



NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:
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Contact: Jim Barry
Steve Schapiro
609-963-1975

Shark River Channel to be closed to marine traffic Tuesday and Wednesday in Monmouth County Route 71/Main Street detour will remain in effect

(Trenton) – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced the Shark River Channel between Belmar and Avon by the Sea in Monmouth County is scheduled to be closed to marine traffic on Tuesday, April 30 and Wednesday May 1 as emergency repairs to the Route 71 Drawbridge over the Shark River advance.

Beginning at 6 a.m. Tuesday, April 30 until 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 1, the Shark River Channel is scheduled to be closed to marine traffic. The closure is necessary to lower the bridge slightly to install components necessary for the repair. If the work is completed early, the channel will reopen sooner. Route 71/Main Street will remain closed and detoured in both directions. The following detours will remain in place until the repairs are completed:

Route 71/Main Street northbound from Belmar to Avon by the Sea Detour:

- Motorists on Route 71/Main Street northbound will be directed to turn left onto Eighth Avenue
- Turn right on Route 35 northbound
- Continue over the Route 35/Shark River Bridge and follow signs for Avon by the Sea

Route 71/Main Street southbound from Avon by the Sea to Belmar Detour:

- Motorists on Route 71/Main Street southbound will be directed to turn right onto Sylvania Avenue
- Stay right and take the ramp to Route 35 South/Belmar
- Take Route 35 over the Shark River Bridge into Belmar
- Turn left onto Eighth Avenue and follow to Route 71/Main Street

The Route 71 Bridge over Shark River, built in 1932, is currently non-operational following a mechanical malfunction that took place on March 1. The bridge was successfully opened to marine traffic on March 12 and is secured in the open position. Under federal law, NJDOT is legally obligated to allow marine traffic to pass, as it has the right of way. Consequently, the bridge-must remain in the open position to allow all marine traffic to pass until emergency repairs are complete. However, it may be necessary to close the Channel to marine traffic at times for safety reasons during the repair.

NJDOT understands the impact this has on the local community and is advancing the repair design as quickly as possible to expedite full functionality of the bridge. Parts for the repair are being fabricated. The goal is to complete the work by Memorial Day. Route 71/Main Street will be closed and detoured during construction.

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 www.511nj.org for real-time travel information and for NJDOT news follow us on X (Twitter) [@NewJerseyDOT](https://twitter.com/NewJerseyDOT) or on the [NJDOT Facebook page](#).

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