



NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:
December 11, 2020

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Route 71/Main Street southbound traffic shift tonight as safety improvements project advances in Asbury Park One lane of traffic will be maintained in each direction

(Trenton) – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced Route 71/Main Street southbound traffic will be shifted between Main Avenue, Neptune and Asbury Avenue, Asbury Park as the safety improvements and pavement reconstruction project advances in Monmouth County.

Beginning at 7 p.m. tonight, Friday, December 11, until 7 a.m. Saturday, December 12, NJDOT's contractor, New Prince Concrete, will restripe Route 71/Main Street to shift southbound traffic to the northbound side of the road between Main Avenue, Neptune and Asbury Avenue, Asbury Park.

One lane of traffic will be closed on Route 71/Main Street northbound just before Main Avenue to allow for the southbound shift. One lane of traffic also will be closed on Route 71/Main Street southbound between 2nd Avenue and 1st Avenue allowing for the shift to the northbound side. The new configuration will maintain a single lane of traffic in each direction on the northbound side of the road for approximately six weeks.

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. Project construction began in March 2018 and was designed to proceed 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.

Since the safety improvements project began, the road diet has been completed on Route 71/Main Street between Asbury Avenue and 7th Avenue. During the current stage, the road diet will be implemented between Asbury Avenue, Asbury Park and Main Avenue, Neptune.

New gas mainlines and facilities were installed along Route 71/Main Street during the last construction phase, and NJDOT contractors installed a new sewer system on behalf of the Asbury Park Sewer Authority.

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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