



NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:

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Route 3 Bridge over Conrail and NYS&W railroad replacement project to begin tomorrow in North Bergen Saturday lane closures with alternating traffic necessary on ramps

(Trenton) – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced the start of a project to replace the Route 3 Bridge over Conrail (Northern Secondary) railroad; New York, Susquehanna and Western Railway (NYS&W); and the ramp from Route 3 westbound to Route 495 eastbound in North Bergen.

Beginning tomorrow, Wednesday, April 1 from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m., and continuing daily, Monday through Friday, NJDOT's contractor, Ritacco Construction Inc., is scheduled to begin installing signage in preparation for Stage 1 of the project, which is scheduled to begin in April. During Stage 1, construction of the new bridge will be done adjacent to the existing bridge to minimize the impact to traffic.

On Saturday, April 4 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., there will be a single lane closure with alternating traffic on the ramps from Route 3 westbound to Route 495 eastbound, and from Routes 3 & 495 eastbound to the North Bergen Park & Ride.

The \$24.8 million project is federally funded through a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant. It will address the poor condition and geometric deficiencies of the bridge, which is located between the Route 495 Bridge over Route 3 on the west and Route 1&9/Tonnele Avenue on the east, near the south entrance to the NJ TRANSIT North Bergen Park & Ride lot. The new, wider bridge will have two 12-foot lanes, a 4-foot left shoulder and 10-foot minimum right shoulder in each direction. The existing roadway also will be widened to the south to accommodate the wider bridge.

The new Route 3 Bridge will be a single span structure with an approximate length of 156-feet and minimum vertical underclearance of 23-feet over the tracks and 16-feet 6-inches over the ramp from Route 3 westbound to Route 495 eastbound. Using a single span design will eliminate the piers adjacent to the railroad tracks. This will improve rail service by allowing freight trains to transport higher and wider loads, as well as travel at higher speeds. Eliminating the existing pier also will create increased spacing between the tracks, which is required to provide shared passenger and freight service. This expanded passenger and freight service will provide significant regional benefits to commuters and the freight industry from Passaic, Bergen, and Hudson counties.

In addition, the new bridge will improve motorist safety by providing standard lane and shoulder widths and improved site distance. The sidewalk will be extended to connect the existing sidewalk on Route 1&9/Tonnele Avenue to the North Bergen Park and Ride.

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The project will be constructed in five stages. The bridge will remain open in both directions during construction and pedestrian traffic will be maintained as well. There will be single lane overnight closures on Route 3 and Route 1&9, and later in the project there will be overnight and weekend ramp closures. The project is expected to be completed by summer 2023.

During construction, two lanes of traffic will be maintained during the morning and evening commuting periods. One lane may be closed with one lane maintained in the middle of the day and overnight.

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 real-time travel information and for NJDOT news follow us on Twitter [@NJDOT_info](https://twitter.com/NJDOT_info) and on our [Facebook page](#).

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