



# NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

**For Immediate Release:**  
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## **Route 72 eastbound to be closed and detoured tonight for restriping as Manahawkin Bay Bridges project advances Traffic will be detoured at Marsha Drive**

**(Trenton)** – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced Route 72 eastbound will be closed and detoured overnight at Marsha Drive as the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project advances in Stafford, Ocean County.

Beginning at 8 p.m. tonight, Friday, March 24, until 7 a.m. Saturday, March 25, NJDOT's contractor, CJ Hesse Inc., is scheduled to close Route 72 eastbound between Marsha Drive and Morris Boulevard. This closure will allow the contractor to remove the temporary traffic signal pole near the intersection and restripe the roadway to shift traffic to the right. This will allow for median work to resume in the area. In addition, the traffic signal heads and pedestrian push buttons will be repositioned. The following detour will be in place:

### **Route 72 eastbound detour:**

- Motorists traveling on Route 72 eastbound will be directed to take the ramp towards Marsha Drive
- Keep right at the end of the ramp and merge onto Marsha Drive
- Turn left onto Jennifer Drive
- Turn left onto Morris Boulevard
- Take the ramp back to Route 72 eastbound

Work on the \$312 million Route 72/Manahawkin Bay Bridge project began in 2013. This final construction contract is designed to improve safety and reduce congestion in Stafford at the Marsha Drive/Route 72 intersection and in Ship Bottom on Long Beach Island. In Stafford, Marsha Drive will be widened to provide double left turn lanes onto Route 72, and a third lane will be added on Route 72 in both directions near the intersection.

In Ship Bottom, approximately 3,000 feet of Route 72 (locally known as 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets) and three cross roads (Barnegat Avenue, Central Avenue and Long Beach Boulevard) will be widened. Two-way traffic will be restored along Central Avenue and Long Beach Boulevard. Five traffic signals will be reconstructed, and a new traffic signal will be installed at the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Long Beach Boulevard. In addition, a new storm drainage system and new outfalls will be installed in an effort to reduce frequent flooding along Route 72 and these intersections. For more information NJDOT developed a [project-specific website](#).

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](http://www.511nj.org) for construction updates and real-time travel information. For NJDOT news follow us on Twitter [@NewJerseyDOT](#) and our [Facebook page](#).

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