

Storm Update 11/08/2012

Work crews spent Thursday surveying impacts of the Nor'easter on parts of N.C. 12 that were already damaged by Hurricane Sandy. Although the Nor'easter had moved north of the N.C. coast, rough seas were continuing to affect the Outer Banks, especially during high tide.

In Kitty Hawk, crews continued moving and placing sand along the ocean side of the highway to rebuild the dune. Clearing of broken pavement caused by both storms is also under way.

On Pea Island, the Nor'easter did not slow repair work on the Bonner Bridge deck's tension cables, but did wash sand and water onto N.C. 12 at the temporary bridge location. As the water recedes, crews will continue rebuilding the highway approaching the bridge.

The Mirlo Beach area of N.C. 12 also experienced flooding and overwash. Crews from Barnhill Contracting Co. working in the area had to move their equipment for safety reasons. Those crews are now in Avon to stockpile sand to be loaded onto trucks and hauled to the S-curves for dune reconstruction as conditions improve.

NCDOT plans to open N.C. 12 to four-wheel drive traffic by noon on Saturday, Nov. 10, weather permitting. Initially, vehicles will have only daytime access to one lane of the highway and Bonner Bridge, with signals alternating southbound and northbound travel. In some places, motorists will need to drive over sand.

The four-wheel drive route will be closed from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. for the first few days to ensure motorist safety during overnight hours. When both lanes of the temporary bridge are opened, NCDOT will allow four-wheel-drive traffic 24 hours per day.