

N.C. 12 Update 10/10/2011

The N.C. Department of Transportation will reopen N.C. 12 today (Monday, Oct. 10) at 5 p.m., seven weeks after Hurricane Irene caused several breaches and ripped up asphalt along the highway between Oregon Inlet and Rodanthe at the end of August. Crews worked around the clock to build a temporary bridge and repair the highway.

"Investing in roads and bridges creates jobs, not just in the construction work, but in moving goods and services to market," Gov. Perdue said. "That's especially true of NC 12, which provides an economic lifeline throughout the Outer Banks. This project was truly a team effort, and we are pleased that the road will finally be open to traffic again."

Crews have filled in three breaches with sand and pieced together a temporary bridge to cover the largest breach, which was located six miles south of Oregon Inlet. The bridge is a two-lane Mabey Universal Bridge manufactured with a modular design that allows it to be assembled quickly. Although the bridge is a temporary solution, its strength and durability will allow it to remain in place as long as necessary to keep traffic flowing.

The posted speed limit along the 0.5-mile section where the bridge is located is set at 25 miles per hour, because of the curvature of the roadway as it approaches the bridge and the narrowness of the bridge.

Gov. Bev Perdue directed NCDOT to "get the road open as soon as possible since the tourism revenue from the Outer Banks is critical to the economic engine of North Carolina."

Once the road reopens, crews still have some ongoing work that may require lane closures.

That work includes:

- Paving the final layer of asphalt at the bridge approaches and the bridge deck;
- Placing the final pavement markings;
- Removing some remaining old asphalt;
- Final grading and grass seeding of the shoulders; and
- General clean-up and demobilization of equipment.

NCDOT will work closely with all partners in developing a long-term plan as soon as possible and submit it to the governor.