

NJDOT BABM 2023 Route 71 Over Shark River Road Diet



OVERVIEW OF INNOVATION

The 2023 NJDOT Build a Better Mousetrap Award (BABM) recognized Gerald Oliveto for the Route 71 over Shark River Road Diet. The road diet project preserved a historic drawbridge by redistributing and balancing traffic load.

When the Route 71 Drawbridge over Shark River between Belmar and Avon-by-the-sea suffered a mechanical failure, engineers looked for a solution that could maximize safety while keeping it open. The road diet reduce traffic from three lanes to two, adjusted signal times, enhanced highway signage, and installed bike lanes to allow for multi-modal transportation. By redistributing and balancing traffic load, the drawbridge was preserved without spending the estimated \$3.6 million in repairs.

In addition to the NJDOT BABM Award, this project also received the national Bold Steps Award from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).



Source: NJDOT

BENEFITS

The Route 71 over Shark River Road Diet improved traffic flow, increased safety, and reduced congestion. Additionally, it saved over \$3 million when compared with alternative options.

FIND OUT MORE . . .

- Build a Better Mousetrap Competition <https://www.njdottechtransfer.net/sha-re-your-ideas/build-better-mousetrap/>
- BABM 2023 Award Winner Video: [2023 BABM Competition Winner: Route 71 Over Shark River Road Diet Project](#)

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