



NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:
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Route 71 reopened to traffic as emergency repairs to bridge over Shark River continue in Monmouth County One lane will be maintained in each direction

(Trenton) – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced Route 71 reopened to traffic this afternoon as emergency repairs to the drawbridge over the Shark River between Belmar and Avon by the Sea continue in Monmouth County.

The bridge was lowered and reopened to traffic at 4 p.m. today, Thursday, September 23. One lane is being maintained in each direction with northbound traffic using the right shoulder and southbound traffic using the right lane, creating a work zone in the center of the bridge. This configuration will remain in place until further notice. The drawbridge is operational and may be opened to allow marine traffic to safely pass. NJDOT is in the process of designing a permanent repair.

Route 71 was closed at approximately 5 a.m. 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. The bridge was moved to a fully opened position yesterday afternoon to allow marine traffic to pass. Further evaluations and inspections were completed today to ensure the bridge could be reopened to traffic safely and operated normally while a permanent repair is designed.

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](https://twitter.com/NewJerseyDOT) or on the [NJDOT Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/njdot).

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