



# NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

**For Immediate Release:**  
October 27, 2023

**Contact:** Jim Barry  
Steve Schapiro  
609-963-1975

## **Route 72 westbound/8<sup>th</sup> Street lane closure next week as Manahawkin Bay Bridges project advances One lane to be maintained during this stage of construction**

**(Trenton)** – Route 72 westbound/8<sup>th</sup> Street is scheduled to have a single lane closed next week between Barnegat Avenue and Shore Avenue as the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project advances in Ship Bottom, Ocean County.

Beginning at 9 a.m. Monday, October 30 until 3:30 p.m. Friday, November 3, the left lane on Route 72 westbound/8<sup>th</sup> Street will be closed between Barnegat Avenue and Shore Avenue for the installation of a drainage line. Traffic heading to the bridge will be directed to use Shore Avenue. Traffic wishing to make the U-turn onto Route 72 eastbound/9<sup>th</sup> Street will be direct to use the U-turn on Ceder Bonnet Island. At least one lane on 8<sup>th</sup> Street, as well as the access road and driveways will be maintained. Motorists are advised to use caution, slow down and expect delays. If the work is completed early, the lanes will reopen sooner.

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 X (Twitter) [@NewJerseyDOT](https://twitter.com/NewJerseyDOT) and our [Facebook page](#).

# # #