



## **TOWNSENDS INLET BRIDGE IS CLOSED FOR REPAIRS:**

The Cape May County Engineer's Office has informed Sea Isle City and Avalon that the Townsends Inlet Bridge (connecting Sea Isle and Avalon) has been closed to traffic for repairs that must be made based on the findings of an underwater inspection performed on April 3, 2017. The Townsends Inlet Bridge is operated and maintained by the County of Cape May.

The County has contracted with the firm of South State, Inc. to perform the necessary repairs to allow the bridge to be opened to traffic as quickly as possible. The objective is to complete the repair work and open the bridge to traffic prior to the Memorial Day weekend. As we receive more information on the timing of the work, we will issue updates on our municipal website.

While we understand the inconvenience this causes to many people, we appreciate that the County is placing safety above all else. As part of federal requirements, the Townsend's Inlet Bridge undergoes a re-evaluation survey of the entire structure every two years; which also involves an underwater inspection of the bridge. Following up on prior inspections, the plan had been to perform a bridge maintenance project in the 2017-2018 winter season. The April 3 inspection was being conducted as part of the preparation of design for the winter project; however, it revealed more recent deterioration that must be addressed immediately.

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