



NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

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Route 71 northbound lane to reopen for start of summer season in Asbury Park Construction will resume in the fall

(Trenton) – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced the Route 71/Main Street northbound lanes in Asbury Park will reopen in advance of the start of the summer season, as the safety improvements and pavement reconstruction project in Monmouth County goes on a planned summer hiatus.

Beginning at 7 p.m., Friday, May 15, until 7 a.m., Saturday, May 16, NJDOT's contractor, New Prince Concrete, will restripe Route 71/Main Street northbound between Asbury Avenue and Monroe Avenue to reopen the two blocks of the road that have been closed since February. Route 71/Main Street southbound will remain open at all times.

Since the implementation of the safety improvements plan, Route 71 north of Asbury Avenue now has one lane of traffic in each direction with dedicated left turning lanes and bicycle lanes for enhanced safety.

New gas mainlines and facilities were installed along Route 71 during this construction phase, and NJDOT contractors installed a new sewer system on behalf of the Asbury Park Sewer Authority. In addition, the majority of the project area received new curbs and sidewalks with the balance to be completed when the project resumes in the fall. At that time, Route 71 south of Asbury Avenue will be reconfigured from two travel lanes to one travel lane with the addition of a dedicated left turning lane and a bicycle lane.

The project will improve safety and operational performance on Route 71/Main Street 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. The project started construction in March 2018 and has been designed in stages with work suspended during the busy summer season. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2021.

Road Diet

A "road diet" is being implemented in Asbury Park as part of the safety and operational improvements plan. 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 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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