

For Immediate Release:

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NJDOT issues commercial vehicle travel restrictions on multiple Interstate highways beginning Saturday, February 15 at 12 noon Restrictions do not apply to New Jersey Turnpike, Garden State Parkway, or Atlantic City Expressway

(Trenton) – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Commissioner Fran O'Connor has issued a commercial vehicle travel restriction on multiple Interstate highways in New Jersey starting tomorrow at 12 noon Saturday, February 15 based on the forecast for a significant winter storm with snow, sleet, and ice in north and western parts of the state.

Winter weather is expected to begin Saturday afternoon with snow changing to ice and rain as the storm continues into Sunday, which could make driving conditions treacherous in North Jersey and parts of Central Jersey. The travel restrictions are being coordinated with neighboring states. In addition to the commercial restrictions, <u>all</u> motorists are encouraged to avoid unnecessary travel on Saturday and Sunday.

The commercial vehicle travel restriction will begin tomorrow at 12 noon Saturday, February 15 and will be in place until further notice for the following highways in both directions:

- I-78 (entire length)
- I-80 (entire length)
- I-280 (entire length)
- I-287 (entire length)
- NJ Route 440, from the Outerbridge Crossing to I-287

The commercial vehicle travel restriction applies to:

- <u>All</u> tractor trailers (exceptions as listed in the <u>Administrative Order</u>)
- Empty straight CDL-weighted trucks
- Passenger vehicles pulling trailers
- Recreational vehicles
- Motorcycles

This restriction **DOES NOT** apply to:

- The New Jersey Turnpike
- The Garden State Parkway
- The Atlantic City Expressway
- Public safety vehicles, sworn and civilian public safety personnel; as well as other personnel
 directly supporting healthcare facilities or critical infrastructure such as providing fuel or food. For a
 complete list of operations or personnel that are exempt from the travel ban, see the
 Administrative Order.

Trucks that are already in New Jersey when the travel restrictions go into place are encouraged to pull off in truck stops to wait out the storm – <u>DO NOT PARK ON SHOULDERS</u>.

NJDOT is coordinating with all state and regional transportation agencies to ensure the most effective response to the storm. In order for NJDOT and our regional and local transportation partners to safely and efficiently clear roadways of snow, motorists should avoid driving unless you are an essential employee needed for emergency response. If you must drive, motorists are advised to:

- **SLOW DOWN** and obey posted speed limits
- Always STAY CLEAR of plowing and spreading trucks. If they are behind you, let them pass
- DO NOT pass between trucks that are in a plow formation
- Leave early and allow extra time
- Leave a safe following distance between vehicles
- Use caution on bridges and ramps
- If you are driving and road conditions deteriorate, PULL OFF somewhere safe and wait it out
- Be patient and use caution
- When ice, sleet, or freezing rain are in the forecast, motorists should use extra caution
- Keep an emergency kit in your car with a cell phone charger, water, snacks, blanket, and other items. See the NJ Office of Emergency Managements web site for more information: http://ready.nj.gov/plan-prepare/winter.shtml

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 for real-time travel information and for NJDOT news follow us on X (Twitter) @NewJerseyDOT, the NJDOT Facebook page, and on Instagram @newjersey.dot.

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