

Rehabilitation of Sea Isle Boulevard Bridge begins

March 12, 2009

Expect lane closings and delays.

Sea Isle City residents and visitors are advised to allow extra time when entering and leaving the island in the upcoming months.

Rehabilitation work requires lane closings from 7 a.m. Monday mornings through 7 a.m. on Friday mornings for the duration of the work. The Sea Isle City Boulevard Bridge, County Road No. 625 crosses Ludlam Thorofare between Sea Isle City and Dennis Township.

Temporary traffic signals have been stationed at the each end of the bridge and are currently in the yellow flash mode. The traffic signals will go into normal operation beginning next week to control the traffic that will alternate direction of travel through the one open lane on the bridge. Over the weekends the signals will be place in the flash mode to allow unobstructed two-way travel. The extended lane closings are scheduled to run until Memorial Day weekend.

Cape May County officials advise motorists to be patient when approaching the bridge, adding that it is imperative that motorists obey the traffic signals for their own safety and the safety of other motorists as well as the construction workers.

The Sea Isle Boulevard Bridge over Ludlam Thorofare is a 31-span structure, built in 1963, consisting of a single 93-foot steel main span that is flanked by pre-stressed concrete girder spans. This bridge is supported on concrete piles and piers with a total bridge length of 1,656 feet. This structure is on the only mainland access route directly connected to the City of Sea Isle City.

Work being performed consists of constructing armored and sealed deck joint systems, repairing the deteriorated sections of the reinforced concrete deck and safety walks, structural steel repairs to the main span,

safety feature upgrades and providing access for some of the pre-stressed concrete beam repairs.

Allied Painting, Inc. of Franklinville, NJ is the contractor for the more than \$3,044,000 construction project funded by the Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders with a \$1,000,000 grant from NJ Department of Transportation FY2009 Local Bridge, Future Needs Funds. The purpose of the grant is to address county-owned structurally deficient bridges throughout the State.

The first phase of repairs is on reinforced concrete piers supporting the bridge. This work is being performed from underneath of the bridge where it does not impact the motoring public. These repairs will continue throughout the duration of the project without interference with traffic.

Completion is expected by early August 2009. County officials say the extensive rehabilitation project is meant to extend the useful life of the bridge and keep the bridge functioning without the need of major repairs for another 10 to 15 years.