

For Immediate Release: March 20, 2020 Contact: Steve Schapiro Brian Ahrens (609) 963-1975

## Route 72 westbound jughandle to Doc Cramer Boulevard to open tonight as Route 72 East Road project advances in Stafford Lane closure tonight necessary to activate new traffic signal

**(Trenton)** – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced the opening of a new jughandle from Route 72 westbound to Doc Cramer Boulevard and the activation of a new traffic signal as the Route 72 East Road project advances in Stafford, Ocean County

Beginning at 8 p.m., tonight, Friday, March 20, until 8 a.m., Saturday, March 21, NJDOT's contractor Earle Asphalt Co., will close one lane on Route 72 westbound to activate a new traffic signal and open the new jughandle from Route 72 westbound to Doc Cramer Boulevard, which leads to the Stafford Square Shopping Center. At least one lane on Route 72 will remain open at all times overnight. New Jersey State Police will be on hand to direct traffic, and motorists should expect brief slowdowns and delays while the shift is taking place.

The new, larger jughandle from Route 72 westbound to Doc Cramer Boulevard will help reduce congestion and improve safety for traffic accessing the Stafford Square Shopping Center. Other improvements that are part of the \$11.6 million federally-funded Route 72 East Road project include the addition of a 10-foot shoulder in each direction on Route 72 between the Garden State Parkway and the Stafford Square Shopping Center, median widening, new barrier curbs, as well as new traffic signals and roadway improvements at an the intersection of Route 72 and Roosevelt Boulevard.

A new culvert has been built and the new, larger jug handle from Route 72 westbound to a relocated East Road (East Road is being moved approximately 200 feet east from its current location) circles a new water basin. In addition, two new storm water basins will be constructed further down on Route 72 westbound, and West Road will be relocated east from its current location between McDonalds and Mr. Tire to a new location between Element Restaurant and Starboard Plaza. Washington Road, located parallel to Route 72 will end at the new West Road.

Construction is expected to be completed in late 2020. 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 <a href="https://www.511nj.org">www.511nj.org</a> for construction updates and real-time travel information and for NJDOT news follow us on Twitter <a href="https://www.subject.com">www.511nj.org</a> for construction updates and real-time travel information and for NJDOT news follow us on Twitter <a href="https://www.subject.com">www.511nj.org</a> for construction updates and real-time travel information and for NJDOT news follow us on Twitter <a href="https://www.subject.com">www.subject.com</a> or on the <a href="https://www.subject.com">NJDOT Facebook page</a>.

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