

For Immediate Release:

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Route 7/Wittpenn Bridge to be closed this weekend Saturday, February 4 and Sunday, February 5 Route 7 eastbound ramp to St. Pauls Avenue closed next week

(Trenton) – The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) today announced a full closure of the Route 7/Wittpenn Bridge between Jersey City and Kearny this weekend as testing of the lift span machinery continues. In addition, the Route 7 eastbound ramp to St. Pauls Avenue will be closed next week for watermain replacement.

Route 7/Wittpenn Bridge Closure

Beginning at 5 a.m. tomorrow, Saturday, February 4, until 9 p.m. Sunday, February 5, NJDOT's contractor, CCA Construction, is scheduled to close and detour Route 7 in both directions before the Wittpenn Bridge to test and make adjustments to the lift span machinery on the new bridge. If the work is completed early, the bridge will reopen sooner. The following detours will be in place:

Route 7 eastbound detour:

- Route 7 eastbound traffic will be directed to take the exit to Fish House Road southbound
- Fish House Road becomes Pennsylvania Avenue
- Turn left onto Central Avenue
- Take the ramp to Route 1&9 Truck northbound
- Bear left at the traffic signal at Communipaw Avenue to stay on Route 1&9 Truck
- Follow Route 1&9 Truck to Route 1&9

Route 1&9 southbound to Route 7 westbound detour:

- Route 1&9 southbound traffic wishing to take Route 7 westbound over the Wittpenn Bridge will be directed to take the exit for Route 1&9 Truck southbound (also known as Charlotte Circle)
- Follow Route 1&9 Truck southbound to Communipaw Avenue where it bears right to the Hackensack River Bridge
- Follow Route 1&9 Truck southbound across the Hackensack River Bridge
- Turn right onto Central Avenue northbound
- Turn right onto Pennsylvania Avenue, which becomes Fish House Road
- Follow Fish House Road to Route 7 westbound

Route 7 eastbound ramp to St. Pauls Avenue Closure

Beginning at 6 a.m. Monday, February 6 until 8 p.m. Friday, February 10, the Route 7 eastbound ramp to St. Pauls Avenue in Jersey City is scheduled to be closed to replace a watermain valve. The ramp to Route 139/Hoboken/Holland Tunnel will remain open. The following detours will be in place next week:

Route 7 eastbound ramp to St. Pauls Avenue – Newark Avenue detour:

- Motorists on Route 7 eastbound wishing to take the exit ramp to St. Pauls Avenue will be directed to take the exit to Newark Avenue, which is before the St. Pauls Avenue exit
- At the traffic signal, turn left onto Route 1&9 Truck northbound
- Go under Route 7 and turn right to take the ramp to St. Pauls Avenue

Route 7 eastbound ramp to St. Pauls Avenue - Tonnele Circle detour:

- Motorists on Route 7 eastbound that pass the Newark Avenue ramp detour and take the ramp to Route 139 eastbound/Hoboken/Holland Tunnel will be directed to stay left toward Route 139/Tonnele Circle
- Turn right to enter Tonnele Circle
- Take the first right onto Tonnele Avenue back to St. Pauls Avenue

About the Project

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 was 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. The Newark Avenue ramp in Jersey City, the last major element of the project, opened on October 15, 2022.

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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