



I-81 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

I-81 Committee Meeting

| Dave Covington, PE

December 13, 2024

Program Benefits – Unlocking I-81



Enhanced Safety

This program will implement a series of improvements such as lane and shoulder widening to reduce the rate and frequency of crashes along the corridor.



Reduced Congestion

The program will reduce congestion and improve reliability by adding capacity in targeted areas of the corridor and improve speed of incident clearance to help limit travel delays.



Economic Development

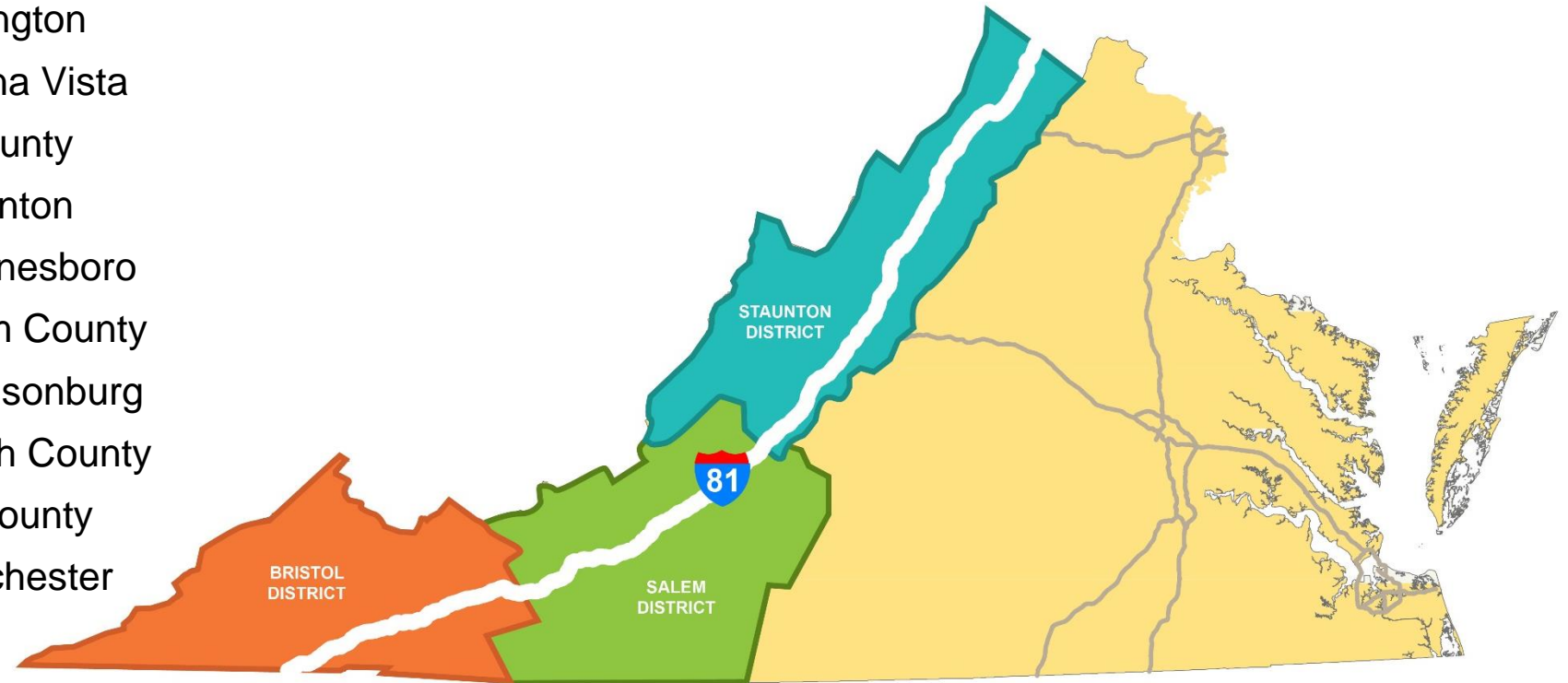
I-81 is the main corridor and key economic artery of western Virginia. These improvements will ensure that goods and services critical to our economy move safely and efficiently through and within the region.

Planned Improvements

The **325-mile long corridor** spans three VDOT districts: **Bristol, Salem, and Staunton.**

Localities along the corridor include:









City of Bristol	City of Lexington
Washington County	City of Buena Vista
Smyth County	Augusta County
Wythe County	City of Staunton
Pulaski County	City of Waynesboro
City of Radford	Rockingham County
Montgomery County	City of Harrisonburg
City of Salem	Shenandoah County
Roanoke County	Frederick County
City of Roanoke	City of Winchester
Botetourt County	
Rockbridge County	



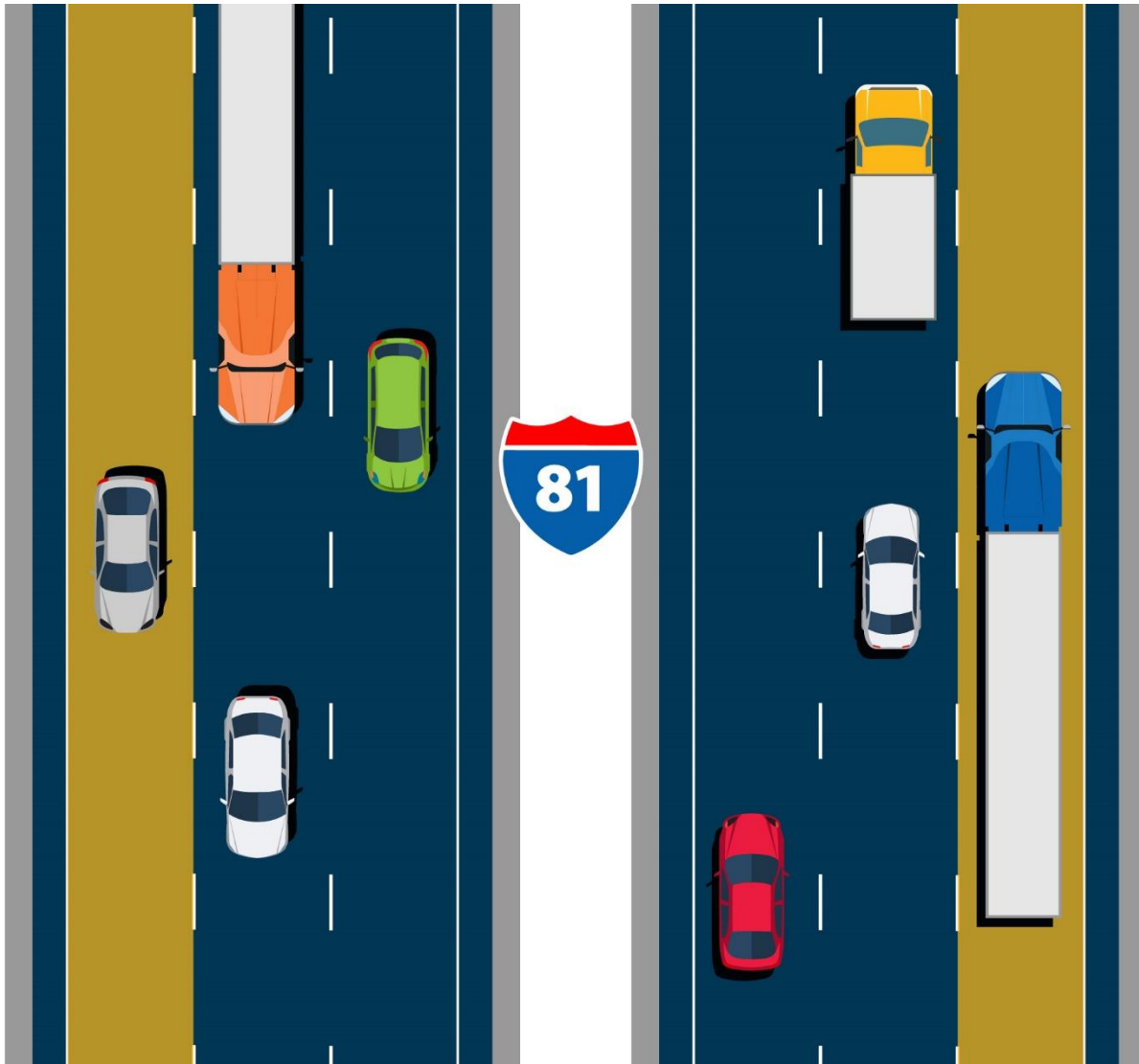
Takeaway Scorecard

Operational Projects

Capital Projects

Projects	Status	Anticipated Completion
Improved Incident Clearance 	Complete	N/A
Safety Service Patrol Expansion 	Complete	N/A
Additional Cameras (51) 	Complete	N/A
Additional Digital Message Signs (30) 	Complete	N/A
Arterial and Signal Upgrades 	Underway	June 2025
Completed Projects (35) 	Complete	N/A
Active Construction Projects (16) 	Underway	March 2031
Remaining capital projects (14) 	Upcoming Projects	All complete by 2035

Types of Projects



Capital Improvement Projects

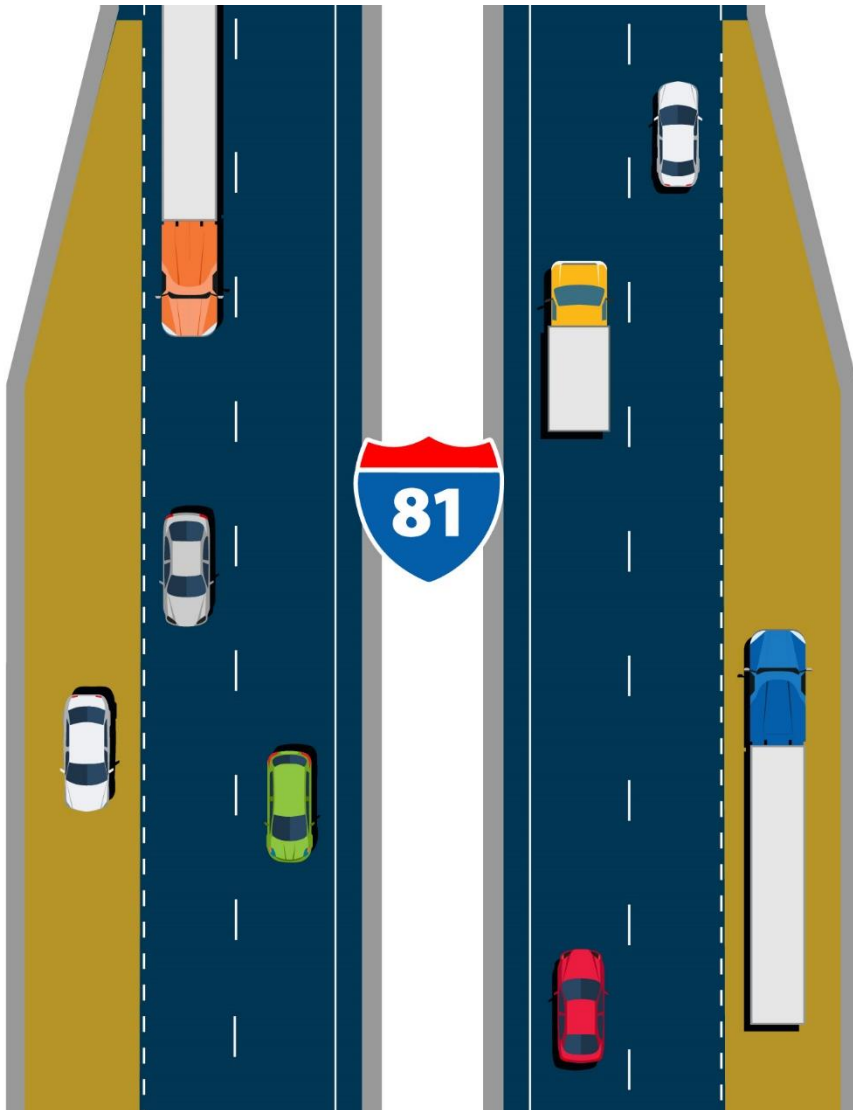
Widening

+1

12 Improvements

- 6 Projects Under Construction – Completion in 2031.
- 6 Future Projects – Completion by 2035 or earlier

Types of Projects



Capital Improvement Projects

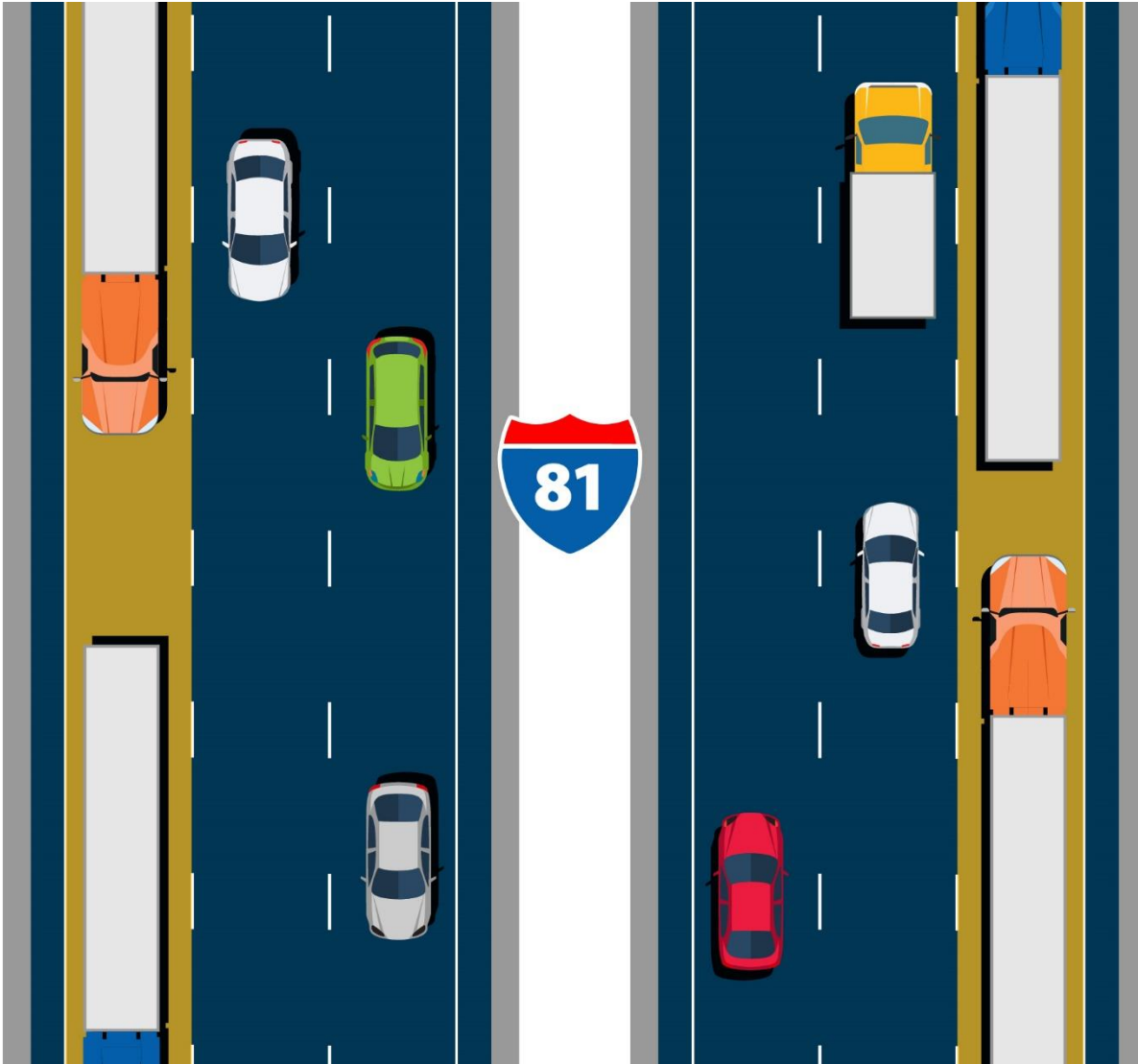
Acceleration & Deceleration Extension



36 Improvements

- 25 Projects Complete
- 3 Projects Under Construction
- 8 Future Projects – Completion by 2033

Types of Projects



Capital Improvement Projects

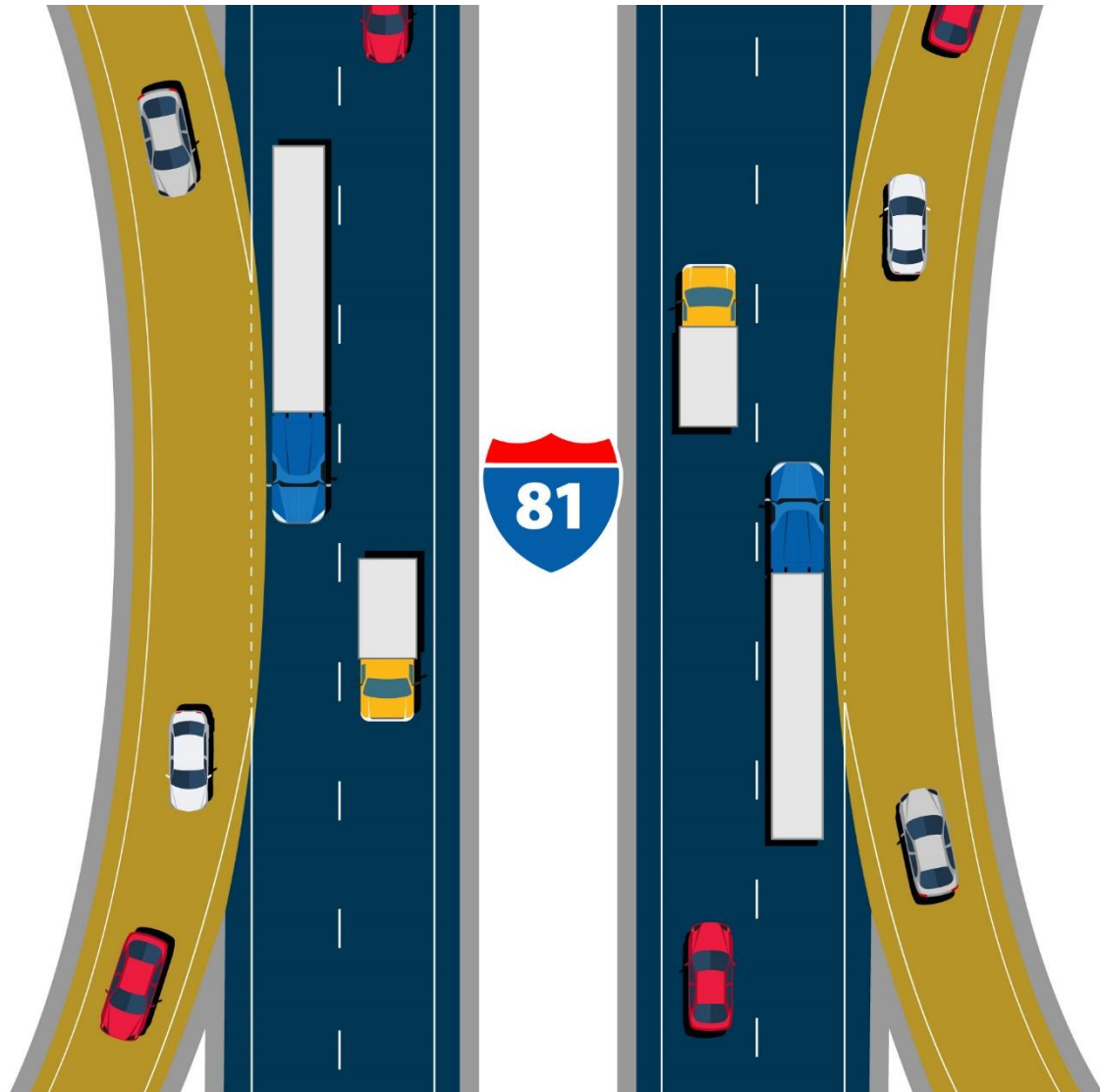
Truck Climbing Lanes



5 Improvements

- 1 Complete
- 4 Projects Under Construction – 2 Complete in 2025, 2 Complete by 2028

Types of Projects



Capital Improvement Projects

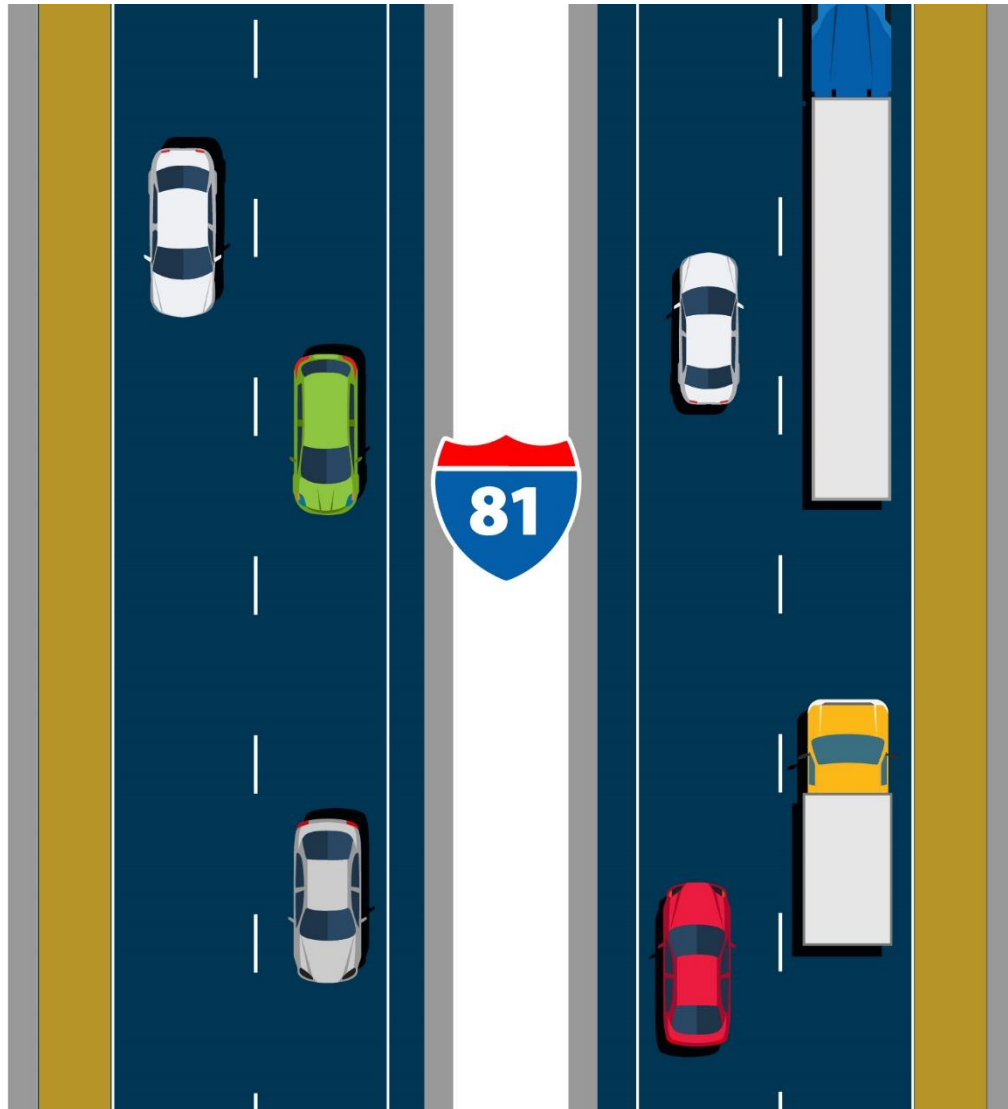
Auxiliary Lane



4 Improvements

- 1 Project Complete
- 3 Under Construction

Types of Projects



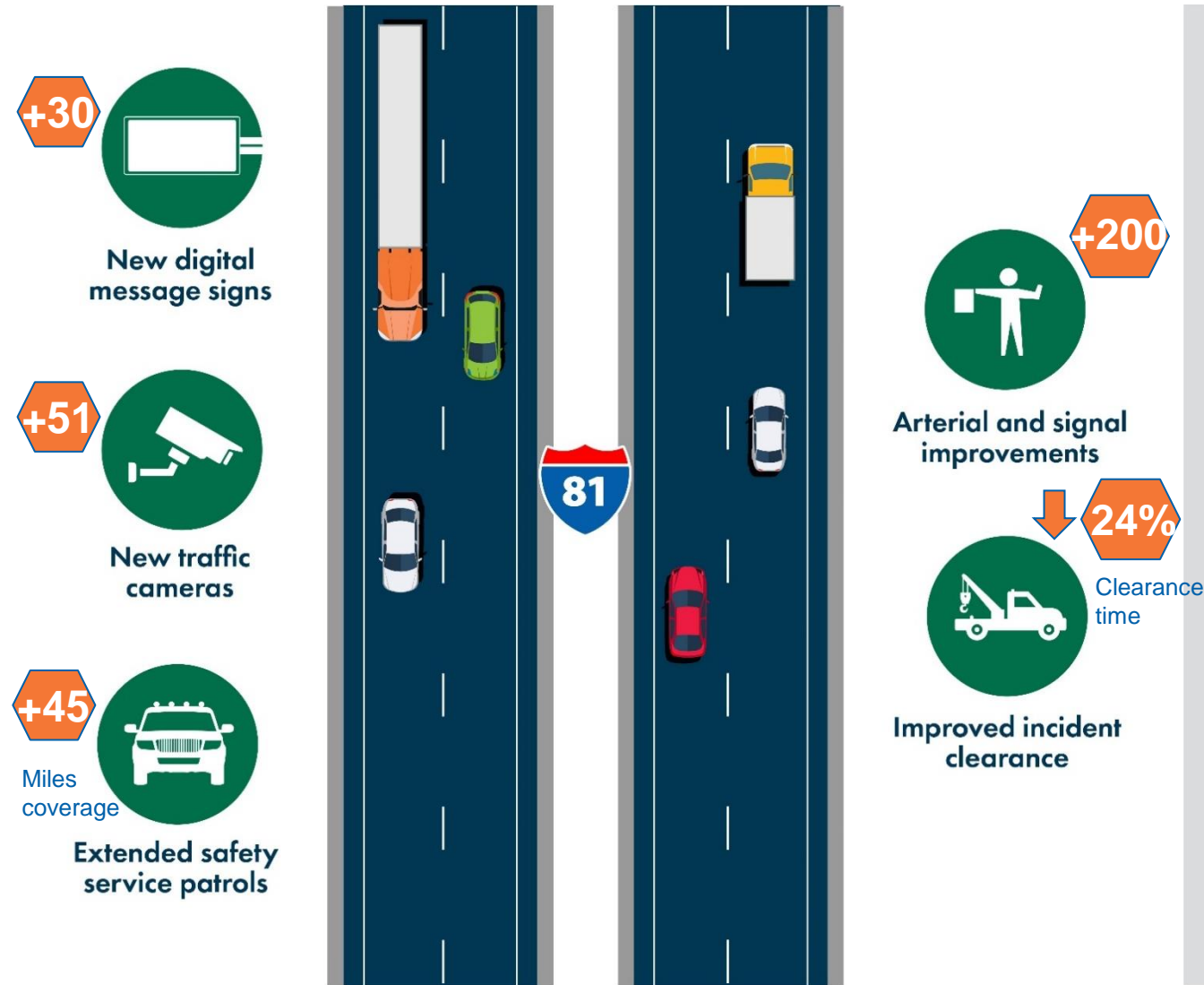
Capital Improvement Projects

+S Shoulder Widening
Curve Improvements ↗

8 Total Improvements

- All Complete
- Note – 1 shoulder widening project converted to full lane widening project (Exit 205 to Exit 200 SB)

Types of Projects



Operational Improvement Projects

Operational Improvements

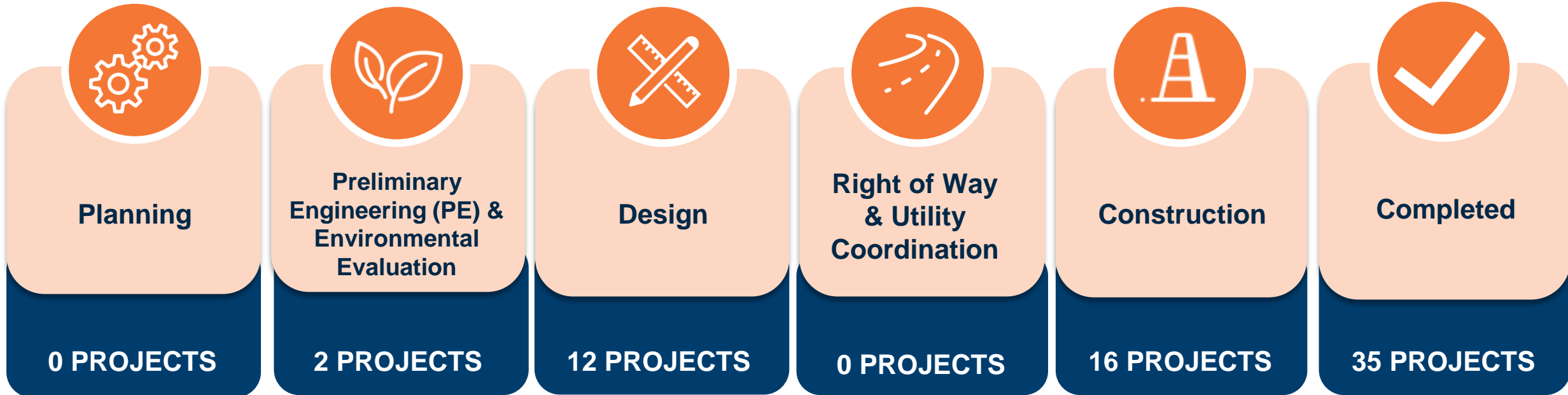
5 Improvement Types

- 42 VDOT signal improvements complete
- 46 VDOT signal improvements under construction (complete 2025)
- 55 Locality signal improvements complete
- 57 Locality signal improvements under construction (complete 2025)
- 3 Geometric Improvements complete

Project Development Process (Capital Projects)

Project Status Today (65 Projects)

* Note – Due to the addition of the southbound Exit 137 to Exit 128 project in Salem District, there are now 65 Capital Improvement Projects within the Program.



Project Status October 2023 (64 Projects)



Bristol District Project Status (Capital Projects)

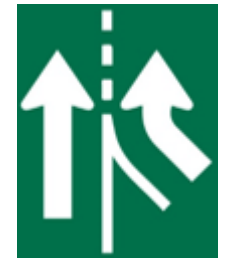
Completed Projects:

- Exit 26 SB Acceleration Lane Extension (Emory)
- Exit 26 SB Deceleration Lane Extension (Emory)
- Exit 67 Deceleration Lane Extension (South of Wytheville)
- Exit 19 Deceleration Lane Extension (Abingdon)
- Exit 84 SB Deceleration Lane Extension (North of Fort Chiswell)
- Bundle project (Exit 39 NB Decel, Exit 47 SB Accel, Exit 39 SB Decel, Exit 43 SB Accel)
- Exit 39 SB Acceleration Lane Extension (Seven Mile Ford)
- Exit 47 NB Acceleration Lane Extension, single phase DB (Marion)
- Exit 54 SB Auxiliary Lane - (South of Rural Retreat)
- Exit 17 SB Acceleration Lane Extension (Abingdon)
- MM 39.5 to MM 40.8 NB Truck Climbing Lane (Chilhowie)
- Four curve improvements (chevron signs in Wytheville and Abingdon)

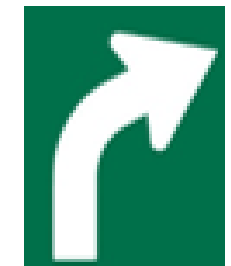
+12



+1



+4



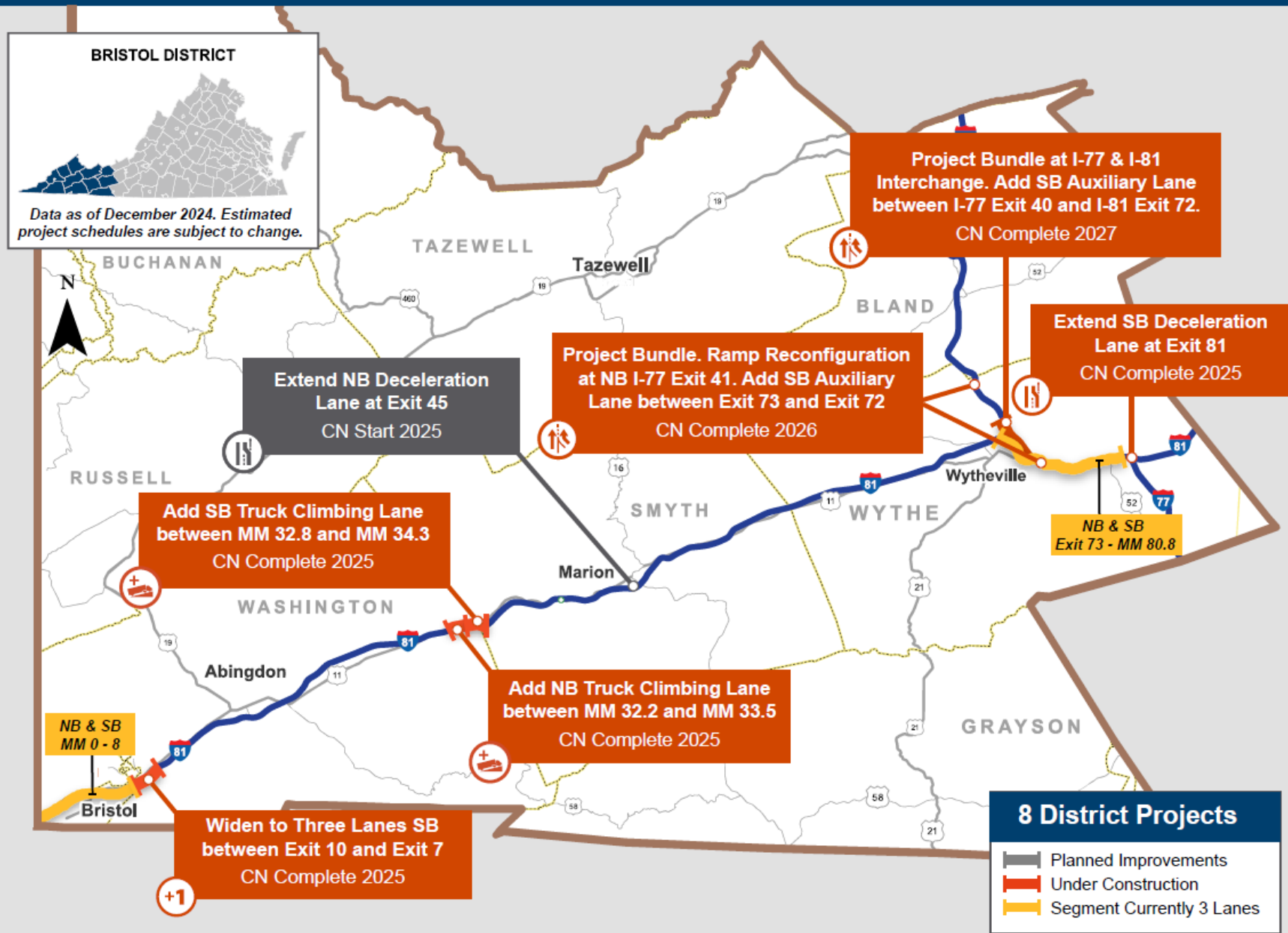
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Bristol District Project Status (Capital Projects)

Projects Under Construction:

- **MM 32.2 to MM 33.5 NB Truck Climbing Lane (Chilhowie) – Completion June 2025**
- **MM 34 to MM 33 SB Truck Climbing Lane (Washington County) – Completion June 2025**
- **Exit 81 SB Extend Deceleration Lane (Wythe County) – Completion November 2025**
- **Exit 10 to Exit 7 SB Widening (Bristol) – Completion November 2025**
- **Auxiliary Lane SB Exit 73 to Exit 72 – Completion November 2026**
- **I-77 NB Extend Deceleration Lane (Wytheville) – Completion November 2026**
- **Exit 72 NB Extend Deceleration Lane (Wytheville) – Completion November 2027**
- **Auxiliary Lane I-77 Exit 40 to I-81 Exit 72 (Wytheville) – Completion November 2027**



Salem District Project Status (Capital Projects)

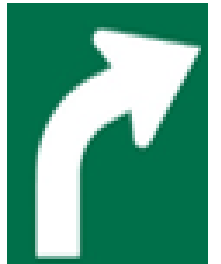
Completed Projects:

- Exit 89 NB Acceleration Lane Extension (Pulaski)
- Troutville Rest Area SB Entrance and Exit Extension (2 projects) - Troutville
- Three curve improvements (chevron signs south of Draper and south of Natural Bridge)

+3

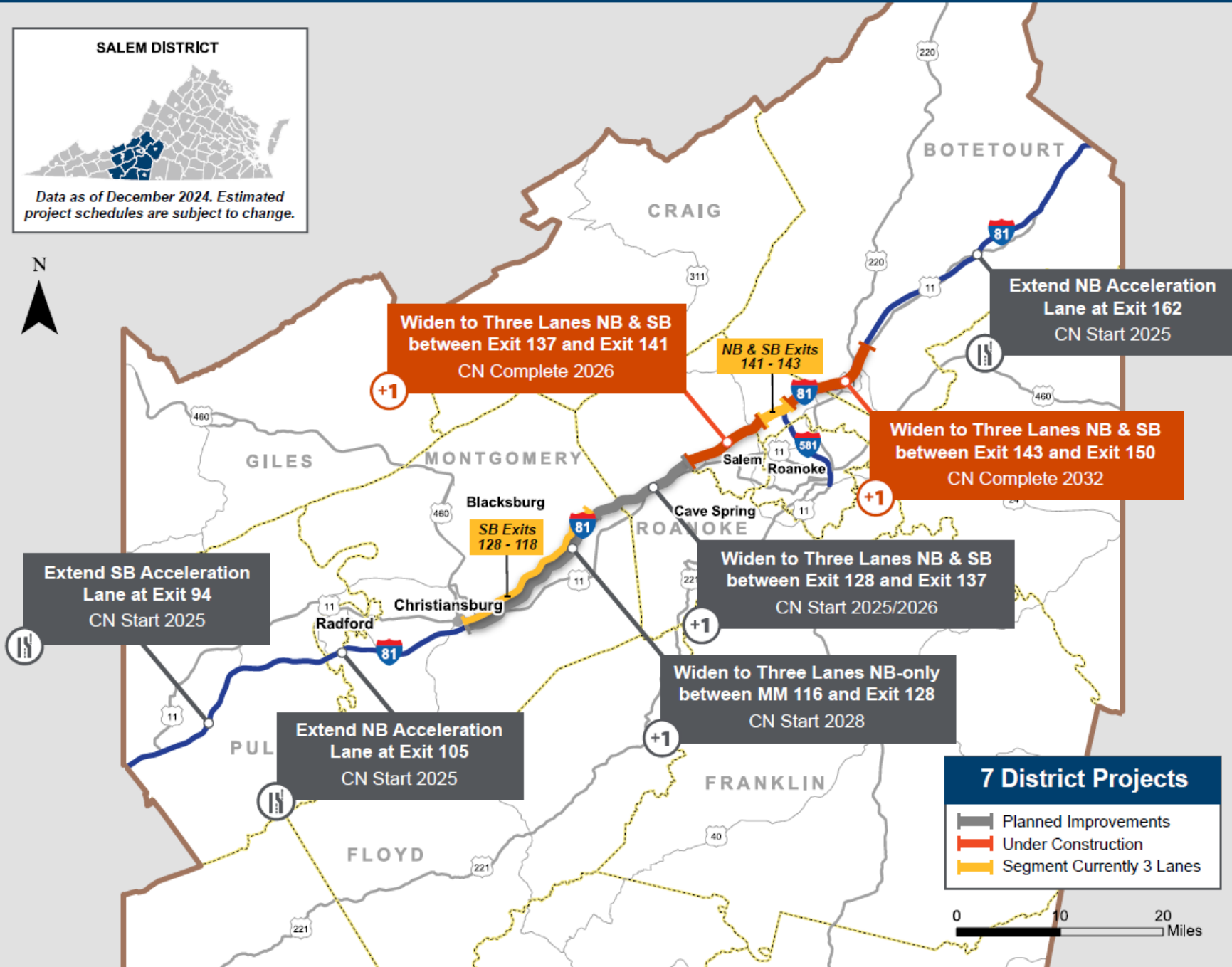


+3



Projects Under Construction:

- Exit 137 to Exit 141 Widening NB and SB (Design-Build, 2 projects bundled) – Salem
 - Completion January 2026
- Exit 143 to Exit 150 Widening NB and SB (Design-Build) – Roanoke to Troutville
 - Completion March 2031



Staunton District Project Status (Capital Projects)

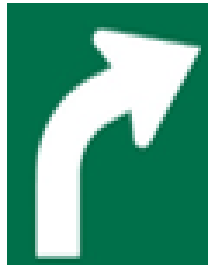
Completed Projects:

- Exit 302 NB Accel, Exit 302 SB Decel, Exit 283 SB Accel,
- Exit 269 NB Decel, Exit 279 SB Accel
- Exit 291 NB Accel, Exit 296 SB Accel, Exit 304 NB Accel
- Exit 205 SB Accel, Exit 205 NB Accel (Raphine)
- One curve improvement (chevron signs at Mount Jackson)

+10

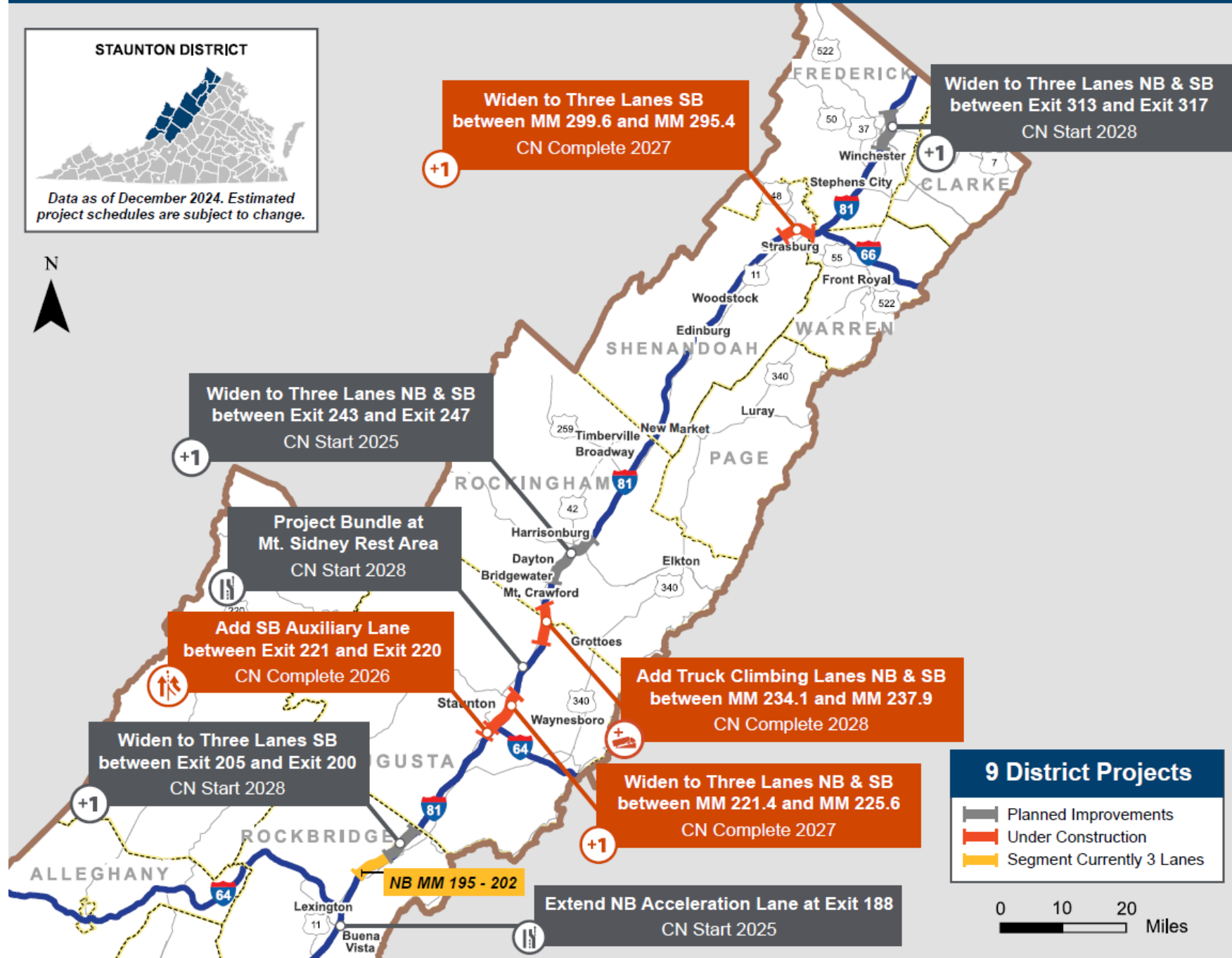
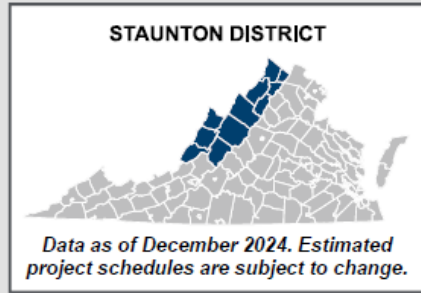


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Projects Under Construction:

- Exit 221 to Exit 220 SB Auxiliary Lane – Completion October 2025
- Exit 221 to Exit 225 NB and SB Widening – Completion June 2027
- MM 299 to MM 296 SB Widening – Completion September 2027
- Weyers Cave Truck Climbing Lanes (NB & SB, 2 Projects) – Complete 2028



Upcoming Capital Projects (Corridor-wide)

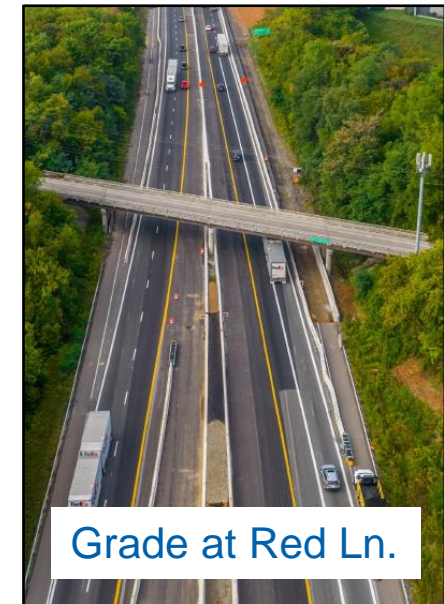
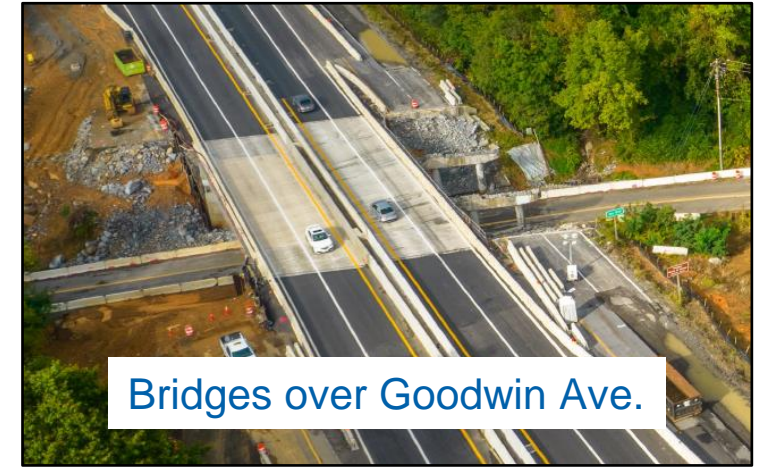
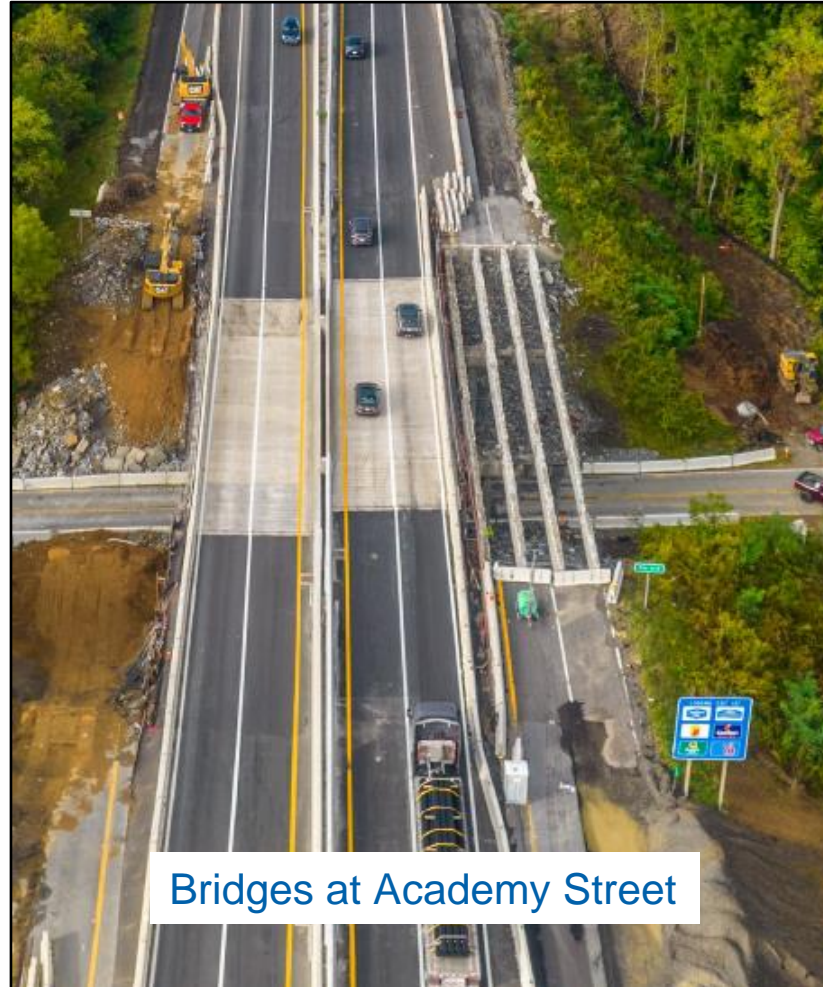
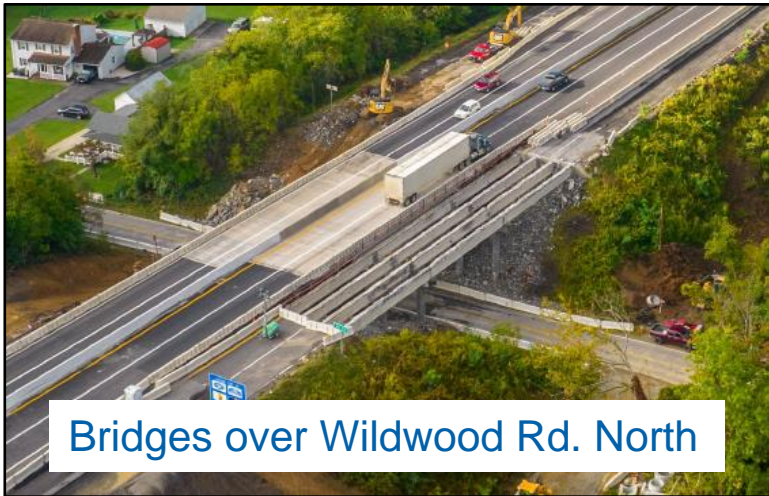
Bristol District	Project Description	Anticipated Construction Start
	Exit 45 NB Deceleration Lane Extension (Marion)	2025

Salem District	Project Description	Anticipated Construction Start
	Exit 94 SB Acceleration Lane, Exit 105 NB Acceleration Lane, Exit 162 NB Acceleration Lane	2025
	Exit 128 to Exit 137 Widening NB and SB (Ironto to Salem) – 2 Projects	2025/2026
	MM 116 to Exit 128 Widening NB Only (Christiansburg to Ironto)	2028

Staunton District	Project Description	Anticipated Construction Start
	MM 242 to MM 248 NB and SB Widening (Harrisonburg)	2025
	Exit 313 to Exit 317 NB and SB Widening – Construction 2028 (Winchester)	2028
	Mount Sidney Rest Area (SB Deceleration Lane, SB Acceleration Lane, NB Acceleration Lane)	2028
	Exit 205 to Exit 200 SB Widening (Raphine to Fairfield)	2028
	Exit 188 NB Acceleration Lane	2025

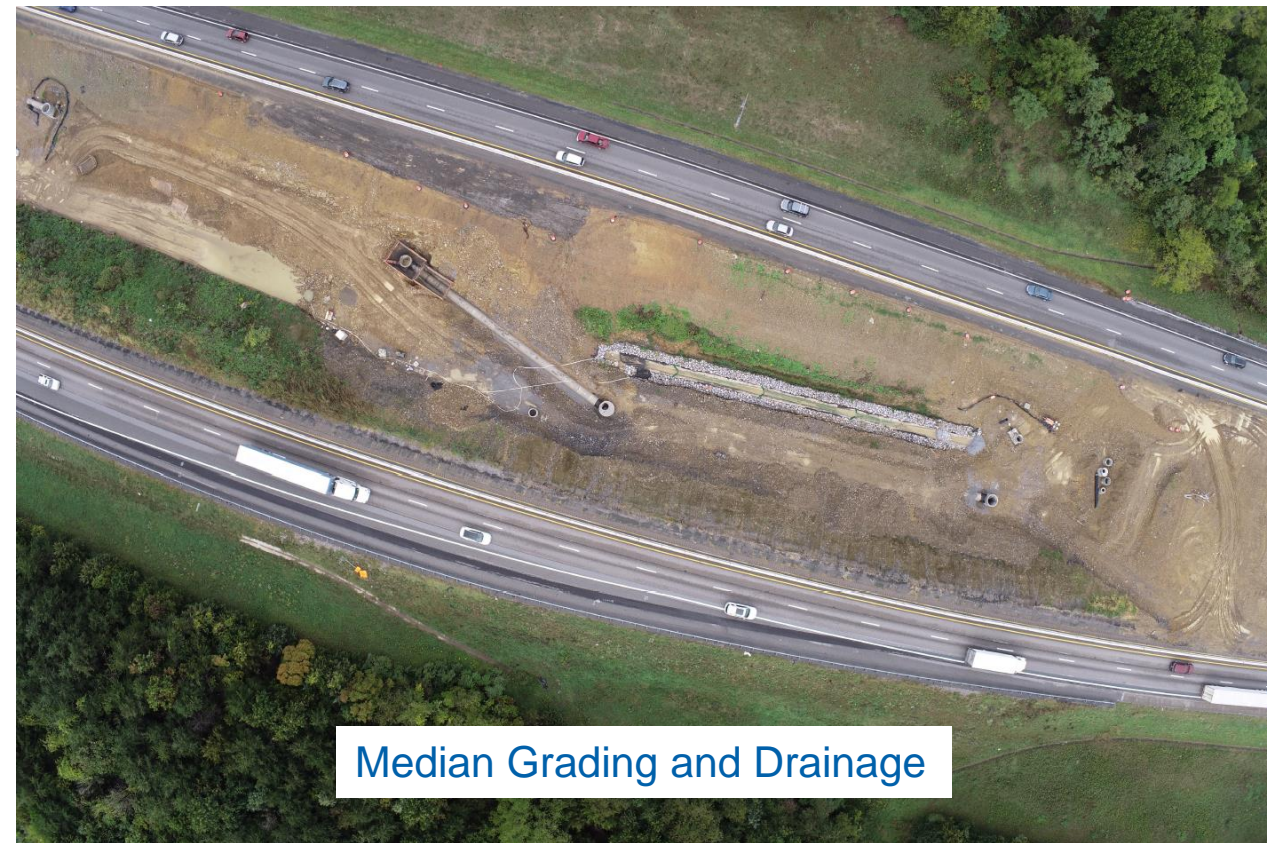
Salem Exit 137 to Exit 141 Project Progress

Illustrative of major widening project



Staunton Exit 221 to Exit 225 Project Progress

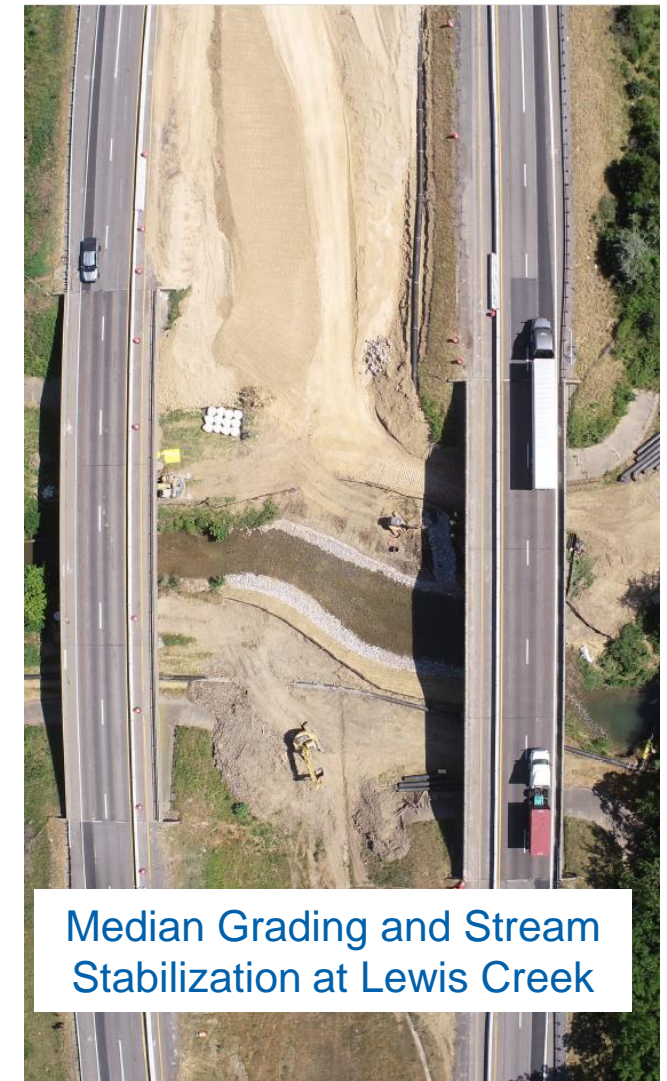
Illustrative of major widening project



Median Grading and Drainage



Median Grading



Median Grading and Stream Stabilization at Lewis Creek

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IMPROVE 81
Fall 2024
81 INSIDER

Bridge replacements in the exit 143-150 project include both spans over Route 220

Contract Awarded for Major Widening Project

One of the largest and most complex projects in the I-81 Corridor Improvement Program (CIP) has taken a giant leap forward. In mid-July the Commonwealth Transportation Board awarded a \$362 million design-build contract to Branch Civil Inc. of Roanoke for the widening of I-81 in Roanoke and Botetourt counties.

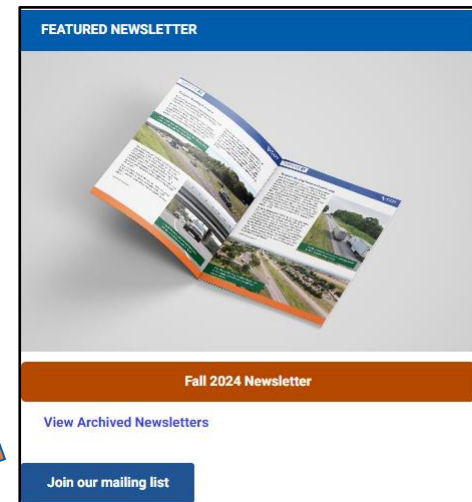
The seven-mile project adds a third northbound and southbound lane between exit 143 (I-581 interchange) and exit 150 (Route 220). It also replaces eight bridges on the interstate and installs more than 8,500 feet of sound barrier along the northbound lanes.

"The Branch team is developing the final design and working to acquire the necessary environmental permits," explains Craig Moore, Assistant Salem District Location & Design Engineer. "VDOT is excited to work with them to finish design work and move toward construction."

Right of way and utility-relocation work is scheduled to begin in fall 2024 and continue through the end of 2025. Preliminary construction activities such as tree-clearing and installation of erosion and sediment controls are expected to start in early 2025.

continued on page 2

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