

For Immediate Release:

October 27, 2021

Contact: Jim Barry

Steve Schapiro 609-963-1975

New Fish House Road northbound ramp to Route 7 eastbound to open Friday morning Detour to be removed as new ramp provides direct access to Wittpenn Bridge

(Trenton) – The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) today announced the new Fish House Road northbound ramp to Route 7 eastbound ramp will open tomorrow morning in Kearny.

Beginning at 5 a.m. Friday, April 15, NJDOT's contractor Georges Harms Inc., is scheduled to begin work to remove barriers to open the new ramp from Fish House Road northbound to Route 7 eastbound in South Kearny before the Wittpenn Bridge. The existing ramp was closed and detoured in October 2017 to allow for the construction of several new ramps and the western approach to the new Wittpenn Bridge, which opened to traffic on October 2, 2021.

With the new Fish House Road northbound ramp onto Route 7 eastbound, traffic will no longer have to take Route 7 westbound and do a U-turn to get to destinations in Jersey City. The direct access to the Wittpenn Bridge is expected to reduce congestion and improve travel times.

The Route 7/Wittpenn Bridge over the Hackensack River project replaced the existing bridge with a new, wider vertical lift bridge. The new bridge doubles the vertical clearance over Hackensack River from 35-feet to 70-feet, resulting in fewer openings and less congestion.

Construction of the new bridge is being accomplished in <u>five separate contracts</u>. The first three contracts have been completed and included advance utility work, and building the Fish House Road Pump Station, roadway embankments, river piers, fender system and a portion of the approach spans for the new vertical lift bridge. The fourth and fifth contracts are nearing completion with the construction of the Newark Avenue ramp in Jersey City, the last major element of the project, under construction.

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.

#