

For Immediate Release:

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Route 3 westbound lane closure through Sunday as Bridge over Conrail and NYS&W railroad project advances in North Bergen Closures necessary for concrete deck pour

(Trenton) – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced the right lane on Route 3 westbound will be closed for several days as the Route 3 Bridge over Conrail; New York, Susquehanna and Western Railway (NYS&W) replacement project advances in North Bergen, Hudson County.

Beginning at 4 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, August 18 until 8 a.m. Sunday, August 21, NJDOT's contractor, Ritacco Construction Inc., is scheduled to close the right lane on Route 3 westbound from Route 1&9 to just before the ramp to and from the NJ TRANSIT Park & Ride Lot and to Route 495 eastbound/Lincoln Tunnel. In addition, the right lane on the ramps from Route 1&9 northbound and southbound to Route 3 westbound will be closed. The closures are necessary for a concrete deck pour and time for the concrete to cure. At least one lane will be maintained on Route 3 westbound through the weekend.

The \$24.8 million project is federally funded through a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant. It will replace the bridge located between the Route 495 Bridge over Route 3 on the west and Route 1&9/Tonnele Avenue on the east, near the south entrance to the NJ TRANSIT North Bergen Park & Ride lot. The new, wider bridge will improve safety by providing standard lane and shoulder widths and improved sight distance. The sidewalk will be extended to connect the existing sidewalk on Route 1&9/Tonnele Avenue to the North Bergen Park and Ride.

In addition, the new Route 3 Bridge design eliminates the piers adjacent to the railroad tracks. This will improve rail service by allowing freight trains to transport higher and wider loads, as well as travel at higher speeds. It also will create more space between the tracks, which is required to provide shared passenger and freight service. This expanded passenger and freight service will provide significant regional benefits to commuters and the freight industry from Passaic, Bergen, and Hudson counties.

The project is being constructed in five stages. The bridge remains open in both directions during construction and pedestrian traffic is being maintained as well. The project is expected to be completed by summer 2023.

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