

Two LBI beach projects completed

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The Ocean County Road Department recently completed two beach fill projects on Long Beach Island.

Road crews have been working with Ship Bottom and Surf City to rebuild beaches. The county crews did the sand moving; the municipalities paid for the sand.

The freeholders allocated 1.5 million this year for beach replenishment.

"This is a great example of the county working hand-in-hand with our municipalities," said Freeholder James Lacey, liaison to the department. "In both cases, the township purchased the sand and we supplied the workers and equipment to replenish the beaches."

In Surf City, approximately 1,200 truckloads of sand were spread on the beach.

"In some areas, the surf was almost up to the homes," Lacey said.

Over the past three weeks, bulldozers spread approximately 276,000 cubic yards of fresh sand and rebuilt dunes along the beach.

"Protecting our beaches doesn't just benefit nearby homeowners," Lacey said. "Our beaches are a big reason why Ocean County is such a popular vacation destination.

"Tourism contributes more than \$3 billion to our economy every year," Lacey added.

In Ship Bottom, the department placed about 150 cubic yards on the beach near the end of 15th Street.

"Our beaches are an important asset," Lacey said. "They need to be protected."

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