

For Immediate Release:

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I-295 and Route 42 lane and ramp closures this week in Bellmawr, Camden County Closures necessary as Browning Road Bridge demolition nears completion

(Trenton) – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced lane and ramp closures on I-295 and Route 42 this week as the Browning Road Bridge demolition nears completion in Bellmawr, Camden County.

Monday, March 21 - Wednesday, March 23

NJDOT's contractor, South State, Inc., is scheduled to close the I-295 southbound ramp to Route 42 southbound/I-295 southbound, also known as Al-Jo's Curve, from 10 p.m. until 5 a.m. the next day for three consecutive nights – tonight, Monday, March 21; Tuesday, March 22; and Wednesday, March 23. The two right lanes on I-295 southbound will also be closed after Exit 28/Route 168. All motorists traveling on I-295 southbound will be directed to stay left onto Exit 26. The closure will allow abutment demolition for the Browning Road Bridge. The following detour will be in place overnight:

<u>I-295</u> southbound to Route 42 southbound/I-295 southbound detour:

- Motorists traveling on I-295 southbound to Route 42 southbound will be directed to exit left at Exit 26/I-76 westbound
- Take I-76 westbound to Exit 2/I-676 northbound
- Take I-676 northbound to Exit 1/Collings Avenue
- Turn right onto Collings Avenue
- Turn left onto I-676 southbound which becomes I-76 eastbound
- Take I-76 eastbound to Exit 1A/I-295 southbound

Thursday, March 24 - Saturday, March 26

The two right lanes on <u>I-295 northbound</u> near the Creek Road overpass are scheduled to be closed with traffic be detoured to Exit 26 where the highway splits for I-76 toward Philadelphia and I-295 toward Trenton from 9 p.m. Thursday, March 24, until 6 a.m. Friday, March 25; and again from 10 p.m. until 8 a.m. the next day on both Friday night, March 25 and Saturday night, March 26.

The two right lanes on Route 42 northbound also are scheduled to be closed during the same days and times just before Exit 14/Leaf Avenue, as well as Exit 1B to I-295 northbound. In addition, there will be temporary traffic stoppages on Friday and Saturday nights to remove girders. The following detours will be in place both nights:

I-295 northbound detour:

- Motorists on I-295 northbound will be directed to stay left and take Exit 26 for I-76 westbound
- Take I-76 westbound to Exit 2/I-676 northbound
- Take I-676 northbound to Exit 1/Collings Avenue
- Turn right onto Collings Avenue
- Turn left onto I-676 southbound which becomes I-76 eastbound
- Take I-76 eastbound to Exit 1B to I-295 northbound

Route 42 Exit 1B to I-295 northbound detour:

- Motorists on Route 42 northbound wishing to take Exit 1B to I-295 northbound will be directed to continue on Route 42 northbound to I-76 westbound
- Take I-76 westbound to Exit 2/I-676 northbound
- Take I-676 northbound to Exit 1/Collings Avenue
- Turn right onto Collings Avenue
- Turn left onto I-676 southbound which becomes I-76 eastbound
- Take I-76 eastbound to Exit 1B to I-295 northbound

Overnight lane closures continue for several weeks

In the coming weeks, there will be lane closures on I-295, I-76, and Route 42 Monday through Friday nights to allow for the Browning Road Bridge demolition. The closures are scheduled to take place from 9 p.m. until 6 a.m. the next day on I-295 southbound and I-76 eastbound/Route 42 southbound. Closures on I-295 northbound and Route 42 northbound/I-76 westbound will take place from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. the next day.

Typically, only two lanes of traffic in one direction will be closed at any one time with at least one lane open to traffic. To provide safety to workers and motorists, there is the possibility of temporary 15-minute traffic stoppages on some nights to accommodate the removal of bridge components that span additional lanes of traffic. In addition, there is the possibility for ramp closures and detours that have been used in the past to provide additional safety.

The demolition of the Browning Road Bridge began with the removal of pipe and conduit under the bridge, as well as installation of shielding under the bridge. Currently, the deck is being removed and then the steel girders will be removed. Once all of the bridge structure over the I-295, I-76 and Route 42 is removed, demolition work will move to the east abutment and then to the west abutment. This work should be completed by spring.

The work is part of the Direct Connect project that will provide a seamless route for I-295 motorists traveling through the interchange of I-295, I-76, and Route 42. To sign up for I-295 Direct Connect project updates go to 295DirectConnect.com or text CONNECT to 1-844-844-3681.

Portable variable message signs are being utilized to provide advance notification to the public of all traffic pattern changes associated with the work. 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 @NewJerseybot or on the NJDOT Facebook page.