



NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:
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Route 72 eastbound/9th Street extended lane closures to complete tomorrow as Manahawkin Bay Bridges project advances Expect delays heading into Ship Bottom

(Trenton) – Route 72 eastbound/9th Street will continue to have extended lane closures through tomorrow afternoon as the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project advances in Ship Bottom, Ocean County.

By 3:30 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, May 19, two lanes on Route 72 eastbound/9th Street are scheduled to be open, with all three lanes expected to be restored by Monday, May 22. Two lanes have been closed with one lane open since Monday, May 15 with crews working around the clock to complete concrete and drainage work and to repave the roadway.

In addition, the town of Ship Bottom closed Shore Avenue today, Thursday, May 18 for paving, which contributed to heavy congestion and delays. For more information about when the Shore Avenue work will be complete, contact Ship Bottom.

Motorists should expect heavy congestion and delays on Friday and are advised to use caution and slow down through the work zone. If NJDOT completes the work on 9th Street 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 8th and 9th 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 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. 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 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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