

CONSTRUCTION NOTICE

WHAT: Controlled Blasting
WHERE: Palisades Portal Construction Site
WHEN: Weekdays, August 19 – December 2025
Blasting will occur during brief periods between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM

Beginning on August 19, Schiavone Lane Dragados JV (SLDJV) will initiate controlled blasting to remove rock for the future tunnel entrance located between Tonnelle Avenue and Paterson Plank Road.

What Is Blasting and Why Is It Needed?

Blasting is a controlled use of explosives to break rock. It is carefully engineered, closely monitored, and conducted by licensed professionals under strict safety regulations. The blasting work will allow crews to excavate deep rock layers efficiently so that the tunnel construction can proceed.

Each blast will be brief, lasting less than one second, with up to 3 to 4 blasts anticipated per day.

What Work Is Happening On-Site?

Key preparatory activities underway include:

- Drilling 12-foot-deep holes for placing charges
- Installing safety signage and traffic control measures
- Setting up vibration and noise monitoring systems

Blasting Schedule

- Start Date: August 19, 2025
- Hours: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM (weather permitting).
- Frequency: 3 to 4 blasting events are anticipated to occur per day. The actual schedule will be predicated on ensuring safety and mitigating community impacts.
- Duration: Blasting operations are scheduled to occur daily for up to 5 months. SLDJV will work to reduce the schedule as much as possible. There may be days or periods in which blasting may not occur due to weather conditions or other impacts outside the control of SLDJV.

Each blast will be brief, lasting less than 1 second.

What to Expect During a Blast

- NJ State Police troopers will be on site for traffic control on Tonnelle Ave (Route 1 & 9).
- Police and flaggers will be stationed at Paterson Plank Road for traffic and pedestrian control.
- Once blasting operations are imminent, a temporary stoppage of pedestrians and traffic will occur with a duration of less than five minutes.

The temporary stoppages will be evaluated as the blasting operations continue. Traffic and pedestrian stoppages may be reduced if monitoring of early blasting work determines that would be safe for drivers, pedestrians, and workers. The evaluation and determination will be made while maintaining complete safety of the public.



- In the event of an emergency, all emergency personnel and vehicles will be given immediate right of way. Blasting operations will be halted as necessary to ensure emergency access and public safety. SLDJV will remain in constant communication with local emergency services to coordinate any required response.
- Air whistles will be utilized for blasting operations. Three separate air whistles will be used for blasting operations.

Whistle 1: “5-minute warning to blast” (2)

Two long whistles will be sounded as a warning to blast. At this time, troopers and SLDJV personnel will already be deployed to control pedestrian and vehicular traffic. All workers will be removed from the blast zone area.

Whistle 2: “Ready to blast” (1)

One long whistle will be sounded. Once all the pedestrian and vehicular traffic is stopped, SLDJV will confirm the site is safe to blast. At this time, the blast shot will be ignited.

Whistle 3: “All Clear” (2)

Two very short whistles will be sounded for the “all clear”. Once the whistles are complete, SLDJV will communicate to all personnel that the area is safe and return to work. This will allow Tonelle Avenue and Paterson Plank Road traffic to move and the pedestrians to move as well.

Please be advised that the blasting warning signal will be loud, as required by OSHA regulations and for critical safety reasons. The signal must be audible to all personnel and surrounding areas to ensure proper awareness before each blast.

Safety Measures

- Blasting mats, a composite of cut and recycled tires strapped together (left photo below) are placed over the rock prior to blasting (right photo below). Their construction and weight are used to control potential fly rock and debris.



Blasting mats play a vital role in protecting both workers and the surrounding community by containing blasting activity, preventing debris from leaving the blast zone, and helping to reduce noise and dust.

- Traffic control personnel and signage will be present during each blast.
- A full safety perimeter will be enforced around the blast zone.
- In the event of an emergency, all emergency personnel and vehicles will be given immediate right of way.

Community Impacts

Noise and vibration will be brief and limited to the blasting time window.

- No long-term traffic disruptions are expected. Vehicles and pedestrians will be briefly paused before and after each blast.
- Real-time monitoring of vibration and noise will ensure compliance with allowable limits. Monitors are located at contract-specified points to measure impacts to structures and utilities. The monitors will be located as needed to monitor the effects of the blasting operations as they are conducted at the different locations within the blasting zone.

Questions or Concerns?

24/7 Hotline: 1-800-444-1050

Email: PalisadesTunnel@gatewayprogram.org

General Project Overview – The Palisades Tunnel Project will use tunnel boring machines (TBMs) to excavate two parallel tunnels—measuring approximately 5,100 feet long with an inside diameter of 25 feet—through the rock formations of the Palisades. The project also involves building the new Hudson County Shaft, which will be used to remove the TBMs when digging is complete. The project contractor is Schiavone Dragados Lane Joint Venture (SLDJV).

www.gatewayprogram.org

