

For Immediate Release:

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## Route 18 lane closures required in both directions tonight as paving project advances in East Brunswick, Middlesex County Closures necessary for underground utility relocation

**(Trenton)** – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced that two lanes on Route 18 northbound and southbound will be closed tonight in East Brunswick, Middlesex County.

Beginning at 8 p.m. tonight, Friday, March 17, until 7 a.m., Saturday, March 18, NJDOT's contractor, Earle Asphalt, is scheduled to close the left and center lanes on Route 18 northbound and southbound between West Ferris Street and Edgeboro Road/the Old Bridge Turnpike Interchange. By Saturday morning, the center lane will reopen, and the left lane will remain closed. In addition, the speed limit on Route 18 will be reduced from 45 mph to 35 mph.

The closure is necessary to create a work zone for underground utility relocation and is expected to remain in place until fall 2023. At least one lane of traffic will be maintained overnight. Access to local businesses will be maintained during business hours. Motorists are advised to slow down, use caution, and expect delays or plan an alternate route.

This work is part of the \$86.1 million federally-funded Route 18, East Brunswick, Drainage and Pavement Rehabilitation project that will make repairs on approximately four and a half miles of Route 18 in East Brunswick, Middlesex County. Work includes milling and paving, improvements to the drainage systems and storm water basins, utility relocation, installation of new sidewalks and ADA-compliant curb ramps, and upgrading guiderail. Improvements will also be made to various intersections throughout the project limits. The project is expected to be completed in fall 2026.

Variable messaging signs are being utilized to provide advance notification to the motoring 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 <a href="www.511nj.org">www.511nj.org</a> for construction updates and real-time travel information and for NJDOT news follow us on Twitter <a href="@NewJerseyDOT">@NewJerseyDOT</a> or on the NJDOT Facebook page.