



Thursday, May 7, 2020 18:55

DOT construction ahead of schedule

Written by **John Wagoner** | [Click here to view online.](#)



BANGOR – The stay-at-home order means there are less cars on state highways, which makes construction work easier for Maine Department of Transportation.

A spokesperson for Maine DOT said compared to the same time frame in 2019, traffic on state highways dropped around 53 percent in the last few weeks of March.

The numbers have started to increase with the governor's phased reopening of the state economy, but the number of cars on the road is still down 40 percent for late April and early May.

Decreased traffic has allowed for construction on a number of bridges on Interstate 95 and Route 1A in the Hampden area to move ahead of schedule, allowing crews to work during the day instead of overnight.

Traffic volume will continue to be monitored to ensure the crews safety and flow of cars through those areas.

“We’re talking about how long we’re going to be able to do this without significant traffic impacts, first of June is the point where we’re thinking we’re going to wrap it up, or if we still see traffic numbers down we can continue,” DOT spokesman Paul Merrill said. “Just like everyone else we’re taking it day by day, week by week.”

Merrill said Thursday there are concerns from the dot about future construction projects with a projected loss in gas tax revenue due to COVID-19.

-
- Apparently the DOT is not concerned with the future I-395/Route 9 connector as they have said recently that they intend to go forward with that \$100 million project – no matter what the fiscal environment looks like.