



NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

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Long Beach Boulevard to open to two-way traffic tomorrow, Thursday, May 8 in Ship Bottom, Ocean County Central Avenue to open to two-way traffic on Tuesday, May 13

(Trenton) – Long Beach Boulevard is scheduled to open to two-way traffic between 8th Street and 9th Street tomorrow morning, as the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project nears completion in Ship Bottom, Ocean County. In addition, Route 72 at Marsha Drive in Stafford will be returned to its final configuration tomorrow, and next week Central Avenue will open up to two-way traffic.

Long Beach Boulevard

The new traffic signal at the intersection of Long Beach Boulevard and 8th Street is scheduled to be fully operational after 8 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, May 8, 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

Route 72 at Marsha Drive

In addition, signal work will be taking place during the day tomorrow, Thursday, May 8 on Route 72 near the Marsha Drive intersection in Stafford. By the end of the day, Route 72 will be shifted into its final configuration with the new auxiliary lanes opened, in addition to the two through lanes in each direction. Marsha Drive is expected to reopen in the next week or two.

Central Avenue

Beginning at 7 a.m. Tuesday, May 13 Central Avenue is scheduled to be closed for signal work and restriping. Currently, Central Avenue is one-way southbound between 3rd Street and 11th Street and northbound traffic must turn right onto 11th Street. Once the striping is complete and the new traffic signal at 8th Street and Central Avenue is activated, Central Avenue will be opened to two-way traffic, which is expected to be complete by the end of the day, Tuesday.

Final paving in both Stafford and Ship Bottom is expected to be done overnight in June. NJDOT will provide advanced notification before any roadway changes are made.

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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