

# IMPROVE **81**

# I-81 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

I-81 Committee Meeting

Dave Covington, PE – VDOT I-81 Program Delivery Director

April 28, 2021

# Program Benefits



## 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

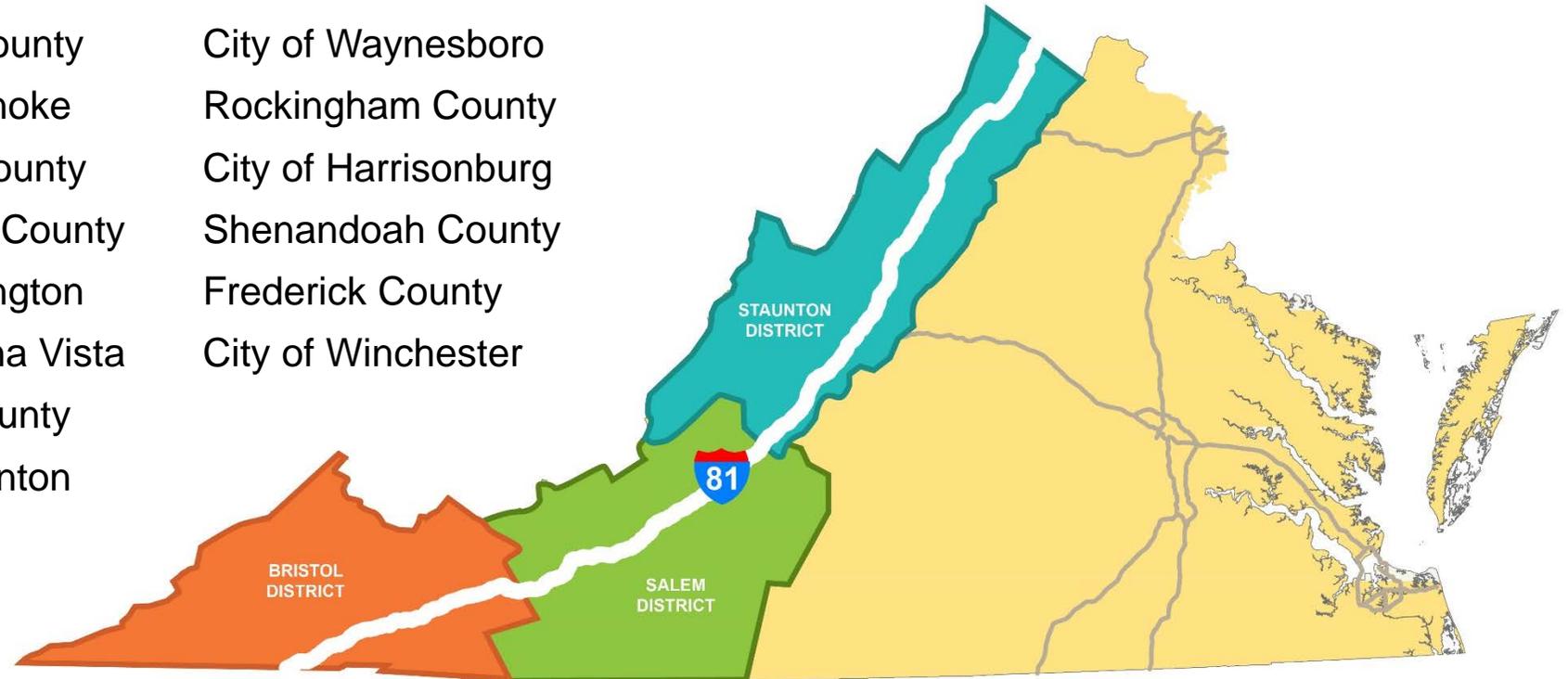
I-81 is the main corridor and key economic artery of western Virginia. These improvements will ensure that goods and services critical to our economy move safely and efficiently through and within the region.

# Planned Improvements

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

## Localities along the corridor include:

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



# Takeaway Scorecard

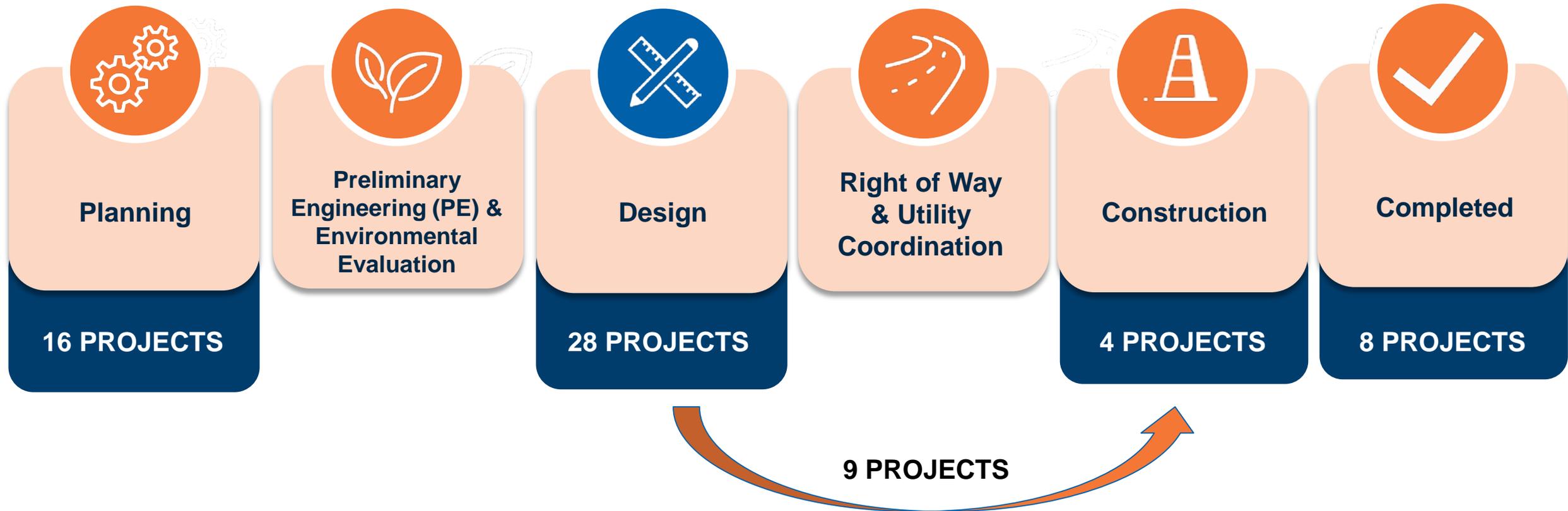
Activity	Status	Anticipated Completion
Curve improvements (8)	✓ Complete	Fall 2019
Initial accel/decel lane extensions (8)	✓ Complete	Fall 2020
Safety Service Patrol Expansion	✓ Complete	Summer 2019
Additional Cameras (51)	✓ Complete	Spring 2020
Additional Digital Message Signs	🚧 Underway	Fall 2021
Arterial Upgrades	🚧 Underway	Varies by project
Active Construction Projects (4)	🚧 Underway	Varies by project
Remaining capital projects (28)	🚧 Underway	Varies by project

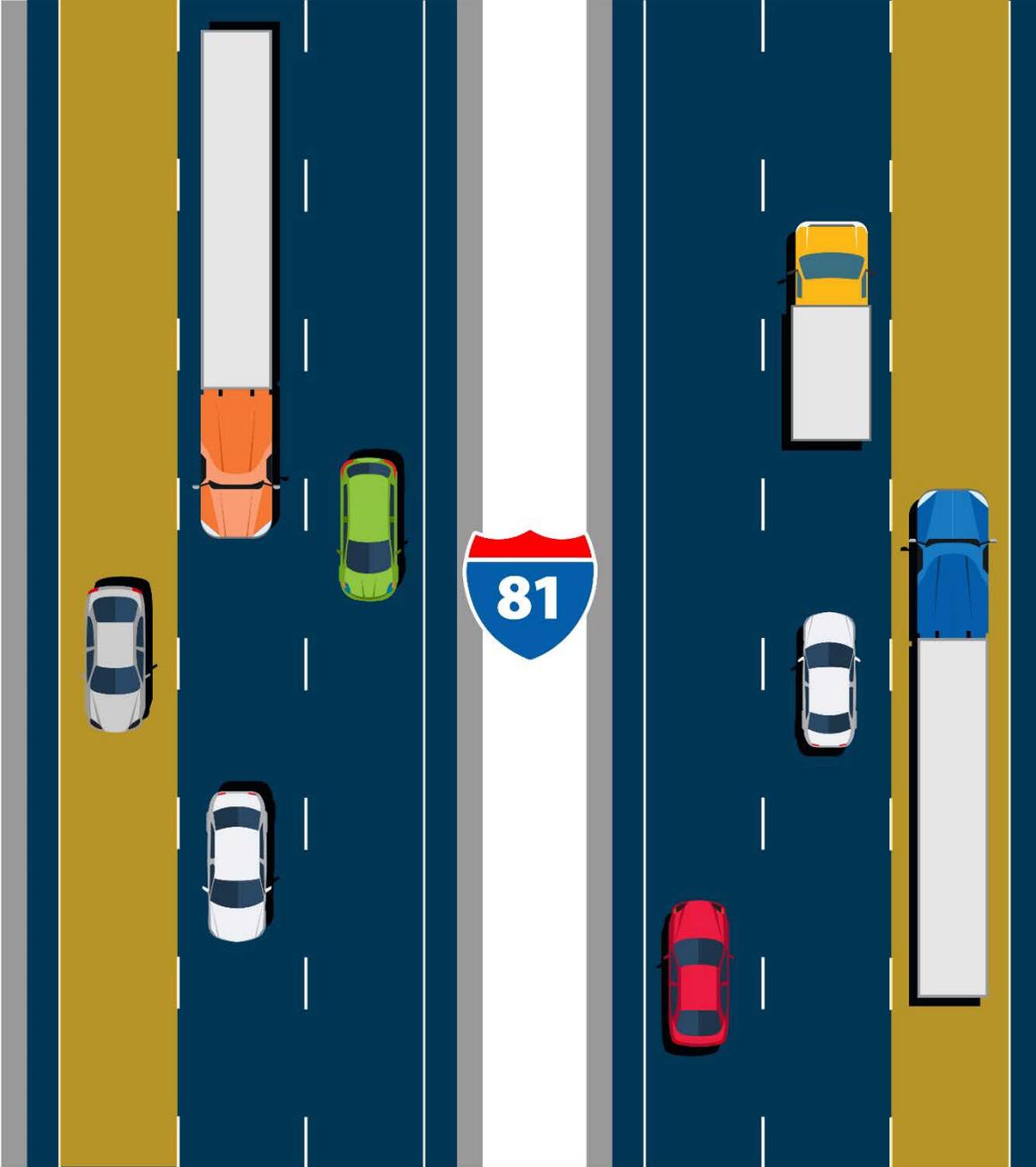
More than  
**64** Program  
Improvements

More than  
**94%** of the contractors and  
consultants working on this  
program call Virginia home



# Project Development Process (Capital Projects)



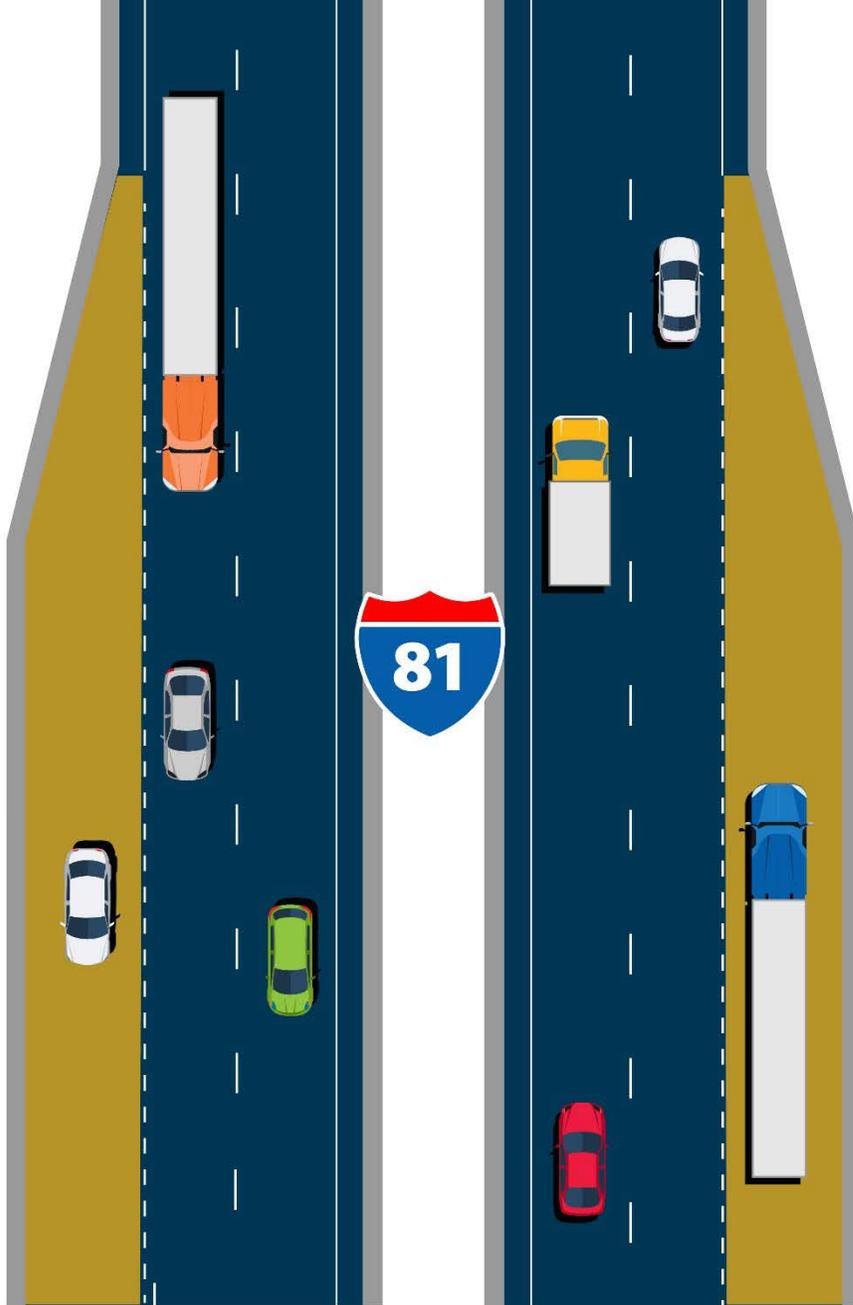


Infrastructure Improvements

Widening

+1

10 Improvements Planned

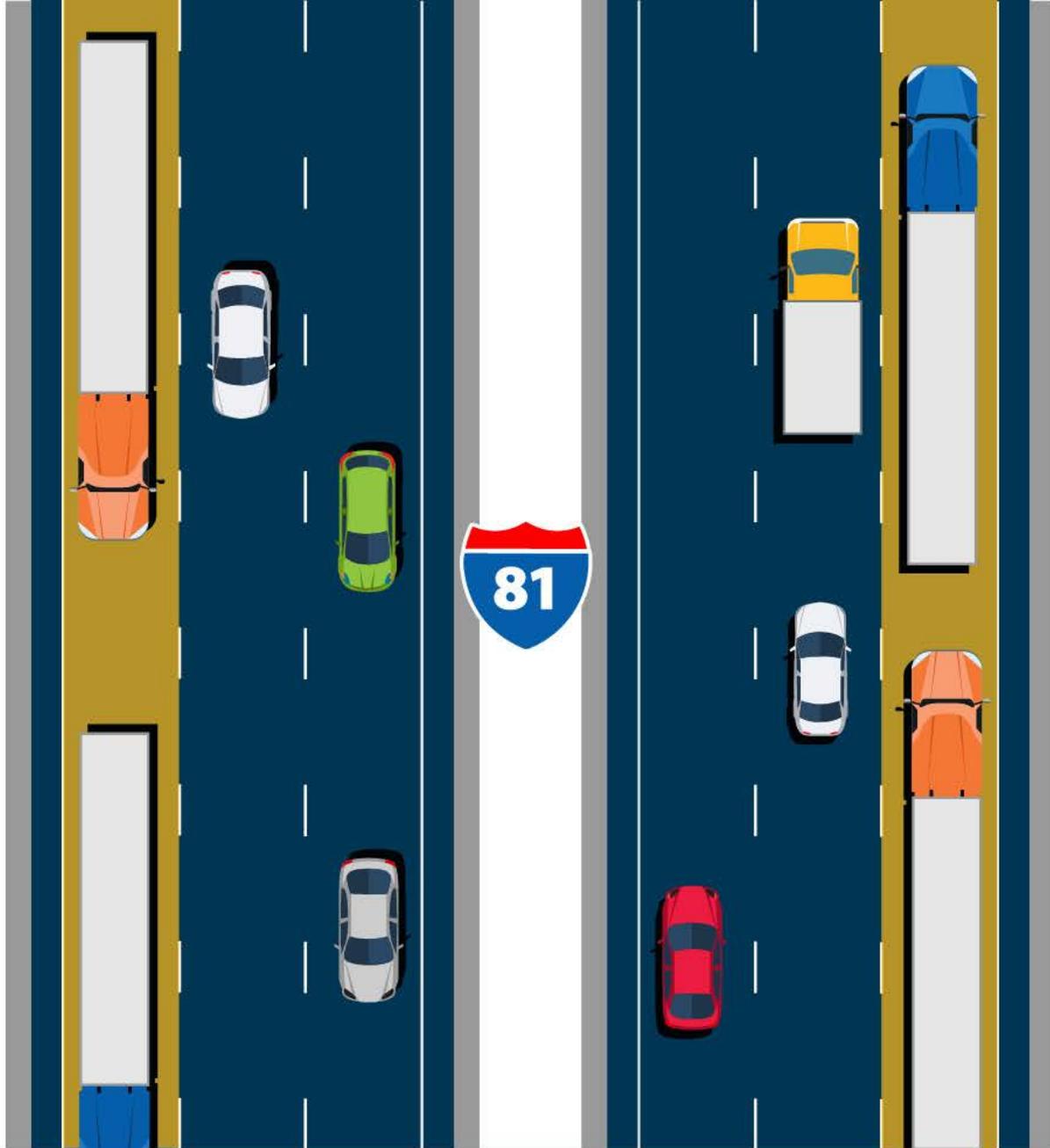


**Infrastructure Improvements**

**Acceleration  
& Deceleration  
Extension**



**36 Improvements Planned**

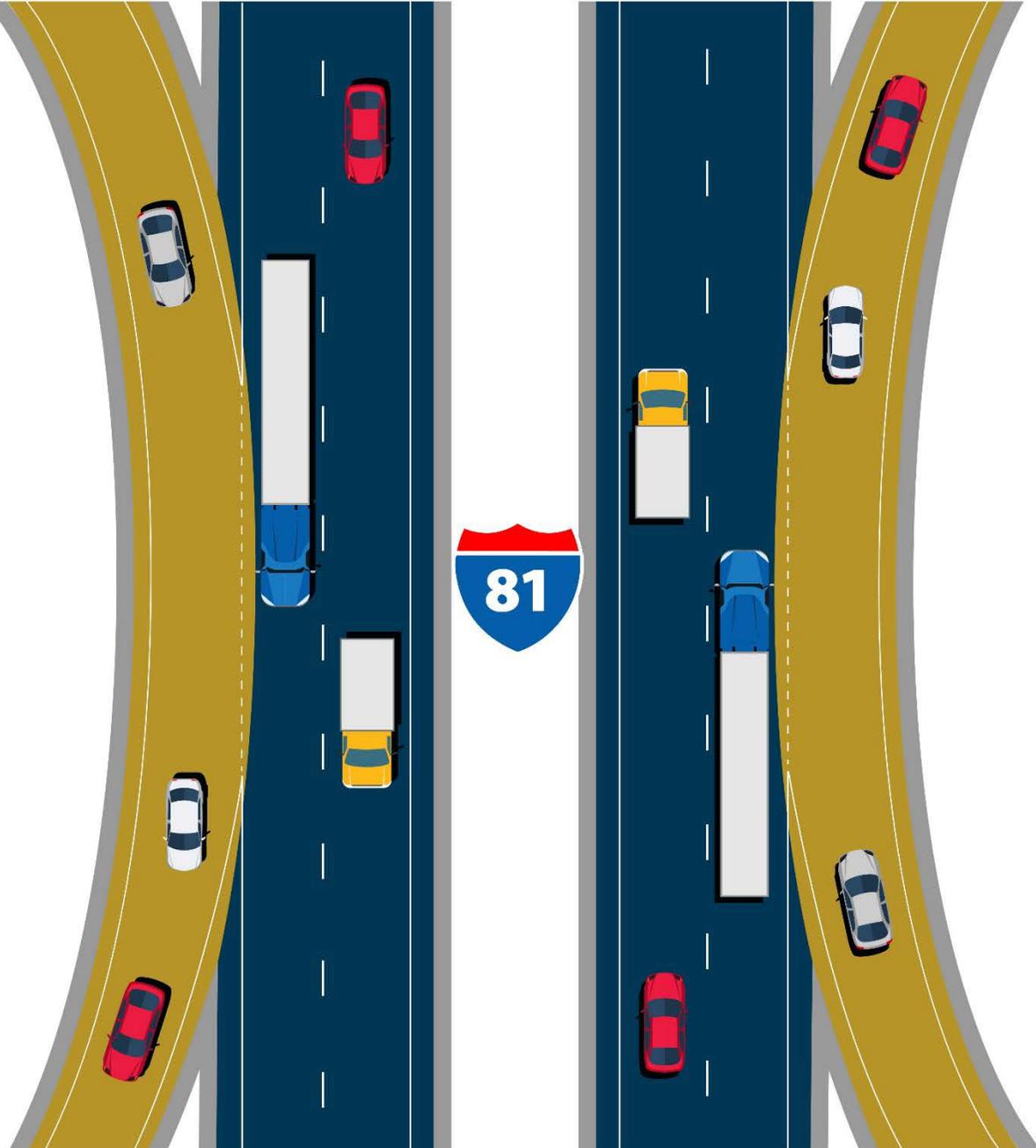


**Infrastructure Improvements**

**Truck Climbing Lanes**



**5 Improvements Planned**



**Infrastructure Improvements**

**Auxiliary Lane**



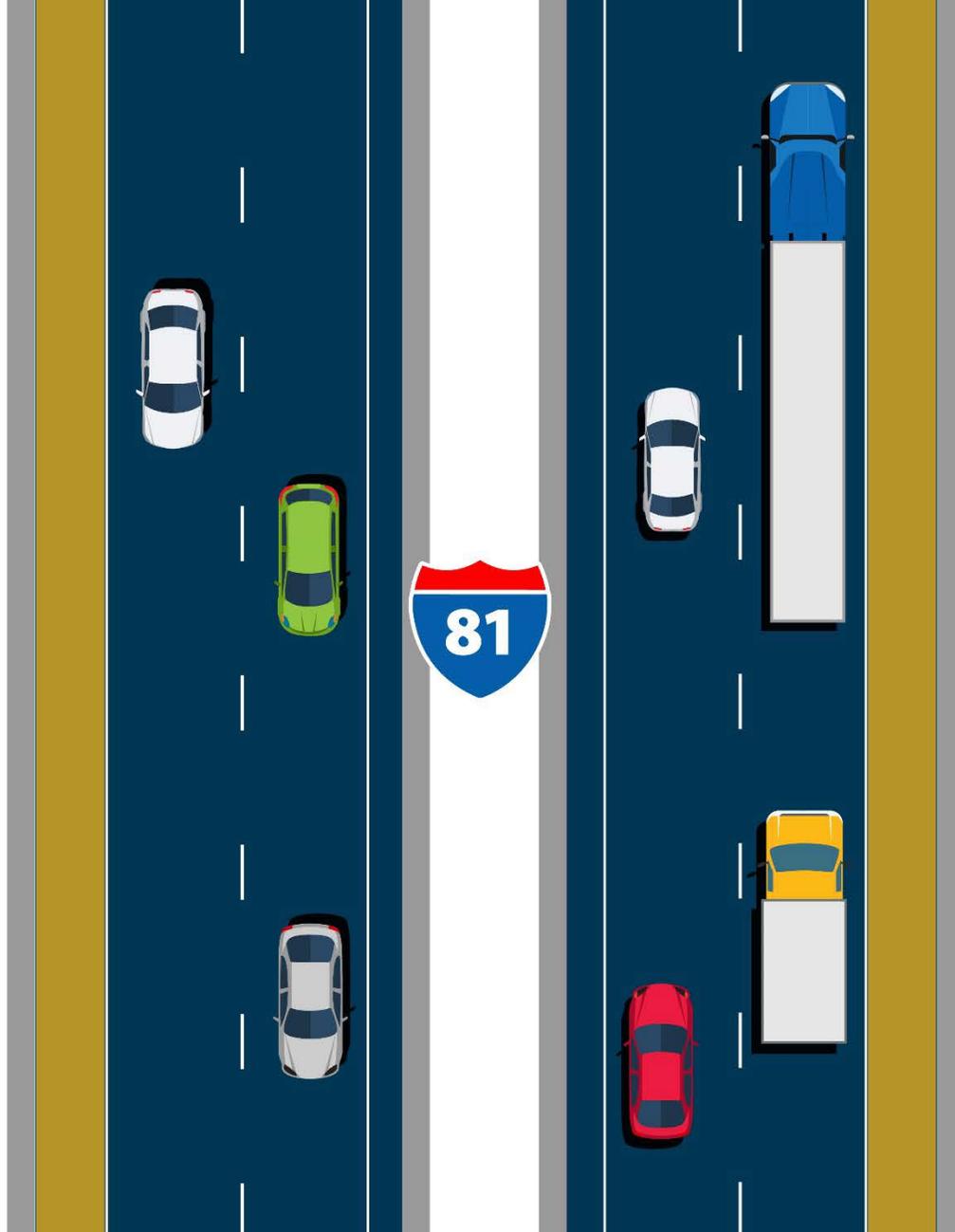
**4 Improvements Planned**

Infrastructure Improvements

Shoulder Widening

+S

1 Improvement Planned





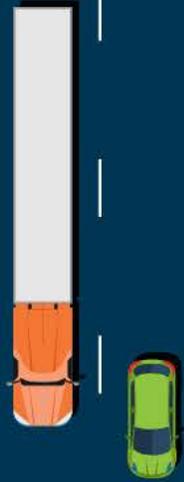
New digital message signs



New traffic cameras



Extended safety service patrols



Detour route improvements



Improved incident clearance



Multimodal improvements



Curve improvements

### Infrastructure Improvements

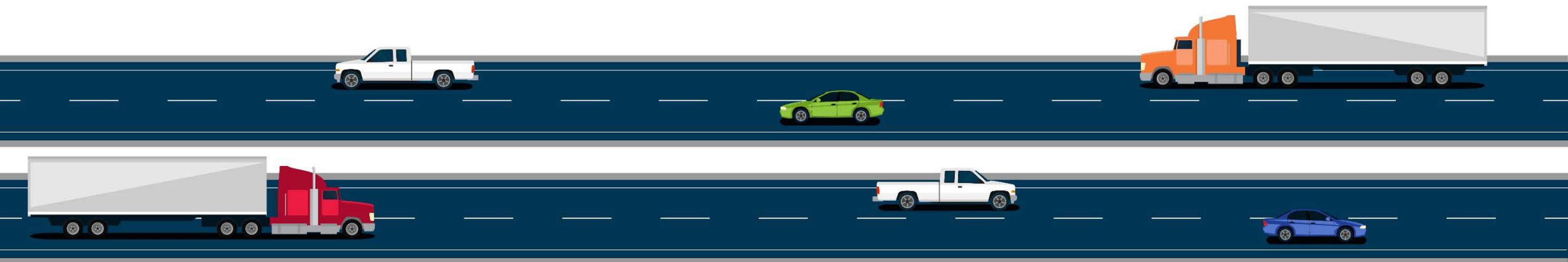
**Operational Improvements**



**5 Improvements Delivered**

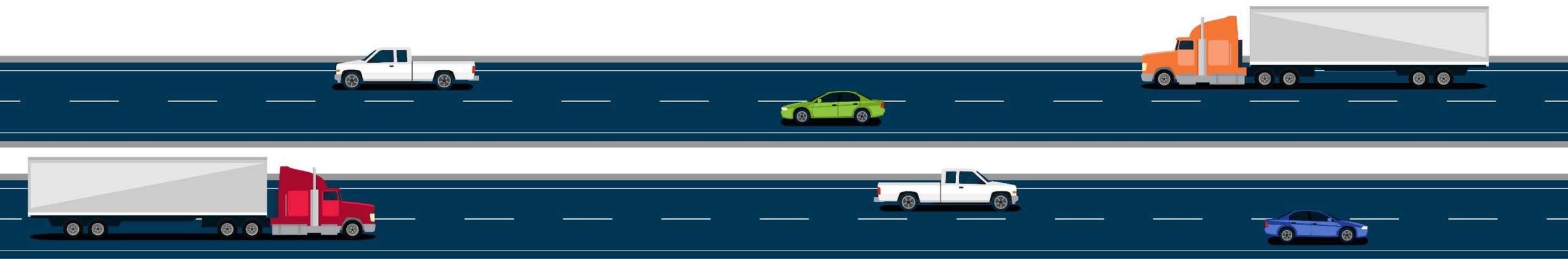
# 19 Program Improvement Initiatives

Completed through 2020



## Upcoming Program Improvements

- Exit 137 to Exit 141 Design Build (2 projects bundled)
- MM 48 Single Phase Design-Build
- Continue Design of Capital Improvement Projects
- Complete Projects Under Construction
- Begin Arterial Improvements
- Execute TRIP Program



# Planned Studies With Potential Future Improvements

The [I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan](#), Section 10, identified three areas for further analysis and potential future improvements based on the outcome of the analyses:



## Truck Parking

Appendix I of the I-81 Study Report includes an analysis of truck parking availability along the corridor and identifies deficiencies. The Plan recommends the formation of a task force comprised of representatives from the Virginia Department of Transportation, The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, private travel center owners, economic development authorities, trucking associations, and representatives from local and regional governments and planning agencies. The purpose of the task force is to:

- Identify site-specific issues and overcome obstacles to parking development
- Investigate opportunities to fund the expansion of public and private truck parking facilities in targeted locations
- Develop a truck parking information system for public rest areas initially and examine opportunities to partner with the private sector
- Implement mobile technology to assist truck drivers with finding available and reserved parking

The Truck Parking Task Force was formed in August 2020 and has begun the work to serve its purpose.

# Studies With Potential Future Improvements

The [I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan](#), Section 10, identified three areas for further analysis and potential future improvements based on the outcome of the analyses:



## Speed Enforcement

With specific focus on the northern end of the I-81 Corridor within the Commonwealth, the I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan recommends the formation of a task force comprised of members of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, Department of State Police, and local law enforcement to determine strategies for enhanced speed enforcement.



## Multimodal Improvements

The I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan states that the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation will work through a cooperative process with the railroad industry, Amtrak, local governments, intercity bus operators, and regional planning bodies to fully develop the capital improvement needs to support impactful multimodal improvements along the I-81 Corridor.

# Website Implementation

Improve81.org

