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Contact: Steve Schapiro
609-530-4280

Christie Administration Announces Summer Construction Schedule For Route 35

Construction On The Highway To Be Suspended In Most Locations; Limited Work Will Continue In Toms River And Brick

(Trenton) – The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) today announced the suspension of construction activities along most of Route 35 during the summer to ease congestion during the busy vacation season.

Ten miles of the 12.5-mile construction zone will have the full complement of travel lanes on Route 35 available, which not only improves traffic flow for motorists, but also ensures mobility for emergency responders during the busy summer season and maintains public safety because Route 35 serves as a primary evacuation route for the peninsula.

“Route 35 is the main artery along the Barnegat Peninsula connecting many Jersey Shore destinations,” NJDOT Commissioner James Simpson said. “We are working in partnership with our contractors, local officials, and businesses to ease congestion and limit the impact to residents and businesses during the summer, while advancing the project on an aggressive schedule to restore the shore as quickly as possible.”

In the towns of Bay Head and Mantoloking no construction will be allowed on either Route 35 or side streets during the summer. In Berkeley, Seaside Park, and Seaside Heights all construction on Route 35 will be halted, but construction on side streets will continue. In Brick and Toms River, at least one lane of Route 35 in each direction will be maintained while construction continues on a 2.5 mile stretch of the highway.

The [\\$265 million project, announced in July 2013](#), involves construction activity along a 12.5-mile stretch of Route 35, from Berkeley to Bay Head. The project was divided into three geographical sections, with one general contractor hired for each section. In addition to the complete reconstruction of the highway and its storm water management system, the project requires work to take place on many side streets between the highway and Barnegat Bay where underground drainage pipes, outfalls, and pump stations are being installed.

Utility crews who do not work for NJDOT may be active in the work zone this summer. In the areas where work will be suspended for the summer, NJDOT contractors will resume construction on Route 35 in early

September. The Department established a very aggressive construction schedule for the contractors, with the hope that the work in the northernmost section, in Mantoloking and Bay Head, could have reached substantial completion by this summer. However, work in that section will need to continue in early September.

The following summer work restrictions will be in place for NJDOT contractors:

Memorial Day Weekend

Work will be halted in all three sections for Memorial Day Weekend, between noon on Thursday, May 22 through noon on Tuesday, May 27.

Mileposts 0-4 in Berkeley, Seaside Park, Seaside Heights, and Toms River

In this section, Route 35 is generally a divided highway, providing two travel lanes in each direction from the entrance of Island Beach State Park, extending through Berkeley, Seaside Park, Seaside Heights, and Toms River. This section includes the interchange with Route 37, which is under construction and is expected to be completed by the summer work restrictions.

- Work on Route 35 will be suspended at noon on June 13 and will resume on September 3
- Work on the side streets will continue throughout the summer

Mile posts 4-9 in Lavallette, Toms River, and Brick

In this section, Route 35 is generally a divided highway, providing two travel lanes in each direction.

- Work on Route 35 northbound in the Lavallette Business District between Brown Avenue and Bond Avenue will be halted at noon on May 22 and will resume on September 3
- Work will continue along Route 35 northbound in Toms River and Brick as NJDOT's contractor, George Harms Construction Company, Inc., will follow New Jersey Natural Gas as it installs new gas lines. One northbound travel lane and shoulder will be maintained at all times from Strickland Boulevard in Toms River to Curtis Point Drive in Brick
- Work on the other portions of Route 35 northbound will stop at noon on June 13 and will resume September 3
- Work on Route 35 southbound will continue through the summer with one travel lane and a shoulder maintained from Curtis Point Drive in Brick to Strickland Boulevard in Toms River. Two southbound travel lanes will be maintained from Strickland Boulevard to 6th Avenue in Toms River at all times
- Work on the side streets will continue throughout the summer

Mile posts 9-12.5 in Mantoloking and Bay Head

In this section, Route 35 consists of a single roadway offering just one travel lane in each direction with shoulders.

- Work on Route 35 and all sides streets will be suspended at noon on May 22 and will resume September 3

In each section of the project, Route 35 will be completely rebuilt. The new stone-and-asphalt roadway will be two feet thick, providing a more stable road and smoother driving surface. A new storm-water drainage system for Route 35 has been designed to handle 25-year storms and will feature nine pump stations and treatment facilities to filter and purify the storm water prior to discharge into Barnegat Bay.

NJDOT has an accelerated schedule for this project to accomplish a massive amount of work in a short timeframe to bring the shore back better than ever. Construction is expected to be completed in 2015.

NJDOT has robust community outreach effort that includes a hotline telephone number, 732-230-7356, and email address, restore.nj35@dot.state.nj.us for residents to pose questions or provide suggestions as work progresses.

NJDOT also has [created a project-specific website](#) that provides information on the proposed construction activity. The site will be updated as work advances.

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