



The Delaware River and Bay Authority **NEWS ADVISORY**

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For Immediate Release

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DRBA to Close Freeman Highway for Bridge Replacement Project *Closures to Occur on Tuesdays and Wednesdays through June 25, 2010*

(*Lewes, DE*) Due to weather delays and additional work required for the project, Delaware River and Bay Authority (DRBA) officials will be closing Freeman Highway on Tuesdays and Wednesdays over the next five weeks to complete the Freeman Highway Bridge replacement project. The schedule for the closure of Freeman Highway is as follows:

Monday, May 24, 10 p.m. to Thursday, May 27, 7 a.m.
Tuesday, June 1, 10 p.m. to Thursday, June 3, 7 a.m.
Monday, June 7, 10 p.m. to Thursday, June 10, 7 a.m.
Monday, June 14, 10 p.m. to Thursday, June 17, 7 a.m.
Monday, June 21, 10 p.m. to Thursday, June 24, 7 a.m.

“During the course of the project, the contractor has uncovered additional deck and utility work that was not foreseen at the beginning,” said Joe Volk. “In addition, weather has also impacted progress on the project. As a result, the contractor will be adding more manpower and working weekends to meet the completion schedule of June 25 for the deck work. “

During this closure, barricades with ‘Road Closed’ will be placed at both intersections and adjacent to the barrier wall on both ends of the bridge. The detour shall be Monroe Avenue/Kings Highway to Savannah Road to Cape Henlopen Drive. Detour signs will aid motorists with the alternate route. The DRBA apologizes for any inconveniences that may occur as result of the bridge closure.

This weekend, the DRBA expects to complete the first phase of the bridge deck construction and plans to switch the traffic pattern to work on the second phase, resurfacing the eastbound bridge deck (heading to the Lewes Ferry terminal).

Originally constructed about 45 years ago and last painted in 1978, the Freeman Highway Bridge needs to be cleaned, repainted, and rehabilitated. The concrete piers exhibit some deterioration and require repair work. Bridge parapets will be replaced and upgraded to current standards. The bridge expansion joints, approach slabs, and miscellaneous steelwork require rehabilitation as well. Freeman Highway guiderail requires replacement as well and will be done during the bridge rehabilitation.

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