

For Immediate Release: June 23, 2020 Contact:

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Route 44 lane closures this week as Truck Bypass and Dupont Port Access project begins in Gibbstown, Gloucester County New roadway will reduce truck traffic through residential community

(Trenton) – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced the start of the Route 44 Truck Bypass and Dupont Port Access project that will reduce truck traffic in a residential area of Gibbstown, Gloucester County.

Beginning at 7 a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, June 24 until 4 p.m., and continuing daily until Friday, June 26, the Gloucester County Improvement Authority's contractor, R. E. Pierson, is scheduled to close the Route 44/Broad Street northbound shoulder from before the bridge over Sand Ditch (Nehonsey Brook) to approximately Veterans Road. The closure is necessary to allow for shoulder restoration and repair work.

Next week, there will be two days from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. in which one lane on Route 44 will be closed with alternating traffic using the other lane. This is necessary to install construction barrier and restripe the road to implement a traffic shift. Route 44 northbound traffic will be shifted to the right utilizing the shoulder as a travel lane, and Route 44 southbound traffic will be shifted onto the Route 44 northbound lane in order to maintain one 11-foot travel lane in each direction. The shift will allow construction of a ramp onto Route 44 southbound from the new Bypass road that will be built. This configuration will be in place for approximately six months.

The \$9.9 million developer project will construct a new 0.6-mile truck bypass that will connect the existing Route 44 in both directions in western Gibbstown to A Line Road. The new road will reduce truck traffic traveling through residential communities, increasing quality of life and safety.

The new bypass roadway will run primarily through undeveloped DuPont property adjacent to an active railroad line and existing Route 44. The southwestern terminus of the proposed bypass includes a new ramp connecting Route 44 with the new bypass just east of the existing bridge over Sand Ditch (Nehonsey Brook). The northeastern terminus includes a new intersection with A Line Road approximately 1,200 feet west of its intersection with North Repauno Avenue. The new road will have one 12-foot lane and one 10-foot shoulder in each direction.

Variable Message Signs are being used to provide advance notification of all traffic pattern changes associated with the work. NJDOT will provide more information before any lane closures are scheduled.

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 <u>www.511nj.org</u> for construction updates and real-time travel information and for NJDOT news follow us on Twitter <u>@NJDOT info</u> or on the <u>NJDOT Facebook page</u>.

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