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## **NJDOT opens temporary Route 15 southbound bridge over Rockaway River today in Jefferson Township, Morris County Traffic restored one week earlier than anticipated**

**(Trenton)** – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced the full opening of the temporary Route 15 southbound bridge over Rockaway River, a week earlier than anticipated, as work continues on the replacement of the 124-year-old bridge in Jefferson Township, Morris County.

Two lanes of traffic are now open on the temporary bridge structure that spans the existing closed Route 15 southbound bridge. NJDOT made the decision to fully close the bridge to traffic on Tuesday, June 4, out of an abundance of caution when the roadway exhibited distress. Construction of the new southbound bridge will continue on an accelerated schedule to meet the original expected completion time of fall 2025.

"I want to commend the outstanding efforts to quickly deliver vital infrastructure solutions and restore traffic on Route 15 southbound in Jefferson Township," said Governor Murphy. "This rapid response ensures the continued safety and connectivity for Jefferson Township and surrounding communities."

"Mayor Wilsusen and the New Jersey Department of Transportation's steadfast response and clear communication in addressing the safety concerns with the Route 15 bridge is a true testament to good governance in action and a textbook example of what it means to be a public servant," Senator Anthony M. Bucco (R) said. "I applaud their ability to assess the situation, make the necessary repairs, and reopen two lanes ahead of schedule so residents and businesses can begin to get back to their daily routine and enjoy everything the Morris County community has to offer."

"I would like to personally thank NJDOT Commissioner Francis O'Connor, his staff, and especially the primary and temporary bridge contractors and subcontractors for expediting the construction of the Route 15 South temporary bridge over the Rockaway River," said Mayor Eric Wilsusen of Jefferson Township. "Our community appreciates that the project was completed a week earlier than anticipated." Mayor Wilsusen added, "This emergency project was indeed a cooperative effort, and I thank everyone for their constant communication with my staff and me. I also need to thank our township residents and businesses affected by the shutdown for their patience. I am sure everyone is looking forward to everything getting back to normal!"

"Governor Murphy's commitment and support in getting the Route 15 temporary bridge up and running was essential to our success," NJDOT Commissioner Fran O'Connor said. "Local officials, elected state representatives, and NJDOT all came together to get this done to reunite the community. He also added, "The hardest and heaviest work was carried out by our expert engineers and adept construction crews who worked in extreme temperatures, through all kinds of weather, while putting in long days and weekends to make this happen. We are proud of their meticulous planning and the great lengths they went to in order to get this temporary bridge built in record time."

The \$11.6 million project to replace the Route 15 southbound Bridge over the Rockaway River will continue on an accelerated schedule to meet the original expected completion time of fall 2025. Watch a [video](#) about this project.

The new permanent bridge will be a single-span concrete box beam structure with two 12-foot-wide travel lanes, 10-foot-wide inside and outside shoulders, and sidewalks on both sides of the bridge. The project will advance in stages to ease impact on motorists. NJDOT will provide advance notice of any lane or ramp closures.

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

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