 495 eastbound. Currently there are three lanes open in each direction on the Route 495 Bridge. While the traffic shift is being implemented on Friday night, September 27, up to two eastbound lanes will be closed. At least one lane will be maintained overnight. Route 495 westbound will not be affected.

Motorists should expect delays and consider alternate routes this weekend.

Beginning at 10 p.m. Friday, September 27 until 7 a.m. Saturday, September 28, NJDOT's contractor, IEW Corp, is scheduled to close up to two lanes of Route 495 eastbound to restripe the roadway and install concrete barriers to implement a traffic shift.

In order to shift traffic, the Route 3 eastbound express lanes will be closed just past the Paterson Plank Road overpass with traffic directed to the Route 3 eastbound service road toward Route 1&9/Jersey City to Route 495 eastbound.

In addition, the ramp from the New Jersey Turnpike to Route 495, which is normally two lanes, will be reduced to one lane. One lane will be maintained overnight.

Stage 6 Traffic Shift

Once the traffic shift is in place on Saturday morning to begin Stage 6, there will be a center work zone to prepare for the next stage of the project, which will begin in a few weeks. Traffic coming from Route 3 eastbound express will no longer be in a cattle chute and will be shifted to the right to join the two lanes coming from the New Jersey Turnpike.

Project Overview

The \$90.3 million state-funded project began in September 2017. The project to rehabilitate the nine-span viaduct includes repairs and reconstruction of the bridge deck, replacement and strengthening of deteriorated structural steel, and the repair and painting of the substructure. Construction will be accomplished in stages by first making improvements to local streets in the surrounding areas that will need to handle some of the diverted traffic during bridge construction.

Community Outreach

NJDOT created a project-specific website – <u>www.RestoreNJ495.com</u> – which contains a wealth of information about the Route 495 Bridge rehabilitation, and will be updated with relevant new information as work progresses. The Department is carefully coordinating the Route 495 Bridge rehabilitation project with other regional transportation infrastructure projects to minimize traffic congestion.

The Department has a project hotline telephone number, 201.408.8495, and email, <u>DOTOutreachRT495@dot.nj.gov</u>. Anyone who has questions, concerns, or suggestions is encouraged to contact the Project Outreach Team as work progresses.

NJDOT will be using Variable Message Signs to provide advance notification to motorists of traffic pattern changes associated with the work. The precise timing of the work is subject to change due to weather or other factors.

Follow the project on Twitter <u>@RestoreNJ495</u> and get real-time information on traffic conditions at <u>www.511nj.org</u>, where a widget will enable you to cut through all the other traffic information and focus in on the Route 495 area. For NJDOT news follow us on Twitter <u>@NJDOT info</u> and our <u>Facebook page</u>.

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