



# NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **Route 495 westbound lane and 31<sup>st</sup> Street ramp to reopen Saturday as bridge deck replacement nears completion in North Bergen Lane closures and traffic shifts necessary Friday night**

**(Trenton)** – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced the reopening of all Route 495 westbound lanes and the 31<sup>st</sup> Street ramp from Kennedy Boulevard to Route 495 westbound on Saturday as the bridge deck replacement project nears completion in North Bergen. In order to reopen all westbound lanes and the 31<sup>st</sup> Street ramp, there will be a series of lane closures and traffic shifts Friday night.

Beginning at 10 p.m. Friday, May 7, NJDOT's contractor, IEW Construction Group, is scheduled to close the two left lanes on Route 495 westbound and the ramp to the New Jersey Turnpike. All traffic will be directed to Route 3 westbound.

At approximately 2 a.m. Saturday May 8, the left lane and ramp to the New Jersey Turnpike will reopen and the two right lanes on Route 495 westbound will be closed with traffic shifted to the left. The ramp to Route 3 westbound will remain open at all times. The closures will allow for the removal and installation of construction barrier and the restriping of the roadway for Stage 11. At least one lane will be maintained in the westbound direction at all times.

In addition, the 31<sup>st</sup> Street ramp from Kennedy Boulevard will be closed and detoured from 11 p.m. Friday, May 7 until 6 a.m. Saturday, May 8. The following detours will be in place:

### **Route 495 westbound ramp to the New Jersey Turnpike detour:**

(10 p.m. Friday, May 7 until 2 a.m. Saturday, May 8)

- Motorists on Route 495 westbound will be directed onto Route 3 westbound
- Traffic for the NJ Turnpike southbound can take the Paterson Plank Road westbound exit from the westbound service road to access the NJ Turnpike from Paterson Plank Road.
- However, the best route is to take Route 3 westbound for about 3 miles over the Hackensack River
- Stay right and take the exit for the NJ Turnpike

### **31<sup>st</sup> Street ramp from Kennedy Boulevard to Paterson Plank Road/Route 1&9 north detour:**

(11 p.m. Friday, May 7 until 6 a.m. Saturday, May 8)

- Traffic wishing to utilize the 31<sup>st</sup> Street ramp to Paterson Plank Road or Route 1&9 north will be directed to take Kennedy Boulevard to 32<sup>nd</sup> Street/Bergen Turnpike
- Turn left onto 32<sup>nd</sup> Street/Bergen Turnpike
- Turn left onto Union Turnpike
- Turn right onto Route 1&9 north or
- Stay straight and Union Turnpike becomes Paterson Plank Road

## Stage 11 configuration

Currently, Route 495 westbound has three lanes of traffic shifted onto the completed right lanes and a work zone in the far left lane. By Saturday morning, all four westbound lanes will be open with a work zone between the ramps to the New Jersey Turnpike and Route 3 westbound. In addition the 31<sup>st</sup> Street ramp from Kennedy Boulevard onto Route 495 westbound will reopen, but the portion of the ramp to Paterson Plank Road/Route 1&9 northbound will be closed and detoured (see attached [maps](#)).

The left lane 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. Route 495 eastbound will not be affected and will maintain its current configuration.

The ramp from Route 495 westbound to Route 1&9 southbound will remain closed. It is expected to be reopened in the next two weeks. The following detours will remain in place:

### **31<sup>st</sup> Street ramp from Kennedy Boulevard to Paterson Plank Road/Route 1&9 north detour:**

- Traffic on the 31<sup>st</sup> Street ramp for Route 1&9 north and Paterson Plank Road will be directed onto Route 495 west.
- 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

### **Route 495 westbound ramp to Route 1&9 and Paterson Plank Road detours:**

#### 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 and Paterson Plank Road 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 \$95 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 and this portion is expected to be completed in the spring of 2021. Construction will be accomplished in stages to minimize the impact to motorists.

## Community Outreach

NJDOT created a project-specific website – [www.RestoreNJ495.com](http://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](mailto: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 [@RestoreNJ495](https://twitter.com/RestoreNJ495) and get real-time information on traffic conditions at [www.511nj.org](http://www.511nj.org), 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 [@NewJerseyDOT](https://twitter.com/NewJerseyDOT) and our [Facebook page](#).

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