



'SMART' SOLUTION TO SKYWAY MESS

JOHN MUNSON/THE STAR-LEDGER

Pulaski

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weeks after the Feb. 2 Super Bowl at MetLife Stadium.

Travel will be allowed on the two southbound lanes from New York to New Jersey during the major rehabilitation of the steel truss bridge.

The signal upgrades will be made at 15 intersections on Route 440 and Routes 1&9 Truck in Jersey City and Kearny, allowing the DOT to accommodate additional traffic on those roads while two lanes of the Pulaski are closed.

The signals will link to a network of 128 intersections in the Meadowlands corridor in Bergen and Hudson counties, officials said.

State Transportation Commissioner Jim Simpson said the technology will help the DOT "maximize the capacity of existing travel lanes to handle traffic demands."

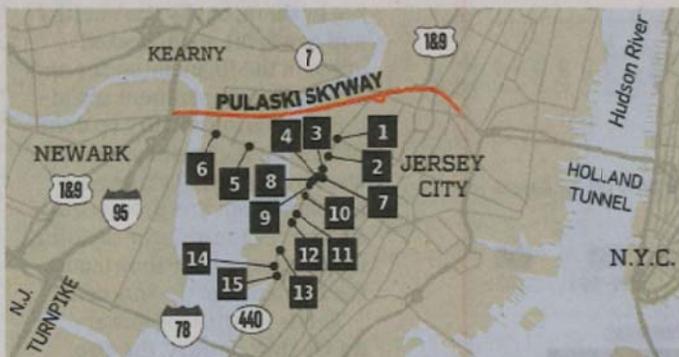
Illustrating the need for repairs to the aging road network, a piece of concrete fell to the lower roadway on Route 139 West early yesterday in Jersey City, causing traffic jams through the morning.

All lanes were reopened to traffic in the afternoon, but Simpson ordered a complete inspection of the concrete above the westbound travel lanes of Route 139 between JFK Boulevard and Palisades Avenue last night and tonight.

Hammers in hand, inspectors will tap the concrete, listening for hollow sounds to indicate trouble. The section is scheduled to be rehabilitated as part of the Pulaski project.

The Pulaski's entire riding surface will be replaced, providing a much needed boost to a decaying structure that at one time was heralded as an architectural and engineering marvel.

The Pulaski Skyway will be closed to northbound traffic toward New York for repairs for two years beginning after the Super Bowl at MetLife Stadium.



15 traffic intersections where signals are being upgraded to help alleviate the anticipated traffic delays on local roads when the Pulaski project begins.

1. Routes 1&9 Truck & Sip Avenue (milepost 3.09)
2. Routes 1&9 Truck & Duncan Avenue (milepost 2.74)
3. Routes 1&9 Truck & Northbound Ramp (milepost 2.27)
4. Routes 1&9 Truck & Communipaw Avenue (milepost 2.15)
5. Routes 1&9 Truck & Hackensack Avenue (milepost 1.43)
6. Routes 1&9 Truck & Jacobus Avenue
7. Route 440 & Communipaw Avenue (milepost 26.18)
8. Route 440 & Routes 1&9 Truck Ramp (milepost 26.10)
9. Route 440 & Clendenny Avenue (milepost 26.06)
10. Route 440 & Hudson Plaza/ Virginia Avenue (milepost 26.00)
11. Route 440 & Culver Avenue (milepost 25.55)
12. Route 440 & Carlton Place (milepost 25.43)
13. Route 440 & Kellog Street (milepost 25.06-25.14)
14. Route 440 & Danforth Avenue (milepost 24.84)
15. Route 440 & Society Hill (milepost 24.72)

Adaptive traffic signal system expected to reduce delays during Pulaski closing

By Mike Frassinelli / STAR-LEDGER STAFF

Looking to ward off a traffic nightmare during the partial closing of the Pulaski Skyway for up to two years beginning in March, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission and state Department of Transportation will use an adaptive traffic signal system — the first of its kind in the state — to reduce delays on local roads.

The "intelligent transportation system" uses a network of traffic signal controls, wireless communications and vehicle detection sensors to constantly make traffic light adjustments based on traffic flow, according to the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission, which monitors the network from its administration building in Lyndhurst.

"What it means as a motorist is that the signals will be in constant coordination with each other," said David Liebgold, the commission's chief of transportation. "Saving five seconds here or 10 seconds there, the time adds up very quickly."

Cameras and sensors help the network act as a traffic brain, or central

nervous system, making traffic density calculations and adjusting traffic signals as needed.

"The idea is to optimize the green time" for motorists, DOT spokesman Joe Dee said.

The DOT is also synchronizing the timing of traffic lights along Route 22 in Somerset and Union counties to improve the flow on a gridlocked 13-mile stretch between Bridgewater and Mountainside. Dee likened the more extensive Pulaski project to the Route 22 project "on steroids."

The historic but decrepit 81-year-old Pulaski Skyway will be closed to northbound traffic toward New York in the

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