



# NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

**For Immediate Release:**  
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## **Route 72 eastbound/9<sup>th</sup> Street extended lane closures next week as Manahawkin Bay Bridges project advances Crews to work 24-hours-a-day to complete work before the summer**

**(Trenton)** – Route 72 eastbound/9<sup>th</sup> Street will have extended lane closures next week as the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project advances in Ship Bottom, Ocean County.

Beginning at 7 a.m. Monday, May 15 until 3:30 p.m. Friday, May 19, two lanes on Route 72 eastbound/9<sup>th</sup> Street will be closed to complete concrete and drainage work and to repave the roadway. At least one lane will be maintained during construction. By Friday afternoon, at least two lanes will be restored, with all three lanes expected to be restored by Monday, May 22. Crews are expected to work 24-hours-a-day next week to complete work before Memorial Day weekend. Motorists are advised to use caution, slow down and expect delays.

In addition, the sidewalk on the northside of 9<sup>th</sup> Street from Hotel LBI to the Arlington Beach Club will be completed no later than Friday, May 19. If it is completed sooner, it will reopen earlier.

Work on the \$312 million Route 72/Manahawkin Bay Bridge project began in 2013. 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 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.511nj.org) for construction updates and real-time travel information. For NJDOT news follow us on Twitter [@NewJerseyDOT](https://twitter.com/NewJerseyDOT) and our [Facebook page](#).

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