

Lack of traffic allows MaineDOT to make progress on road repairs



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PORTLAND, Maine —

The drop in traffic due to the state's coronavirus state at home order has allowed the Maine Department of Transportation to make progress on road projects.

They are of I-295 that starts at Tukey's bridge and extends to the Fore River will have some lane closures as crews repair bridge joints.

The lack of traffic is allowing crews to work during the day instead of overnight.

"That lets us work through this stuff a little bit quicker, because day work does go faster than night work because of visibility, and it will hopefully save taxpayers some money in the long run," MaineDOT spokesman Paul Merrill said.

The drop in traffic is having a negative effect on the department's budget. MaineDOT is forecasting a 40% reduction in revenue over the next six months.

The department is also anticipating losing \$125 million in gas tax revenue over the next year and a half.

The gas tax funds most road projects in the state.