



NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

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New Route 7/Wittpenn Bridge to open this weekend Lane closures and traffic stoppages necessary to shift traffic onto new bridge

(Trenton) – The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) today announced the Route 7/Wittpenn Bridge between Jersey City and Kearny will open this weekend. There will be lane closures and traffic stoppages in order to shift traffic onto the new bridge over the Hackensack River.

Beginning at 9 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, October 1 until 4 p.m. Saturday, October 2, NJDOT's contractor Georges Harms Inc., is scheduled to close one lane on Route 7 eastbound in Kearny before the bridge, and one lane on Route 1&9 Truck southbound after the on-ramp from Route 139 westbound in Jersey City. In addition, one lane on Route 1&9 Truck northbound is scheduled to be closed starting near Broadway Avenue.

After 11 p.m. there will be temporary stoppages on Route 7, and Route 1&9 Truck in both directions. The closures and temporary stoppages are necessary to remove barrier curb to shift traffic onto the new bridge, as well as to make adjustments to traffic signals at Newark Avenue in Jersey City.

Once the new bridge is open, Route 1&9 Truck southbound traffic will go straight onto the new bridge, which is Route 7 westbound, without having to take the loop ramp as required now. The existing ramp will remain as the exit for Route 1&9 Truck southbound traffic. For the next two months, Route 1&9 southbound and Route 7 westbound will be restricted to one lane prior to the split of Route 1&9 Truck southbound and Route 7.

Route 7 eastbound traffic will be shifted to the left onto the new Wittpenn Bridge. The new Route 7 westbound flyover ramp to Fish House Road southbound will be opened. In the next two or three weeks, the Route 7 eastbound exit to Fish House Road southbound in Kearny will open. The new ramps from Fish House Road to Route 7 eastbound will remain closed as work continues to complete them. Fish House Road traffic wishing to take Route 7 eastbound will be directed to Route 7 westbound and U-turn, which is the current traffic pattern.

The Route 7 eastbound ramp to Newark Avenue and Route 1&9 Truck southbound will be closed and detoured for approximately one year as a new ramp is constructed. The following detour will be in place:

- Route 7 eastbound traffic will be directed to a new ramp to St. Paul's Avenue
- Turn left onto St. Paul's Avenue
- Turn left onto the Duffield Avenue ramp to Route 1&9 Truck southbound

With traffic now using the new bridge, demolition of the old bridge will begin. In order to safely complete the demolition work, there will be overnight and weekend closures of the new bridge. NJDOT will provide information before any future lane closures.

About the Project

The Route 7/Wittpenn Bridge over the Hackensack River project is replacing the existing bridge with a new, wider vertical lift bridge. The new bridge doubles the vertical clearance over Hackensack River from 35-feet to 70-feet, resulting in fewer openings and less congestion.

Construction of the new bridge is being accomplished in [five separate contracts](#). The first three contracts have been completed and included advance utility work, and building the Fish House Road Pump Station, roadway embankments, river piers, fender system and a portion of the approach spans for the new vertical lift bridge. The fourth and fifth contracts are currently under construction and will complete the approach spans, the Fish House Road flyover ramps, new roadways, and the new vertical lift bridge span and towers.

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