



NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

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Route 71 fully reopened to traffic following repairs to bridge over Shark River in Monmouth County Permanent repair expected next year

(Trenton) – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced all lanes on Route 71 reopened to traffic Monday afternoon following repairs to the drawbridge over the Shark River between Belmar and Avon by the Sea continue in Monmouth County.

Route 71 was closed early Wednesday morning, September 22, when the bridge became stuck in a partially opened position following a malfunction that caused minor damage to steel below the roadway surface on one side of the bridge. The bridge was moved to a fully opened position that afternoon to allow marine traffic to pass.

On Thursday afternoon, September 23, temporary repairs to the bridge were completed and the bridge was lowered to allow traffic to safely use the bridge. At that time, one lane was being maintained in each direction with a center work zone, and the drawbridge was operational to allow marine traffic to safely pass.

Following further evaluation, NJDOT engineers determined that the temporary repairs made to the bridge last week were sufficient to fully reopen all lanes safely with no restrictions, which was done yesterday afternoon, Monday, September 27. The bridge will maintain normal operations until a permanent repair can be completed, which is expected to take place in early 2022.

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 Twitter [@NewJerseyDOT](https://twitter.com/NewJerseyDOT) or on the [NJDOT Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/njdot).

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