



NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:
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Route 72 eastbound to be closed and detoured tonight for drainage repairs as Manahawkin Bay Bridges project advances **Traffic will be detoured at Marsha Drive**

(Trenton) – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced Route 72 eastbound will be closed and detoured overnight as the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project continues in Stafford, Ocean County.

Beginning at 6:30 p.m. tonight, Friday, May 14, until 8 a.m. Saturday, May 15, NJDOT's contractor, C.J. Hesse, Inc., is scheduled to close Route 72 eastbound at the Marsha Drive intersection in Stafford, Ocean County. This closure will allow the contractor to complete drainage repairs. The following signed detour will be in place:

Route 72 eastbound detour:

- Motorists traveling on Route 72 eastbound will be directed to take the ramp towards Marsha Drive
- Keep right at the end of the ramp and merge onto Marsha Drive
- Turn left onto Jennifer Drive
- Turn left onto Morris Boulevard
- Take the ramp back to Route 72 eastbound

Work on the \$312 million Route 72/Manahawkin Bay Bridge project began in 2013. This final construction contract is designed to improve safety and reduce congestion in Stafford at the Marsha Drive/Route 72 intersection and in Ship Bottom on Long Beach Island. In Stafford, Marsha Drive will be widened to provide double left turn lanes onto Route 72, and a third lane will be added on Route 72 in both directions near the intersection.

In Ship Bottom, approximately 3,000 feet of Route 72 (locally known as 8th and 9th Streets) and three cross roads (Barnegat Avenue, Central Avenue and Long Beach Boulevard) will be widened. Two-way traffic will be restored along Central Avenue and Long Beach Boulevard. Five traffic signals will be reconstructed, and a new traffic signal will be installed at the intersection of 8th Street and Long Beach Boulevard. In addition, a new storm drainage system and new outfalls will be installed in an effort to reduce frequent flooding along Route 72 and these intersections. For more information NJDOT developed a [project-specific website](#).

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

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