



NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:
February 21, 2025

Contact: Jim Barry
Steve Schapiro
609-963-1975

Route 72 lane closures next Wednesday and Thursday, February 26 and 27 near Marsha Drive in Stafford Closures necessary to shift traffic for median work

(Trenton) – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced Route 72 is scheduled to have a single lane closed in both directions next Wednesday, February 26 and Thursday, February 27, as the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project advances in Stafford, Ocean County. This work is weather and temperature dependent. If conditions are not favorable, the work will be rescheduled.

Route 72 Lane Closures

On both Wednesday, February 26 and Thursday, February 27, from **7 a.m.** to 4:30 p.m. a single lane on **Route 72 eastbound** is scheduled to be closed before Marsha Drive. In addition, on both Wednesday, February 26 and Thursday, February 27, from **9 a.m.** to 4:30 p.m., a single lane on **Route 72 westbound** is scheduled to be closed before Marsha Drive. The closures are necessary to reposition construction barrier and restripe the roadway in order to shift traffic. All lanes are expected to be reopened by 4:30 p.m. with traffic in both directions shifted to the right, away from the median.

During this stage, temporary asphalt in the median will be removed, and the median will be landscaped. In addition, new guiderail will be installed. The work is expected to be completed this spring. Once the median work is complete, final milling and paving of the Route 72/Marsha Drive intersection will take place.

Marsha Drive North Remains Closed

Marsha Drive North between Route 72 and East Bay Avenue remains closed and detoured until weather conditions allow work to resume. The Route 72 westbound jughandle for U-turns and access to Beach Haven West remain open.

The replacement of a 72-inch diameter culvert that runs under Marsha Drive is complete. Curb and sidewalk work remain to be finished but are weather and temperature dependent. Once the concrete work is complete, final reconstruction and paving of Marsha Drive will be done. This work is expected to be completed this spring, and Marsha Drive North between Route 72 and East Bay Avenue will reopen at that time. The following detours remain in place:

Route 72 eastbound to Marsha Drive northbound Detour:

- Motorists traveling on Route 72 eastbound will be directed to go through the traffic signal at Mill Creek Road and take the exit for Mill Creek Road North/Manahawkin Business District/U and Left Turns
- Stay right to cross Route 72
- Follow Mill Creek Road
- Turn right onto East Bay Boulevard

Route 72 westbound to Marsha Drive northbound Detour:

- Motorists traveling on Route 72 westbound will be directed to take the Bay Avenue exit immediately after the bridge
- Turn left onto East Bay Avenue/CR 50

OR

- Motorists traveling on Route 72 westbound may continue on Route 72 westbound
- Turn right onto Mill Creek Road
- Turn right onto East Bay Avenue

This work is part of Contracts 1A & 1B, of the Route 72/Manahawkin Bay Bridge project. 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 8th and 9th Streets) and three cross streets (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 8th 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. The project is expected to be completed by summer 2025. For more information go to the NJDOT [project website](#).

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 and for NJDOT news follow us on X (Twitter) [@NewJerseyDOT](#), on the [NJDOT Facebook page](#), or Instagram [@NewJersey.DOT](#).

#