



# NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

**For Immediate Release:**  
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## **Route 71/Main Street northbound to be closed with traffic shifted in Asbury Park** **One lane of traffic to be maintained in each direction**

**(Trenton)** – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced a two-block stretch of Route 71/Main Street northbound in Asbury Park will be closed and traffic shifted as the safety improvements and pavement reconstruction project advances in Monmouth County.

Beginning at 9 p.m., Friday, February 7, NJDOT's contractor, New Prince Concrete, will close the Route 71/Main Street northbound lanes between Monroe Avenue and Asbury Avenue, and shift traffic to the southbound lanes. One lane of traffic in each direction will be maintained. The shift will allow for the installation of a new sanitary sewer system. There will be no turns into or out of the east side (ocean side) of Sewall Avenue from Route 71/Main Street during this time. Both vehicle and pedestrian detours will be in place.

### **Asbury Avenue and Sewall Avenue detour**

- Motorists traveling westbound on either Asbury Avenue or Sewall Avenue will be directed to turn left onto Bond Street
- Turn right onto Monroe Avenue back to Route 71/Main Street

**No parking on either side of the road will be permitted during the traffic shift.** Pedestrian traffic will be permitted with some periods of limited access. This traffic pattern is expected to remain in place for approximately four weeks but will be reopened as soon as work is completed. Construction will continue to move to the south. All work will be completed prior to Memorial Day.

The Route 71 pavement resurfacing and safety improvements project, which started construction in March 2018 and stopped for the busy summer season, resumed this past fall with construction expanding to include Asbury Park.

The project will improve safety and operational performance on the roadway along a two-mile stretch between Cedar Avenue in Allenhurst and the Main Avenue/Bond Street intersection in Asbury Park. Project improvements include the resurfacing of Route 71/Main Street, upgrading 29 intersections with ADA compliant ramps, and several pedestrian upgrades including curb and sidewalk replacement. Additional improvements will include bike lanes, 17 new traffic signals, replacing of steel utility poles with standard wooden poles, landscape restoration, utility relocation, and improved lighting to enhance the safety of the road for the thousands of motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists using the road each day.

### **Road Diet**

As part of the safety and operational improvements, a "road diet" is being implemented in Asbury Park. The new striping plan will reduce the number of travel lanes to one in each direction with a center turn-lane. Currently, Route 71/Main Street does not include dedicated left-turn lanes, which can lead to congestion, difficulty in making left turns, and a greater risk for crashes.

The presence of the new center turn-lane frees up traffic to operate more efficiently, and serves as a traffic calming measure to reduce speeds through a busy and vibrant business district with heavy pedestrian traffic. NJDOT has performed similar adjustments to [a stretch of Route 45 in Woodbury](#) and along Route 9 in Lakewood to help improve traffic flow and safety.

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](http://www.511nj.org) for real-time travel information and for NJDOT news follow us on Twitter [@NJDOT\\_info](#) or on the [NJDOT Facebook page](#).

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