



NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:

April 25, 2025

Contact:

Jim Barry
Steve Schapiro
609-963-1975

Long Beach Boulevard work between 8th and 9th Streets on Tuesday in preparation for two-way traffic in Ship Bottom, Ocean County Two-way traffic scheduled to begin on Monday, May 5

(Trenton) – The intersection of Long Beach Boulevard and 8th Street is scheduled to have temporary lane closures on Tuesday as the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project nears completion in Ship Bottom, Ocean County.

From 7 a.m. until 3:30 pm. Tuesday, April 29, the intersection of Long Beach Boulevard and 8th Street is scheduled to have temporary lane closures to reposition new traffic signal mast arms and to restripe the roadway. The new traffic signals will be activated in a flashing test mode, which will continue for approximately one week. In addition, 8th Street westbound traffic will be detoured during this time. The following detour will be in place:

8th Street westbound Detour:

- Motorists on 8th Street westbound will be directed to turn right onto Long Beach Boulevard
- Turn left onto 5th Street
- Turn left onto Central Avenue
- Turn right onto 8th Street

On Monday, May 5, the new traffic signal is scheduled to be fully operational, allowing two-way traffic on Long Beach Boulevard between 8th Street and 9th Street. Currently, Long Beach Boulevard is one way going northbound between 8th Street and 9th Street. The new intersection will have the following configuration:

Long Beach Boulevard northbound will have three lanes:

- A dedicated left turn only lane onto 8th Street westbound. The traffic signal will include a left turn only phase
- A center lane that traffic may turn left or go straight
- A right lane that traffic may go straight or turn right onto 8th Street eastbound

Long Beach Boulevard southbound will have three lanes:

- A dedicated right lane that becomes a ramp onto 8th Street westbound
- A center lane that traffic must go straight
- A left lane that traffic may go straight or turn left onto 8th Street eastbound

In the next few weeks, work is expected to be completed at the Route 72 and Marsha Drive intersection. Marsha Drive in Stafford will reopen, and Route 72 will be shifted into its final configuration. In addition,

Central Avenue is scheduled to be opened to two-way traffic in mid-May. NJDOT will provide advanced notification before any roadway changes are made. Final paving in both Stafford and Ship Bottom is expected to be done overnight in June.

This final construction contract for the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project 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 8th and 9th 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 8th 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 for construction updates and real-time travel information and for NJDOT news follow us on X (Twitter) [@NewJerseyDOT](#), on the [NJDOT Facebook page](#), or Instagram [@NewJersey.DOT](#).

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