



NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

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9th Street lane closure and 8th Street traffic shift Saturday in Ship Bottom as Route 72 project advances New configuration needed for drainage and conduit work

(Trenton) – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced a lane closure on 9th Street and a traffic shift on 8th Street in Ship Bottom as the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project advances.

Beginning at 7 a.m. Saturday, March 5, NJDOT's contractor, CJ Hesse Inc., is scheduled to close lanes on 8th and 9th Streets in Ship Bottom to restripe the lanes in order to shift traffic. The work will be done as a moving operation and should be completed by early afternoon. When the restriping is complete, 8th Street, which also is Route 72 westbound, will be shifted to the right to allow for work on the left side of the street and the service road.

In addition, the left lane on 9th Street, which also is Route 72 eastbound, will be closed on Saturday as well. Two lanes and access to driveways in the center island will be maintained throughout construction. The closure and traffic shift on 8th and 9th streets are necessary for drainage work, traffic signal improvements, and installing conduit and fiber optic cables. The work, which will be mostly underground, is expected to be done Monday through Thursday nights to minimize the impact to motorists. This traffic configuration is expected to be in place through the summer.

This work is part of the Contract 1A & 1B, of the Route 72/Manahawkin Bay Bridge project. This final construction contract 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 streets (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. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2024. For more information go to the NJDOT [project 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. For NJDOT news follow us on Twitter [@NewJerseyDOT](#) and our [Facebook page](#).

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