



NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:
February 14, 2025

Contact: Jim Barry
Steve Schapiro
609-963-1975

REMINDER

I-80 westbound to be closed tonight for testing as emergency repairs continue in Wharton, Morris County New I-80 eastbound detour beginning Saturday morning

(Trenton) – The New Jersey Department of Transportation is reminding motorists that I-80 westbound is scheduled to be closed tonight at Exit 34B for roadway testing as emergency sinkhole repairs continue on I-80 eastbound in Wharton, Morris County. The I-80 eastbound detour at Exit 34 remains in place but will be modified on Friday night to minimize potential conflicts with traffic using the I-80 westbound detour.

In addition, **NJDOT will implement a new I-80 eastbound Exit 34 detour Saturday morning**, and beginning Monday, February 17, New Jersey State Police will be manually controlling several traffic signals on Route 10, Route 46, and Route 15 during rush hour to improve traffic flow. NJDOT also has adjusted the timing of several signals in the area to help ease congestion.

The new I-80 detour was developed at the request of local officials and with their coordination to minimize the disruption of additional traffic in the neighboring communities. We ask motorists to avoid the area and be patient while repairs are being made. Details of the new detour are below.

Friday, February 14

Beginning at 11 p.m. tonight, Friday, February 14 until 5 a.m. Saturday, February 15, I-80 westbound is scheduled to be closed and detoured at Exit 34B in Wharton. The closure is necessary for roadway testing. If work is completed early, I-80 westbound will reopen sooner. The following detours will be in place Friday night:

I-80 westbound Detour:

- Motorists on I-80 westbound will be directed to take Exit 34B to Route 15 north/Jefferson/Sparta
- Keep left on Route 15 northbound
- Use the left two left lanes at Pondview Drive to make a U-turn onto Route 15 southbound
- Stay right to take the ramp to I-80 westbound

I-80 eastbound Exit 34 Detour – Friday night:

- Motorists on I-80 eastbound will be directed to take Exit 34 to Route 15/Wharton/Dover/Sparta
- **Turn left following signs for Wharton**
- Turn left onto East Dewey Avenue/CR 642 eastbound
- Turn left onto Route 15 Northbound
- Stay right to take the ramp to I-80 eastbound

Saturday, February 15

Beginning at 5 a.m. Saturday, February 15, when I-80 westbound is scheduled to be reopened at Exit 34B, the I-80 eastbound Exit 34 detour will be adjusted. The new I-80 eastbound Exit 34 detour will be in place until further notice:

New I-80 eastbound Exit 34 Detour:

- Motorists on I-80 eastbound are being directed to take Exit 34 to Route 15/Wharton/Dover/Sparta
- At the end of the ramp, stay right following signs for Route 15/Jefferson/Dover/Sparta/Picatinny Arsenal
- **Stay in the right lane on North Main Street** following signs for Route 15 North/Jefferson/Sparta
- **Bear right toward Route 15 northbound/Picatinny Arsenal**
- At the traffic signal, merge onto Route 15 northbound
- Stay left, following signs for Pondview Drive/U and Left Turns
- Using both lanes, make a U-turn at the Pondview Drive traffic signal and merge onto Route 15 southbound
- Stay left to take the exit to I-80 eastbound

Background

I-80 eastbound was closed and detoured at Exit 34 in Wharton, Morris County on Monday, February 10 after a depression in the center lane was observed. While NJDOT crews were conducting boring tests a sinkhole opened up on Monday night. NJDOT crews excavated and stabilized the 11-foot by 11-foot sinkhole that was approximately four-feet deep on Tuesday night, February 11. Roadway testing has been ongoing to determine the extent of repairs necessary. The compromised roadway is 75 feet away from the sinkhole repair completed in December. The area where that sinkhole was repaired is stable.

NJDOT is continuing to coordinate with local communities to minimize the impact of the detoured traffic on neighboring communities as best as possible. We ask motorists to avoid the area and be patient while repairs are being made. Crews will continue to work 24-hours-a-day to complete repairs as safely and efficiently as possible. The schedule for reopening the roadway has not yet been determined.

All I-80 eastbound traffic is currently being detoured at Exit 34 as detailed above. However, traffic is advised to use Exit 28 to take Route 46 eastbound or Route 10 eastbound as an alternate route to avoid the area. This exit is several miles before the closure:

Route 46 eastbound Alternate Route:

- Motorists on I-80 eastbound are advised to take Exit 28/Route 46 eastbound to Route 10/Ledgewood/Lake Hopatcong, *which is several miles before the closure*
- Continue on Route 46 eastbound
- Stay in the left two lanes to turn left at the traffic signal to continue on Route 46 eastbound
- Turn left onto Route 15 northbound in Dover back to I-80
or
- Continue on Route 46 eastbound for about 12 miles and stay left for I-80 eastbound

Route 10 eastbound Alternate Route:

- Motorists on I-80 eastbound are advised to take Exit 28/Route 46 eastbound to Route 10/Ledgewood/Lake Hopatcong, *which is several miles before the closure*
- Continue on Route 46 eastbound
- Stay right to take Route 10 eastbound
- Take the exit to I-287 northbound
- Stay right to take the ramp to I-80 eastbound

Variable Message Signs will provide advance notification to motorists of traffic pattern changes associated with the work. 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 construction updates and real-time travel information. For NJDOT news follow us on X (Twitter) [@NewJerseyDOT](https://twitter.com/NewJerseyDOT), on the [NJDOT Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/NJDOT), or Instagram [@NewJersey.DOT](https://www.instagram.com/NewJersey.DOT).

###