

For Immediate Release: January 31, 2020

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## **\*\*Winter Weather Congestion Alert\*\***

## NJDOT recommends avoiding unnecessary travel during ongoing snow storm Difficult driving conditions expected through Tuesday

**(Trenton)** – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today issued a **Winter Weather Congestion Alert** as heavy snow and winds are forecast to continue through Tuesday, February 2, which may result in difficult driving conditions.

NJDOT is coordinating with our regional and local transportation partners and the New Jersey State Police to ensure the most effective response to this storm. **Motorists are encouraged to stay home and off the roads during the storm** to allow regional and local transportation agencies to safely and efficiently clear highways.

Governor Murphy has declared a <u>State of Emergency</u> and a <u>commercial vehicle restriction</u> for Interstate highways in New Jersey went into effect at 12 noon today, Sunday, January 31. It does not apply to the New Jersey Turnpike, Garden State Parkway or Atlantic City Expressway. In addition, all NJ TRANSIT buses, rail (except Atlantic City Rail Line), light rail and Access Link service will be <u>temporarily suspended systemwide</u> for the entire service day on Monday, February 1. The Atlantic City Rail Line (ACRL) will continue to operate on a regular weekday schedule as long as safe conditions permit.

NJDOT and our transportation and law enforcement partners recommend motorists:

- Avoid unnecessary travel during the storm
- Plan to work from home if that is an option
- If you are driving, plan extra travel time
- If you are driving and road conditions deteriorate, PULL OFF somewhere safe and wait it out
- Obey posted speed limits
- Always STAY CLEAR of plowing and spreading trucks. If they are behind you, let them pass
- DO NOT pass between trucks that are in a plow formation
- Be patient and use caution
- Keep an emergency kit in your car with a cell phone charger, water, snacks and other items. See the NJ Office of Emergency Managements web site for more information: <u>http://ready.nj.gov/plan-prepare/winter.shtml</u>

NJDOT will be using Variable Message Signs throughout the storm to provide winter driving alerts, as well as the <u>NJDOT Facebook page</u> and Twitter <u>@NewJerseyDOT</u>. Motorists are encouraged to check NJDOT's traffic information website <u>www.511nj.org</u> for real-time travel information.

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