



# NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project to begin summer hiatus Work in Ship Bottom to resume after Labor Day**

**(Trenton)** – The Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project will initiate a summer hiatus no later than Monday, July 24 in Ship Bottom, Ocean County. The decision was made after assessing the concerns raised by local officials, businesses, and residents of Long Beach Island.

All lanes and sidewalks on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets, as well as Barnegat Avenue, Central Avenue and Long Beach Boulevard will be open throughout the remaining seven weeks of the summer, uninterrupted by State construction unless emergency work is needed. Work near Marsha Drive in Stafford has already been completed for the season. Construction is anticipated to resume after Labor Day, on or about September 11.

NJDOT has been working with the contractor and the town to develop an adjusted schedule to complete the project as quickly and safely as possible. The project schedule was affected by utility work delays and the discovery of some contaminated soil on 8<sup>th</sup> Street that required environmental permitting and remediation before the project could proceed. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

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 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](#).

As a reminder, even with all lanes open and construction halted for the summer, there is always an increase in traffic this time of year at the Shore. Motorists should plan extra travel time, expect delays, and exercise patience. Motorists are encouraged to check NJDOT's traffic information website [www.511nj.org](http://www.511nj.org) for real-time travel information.

The precise timing of the work is subject to change due to weather or other factors. For NJDOT news follow us on Twitter [@NewJerseyDOT](#) and our [Facebook page](#).

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