



NJDOT
TRAFFIC ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:

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**Route 71 bridge over Shark River opened so marine traffic may pass
as emergency repairs continue in Monmouth County
Route 71 remains closed to traffic**

(Trenton) – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced the Route 71 drawbridge over the Shark River between Belmar and Avon by the Sea has been moved into the fully-opened position to allow marine traffic to pass. The bridge will remain in this position with Route 71 closed and detoured as emergency repairs to the bridge continues in Monmouth County.

Route 71 was closed at approximately 5 a.m. today, Wednesday, September 22, when the bridge became stuck in a partially opened position following a malfunction that caused minor damage to steel below the roadway surface on one side of the bridge. NJDOT's structural evaluation and draw bridge engineering teams are evaluating the damage and designing a repair.

The bridge was moved to a fully opened position at 4 p.m. today to allow marine traffic to safely pass. Minor steel repairs are expected to be completed tomorrow in order to reopen at least one lane of traffic in each direction on Route 71 by Thursday afternoon, September 23. The following detours remain in place:

Route 71 Main Street northbound from Belmar to Avon by the Sea Detour:

- Motorists on Route 71 northbound will be directed to turn left onto Eighth Avenue
- Turn right on Route 35
- Continue over the Route 35/Shark River Bridge and follow signs for Avon by the Sea

Route 71 Main Street southbound from Avon by the Sea to Belmar Detour:

- Motorists on Route 71 southbound will be directed to turn right onto Sylvania Avenue
- Stay right and take the ramp to Route 35 South/Belmar
- Take Route 35 over the Shark River Bridge into Belmar
- Turn left onto Eighth Avenue and follow to Main Street

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 [@NewJerseyDOT](#) or on the [NJDOT Facebook page](#).

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