

For Immediate Release:

November 19, 2020

Contact: Steve Schapiro

609-963-1975

Route 495 lane closures Friday night to shift westbound traffic as bridge deck replacement advances to Stage 10 495 westbound left lane to be shifted to the right to create median work zone

(Trenton) – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced that Route 495 will have lane closures in both directions on Friday night to shift traffic to begin Stage 10 as the bridge deck replacement project advances in North Bergen.

Beginning at 8 p.m. Friday, November 20 until 8 a.m. Saturday, November 21, NJDOT's contractor, IEW Construction Group, is scheduled to close the left lane on Route 495 eastbound.

At 10 p.m. the two left lanes on Route 495 westbound and the ramp to the New Jersey Turnpike will be closed with all traffic directed to Route 3 westbound. The closures will allow for the restriping of the roadway and relocation of the temporary concrete barriers to implement a traffic shift. At least one lane will be maintained in the westbound direction. The following detour will be in place:

Route 495 westbound ramp to the New Jersey Turnpike detour:

- Motorists on Route 495 westbound will be directed onto Route 3 westbound
- Stay in the right lane toward Secaucus, and take the Secaucus exit onto the Paterson Plank Road overpass
- Travel over Route 3 and make the first right for Route 3 eastbound
- Stay right and take the exit for the NJ Turnpike

Stage 10 configuration

Currently, Route 495 westbound has two lanes of traffic shifted onto the newly completed right lanes and a single lane split to the left with a work zone in the center lanes. By Saturday morning the westbound left lane will be shifted so all three westbound lanes are adjacent on the right side with a work zone in median between the eastbound and westbound lanes (see attached <u>maps</u>).

The <u>Left Lane</u> of Route 495 westbound will be used for the Express Bus Lane (XBL) and will be closed during morning weekday peak hours to westbound traffic and will be utilized for eastbound XBL buses only between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m..

The Route 1&9 southbound ramp is expected to reopen in December. Route 495 eastbound will not be affected during Stage 10 and will maintain its current configuration.

Route 495 westbound ramp to Route 1&9

The ramps from Route 495 westbound to Route 1&9 will remain closed. In December, the ramp from Route 495 westbound to Route 1&9 southbound is expected to reopen. The following detours will remain in place:

Route 495 westbound ramp to Route 1&9 southbound detour:

- Traffic wishing to take the ramp to Route 1&9 south will be directed to stay right for Route 3
 westbound Local toward Secaucus
- Take the Secaucus exit to Paterson Plank Road
- Cross over Route 3 and take the ramp to Route 3 eastbound
- Stay left and follow signs to Route 1&9 south

Route 495 westbound ramp to Route 1&9 northbound detour:

- Traffic wishing to take the ramp to Route 1&9 north will be directed to stay right for Route 3 westbound Local toward Secaucus
- Take the North Bergen exit to Paterson Plank Road
- Turn left onto Route 1&9 north

Project Overview

The \$90.3 million state-funded project to rehabilitate the nine-span Route 495 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 began in September 2017 with work under the bridge and along the Paterson Plank Road/Union Turnpike corridor. The second phase of work began on the bridge in August 2018 with the closure of a single lane in each direction on Route 495. Traffic impacts associated with the second phase of construction on Route 495 are expected to last for about two and a half years while the entire bridge deck is replaced. Construction will be accomplished in stages to minimize the impact to motorists.

Community Outreach

NJDOT created a project-specific website – www.RestoreNJ495.com – 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, DOTOutreachRT495@dot.nj.gov. 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>.

#