



# NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

**For Immediate Release:**  
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## **Route 72 to be closed and detoured overnight this week near Marsha Drive in Stafford, Ocean County Detour necessary for paving work**

**(Trenton)** – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced overnight lane closures and a detour this week on Route 72 in both directions near Marsha Drive as the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project advances in Stafford, Ocean County. This is a continuation of work that began on Friday.

Beginning at 8 p.m. tonight, Monday, March 18 until 6 a.m., tomorrow, Tuesday, March 19, and continuing each night through Thursday, March 21 at the same times, Route 72 is scheduled to be closed and detoured in both directions near Marsha Drive in Stafford for paving work. The following detours will be in place overnight:

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

- Motorists traveling on Route 72 eastbound will be directed to take the Mill Creek Road South/Beach Haven West exit
- Follow Mill Creek Road
- Turn left onto Jonathan Drive, which becomes Jennifer Lane
- Turn left onto Morris Boulevard
- Turn right onto Route 72 eastbound

### **Route 72 westbound detour:**

- Motorists traveling on Route 72 westbound will be directed to take the Bay Avenue exit immediately after the bridge
- Turn left onto East Bay Avenue/CR 50
- Turn left onto Mill Creek Road
- Turn right onto Route 72 westbound

Two lanes of traffic will be maintained during the day with traffic in a new configuration in each direction; one on the left and one lane on the right separated by a center work zone. This stage is expected to take about a month to complete.

Both lanes on Route 72 eastbound will take traffic to Long Beach Island. Route 72 eastbound traffic going to Morris Drive must use the right lane.

Both lanes on Route 72 westbound will take traffic into Manahawkin. Route 72 westbound traffic going to Marsha Drive must use the right lane.

This work is part of the Contract 1A & 1B, of the Route 72/Manahawkin Bay Bridge project. 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 streets (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. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2025. For more information go to the NJDOT [project website](#).

### **NJDOT Pothole Campaign**

NJDOT's 2024 Pothole Campaign began on March 4. [Watch a safety message from Acting Commissioner Fran O'Connor](#) about how NJDOT repairs potholes to keep our roads safe and in a state of good repair.

To repair potholes in the most aggressive and efficient manner during the Pothole Campaign, the Department will be allowing crews throughout the state to close travel lanes where necessary during daytime hours. When possible, crews will limit their daytime work hours from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will try to avoid working in travel lanes carrying traffic during peak times.

It is important to **slow down in work zones** so NJDOT crews can safely make repairs. [New Jersey's Move Over law](#) requires motorists to move over, if it is safe to do so, when approaching an emergency or service vehicle stopped on the side of the road. If you cannot safely MOVE OVER, PLEASE SLOW DOWN.

In addition to our crews monitoring and reporting potholes that need repair on state highways, we encourage motorists to report potholes as well. Motorists may call **1-800-POTHOLE** or go online to [report potholes](#) on state roads using a new mapping feature to help identify the exact location of the pothole.

To report potholes on county roads, [contact the appropriate jurisdiction](#). The Department responds as quickly as possible, especially to reports of potholes that create safety concerns based on their size and location.

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](#) and our [Facebook page](#).

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