



**NJDOT**

## **TRAFFIC ADVISORY**

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### **I-80 Eastbound Two Lanes to Reopen at about 10 p.m. Tonight in Wharton, Morris County I-80 Westbound Two Lanes Scheduled to Reopen Next Week**

**(Trenton)** – Two lanes on I-80 eastbound are expected to reopen at approximately 10 p.m. tonight, Wednesday May 21 in Wharton, Morris County. Once the lanes are reopened, the I-80 eastbound detour utilizing Exit 34 will be removed. Work is progressing on I-80 westbound, and two lanes are scheduled to open by the end of next week. The I-80 westbound detour utilizing Exit 34B remains in place. Work in the median is advancing with all lanes in both directions on schedule to reopen by June 25.

**Motorists are reminded this is an active work zone and are advised to SLOW DOWN and use caution. The speed limit will be reduced to 40 mph on I-80 eastbound through the work zone.**

"Reopening two lanes on I-80 eastbound is a major milestone and the first step in restoring full mobility on this critical interstate highway," **said Governor Phil Murphy.** "By the end of next week, two lanes on I-80 westbound are scheduled to be reopened, and all lanes should be reopened by the end of June. I want to commend NJDOT Commissioner Fran O'Connor and the NJDOT crews who have worked tirelessly to make permanent repairs to reopen this highway safely. I also want to thank the New Jersey State Police and the local officials for their partnership in helping manage the traffic diverted to local roadways. And most importantly, we are thankful for the patience of the thousands of New Jerseyans who have been impacted by these sinkholes."

"We have all been looking forward to this day– the reopening of I-80 eastbound," **NJDOT Commissioner Fran O'Connor** said. "I want to thank Governor Murphy, the local elected officials, and the New Jersey State Police for their support and assistance throughout this emergency project, and especially the residents, businesses, and motorists for their patience."

"None of this would have been possible without the incredible effort of the NJDOT staff and our contractors for working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for several months to get this highway reopened. The amount of work that has gone into this project is simply astounding."

"It is important for motorists to understand a lot of work remains to be done to reopen two lanes on I-80 westbound next week, and all lanes by June 25. I-80 is still an active work zone. For the safety of our workers and motorists, please slow down and obey the reduced speed limits."

"I'm happy to see that we are finally nearing the end of this crisis with the scheduled reopening of two eastbound lanes on I-80 later tonight," **Senate Republican Leader Anthony M. Bucco** said. "This has been an incredibly frustrating situation for commuters, residents, and businesses alike, and I want everyone to know that I've heard their concerns every step of the way and cannot express just how much your patience has been appreciated during this extremely disruptive time."

"With that said, as people begin returning to their normal routines, I urge caution. Drivers will still be traveling through an active work zone, and safety must remain a top priority."

"Lastly, my deepest gratitude goes to the New Jersey Department of Transportation, Commissioner O'Connor, and the dedicated crews who have been working around the clock, including nights, weekends, and holidays to get this done. I especially want to recognize the ironworkers, who literally weathered the storm to make this reopening possible. Their commitment and sacrifice have not gone unnoticed."

"Progress on I-80 is a welcome step forward for our residents, commuters, and small businesses who have shown remarkable patience throughout this disruption," **Assemblywoman Aura K. Dunn** said. "I am grateful to NJDOT and the dedicated crews working around the clock to keep this critical project on track. When government delivers results, people deserve to see it, and this is one of those moments. I will continue to listen to the concerns of our community, advocate for their needs, and ensure our district has the support it needs during and after this project."

"With two eastbound lanes opening today after all the headaches endured by the people and work and effort made by NJDOT, the Contractors, and workers on-site, we are finally at a moment of progress," **Assemblyman Christian Barranco** said. "This is a delicate time where we need to be especially cautious of the conditions around the newly opened roadway. Take advantage of progress but remain vigilant. The area of the sinkhole is still an ongoing construction effort, and we need to care for those men and women who brought us this solution. Thank you for your patience."

### **Repair Update**

Crews will continue working 24 hours a day until repairs are completed, and the highway is fully reopened. NJDOT will continue to look for any avenues to pick up time to fully reopen all lanes, if possible.

### **I-80 Westbound**

The concrete slabs on I-80 westbound are in the process of curing. Once that is complete, a sealant has to be applied to the concrete, which cannot be done if it is raining, and then paving multiple layers of asphalt will take place. The roadway will then be striped and barrier curb will be installed to separate the median work zone from the two lanes of traffic, which will be utilizing the right lane and the shoulder as a travel lane. Two lanes on I-80 westbound are on schedule to be reopened by the end of next week.

**Motorists are reminded to continue to use the signed detours for I-80 westbound and not cut through local streets that are unable to handle trucks and additional traffic.**

**I-80 Median Work Zone**

Rebar installation and framing are ongoing, and concrete pours have begun on some of the six median slabs. Once the concrete has been poured for all slabs, it will need time to cure before a sealant can be applied, and then paving multiple layers of asphalt will take place. All lanes are on schedule to reopen by June 25.

**NJDOT has created an [I-80 project web page](#)** to keep the public informed about the progress of repairs. Information about detours, alternate routes, and other options to minimize traffic congestion in the area can also be found on the web page.

**An [I-80 travel time page](#) has been added to [www.511NJ.org](http://www.511NJ.org) and has current travel times on the detour routes and alternate routes.**

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](#), on the [NJDOT Facebook page](#), or Instagram [@NewJersey.DOT](#).

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