

IMPROVE **81**

I-81 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

I-81 Committee Meeting

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

July 7, 2022

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

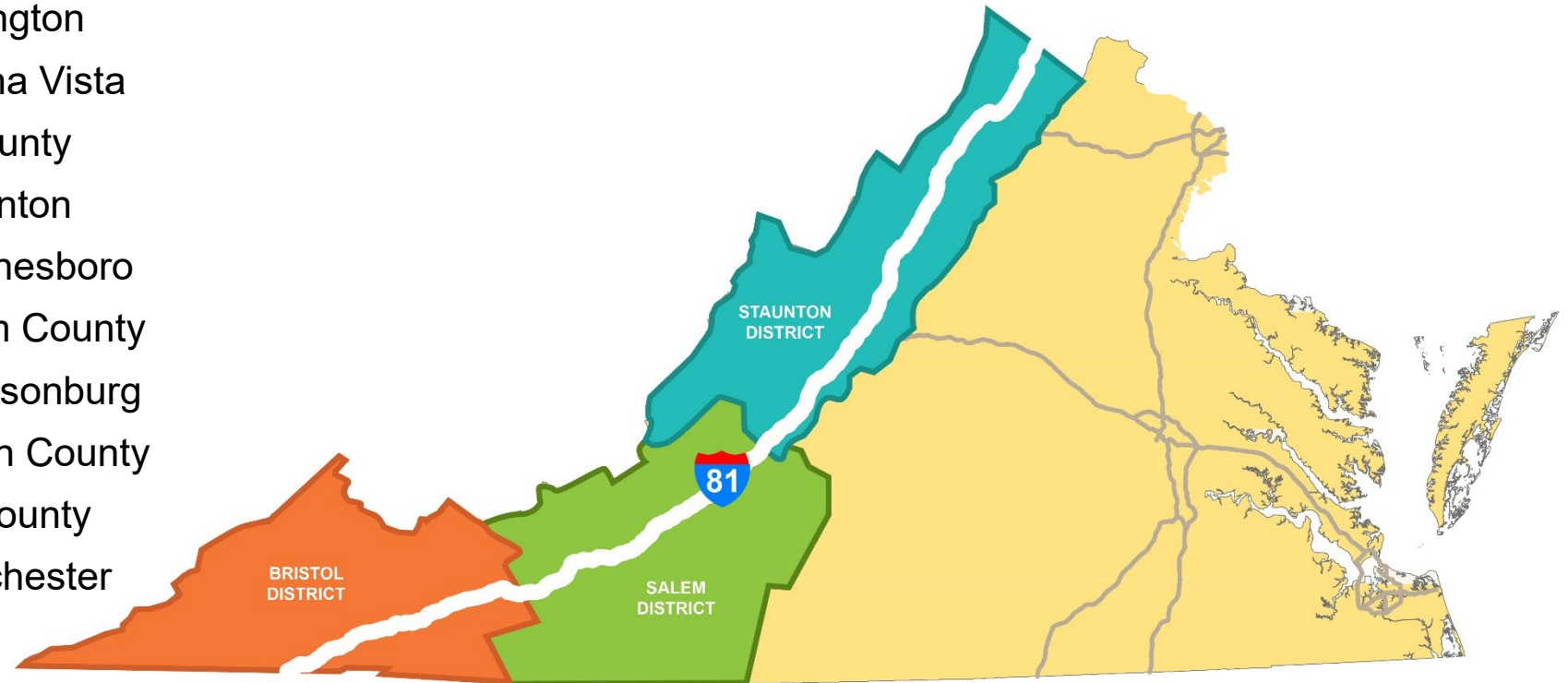
I-81 is the main corridor and key economic artery of western Virginia. These improvements will ensure that goods and services critical to our economy move safely and efficiently through and within the region.

Planned Improvements

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

Localities along the corridor include:

City of Bristol	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	



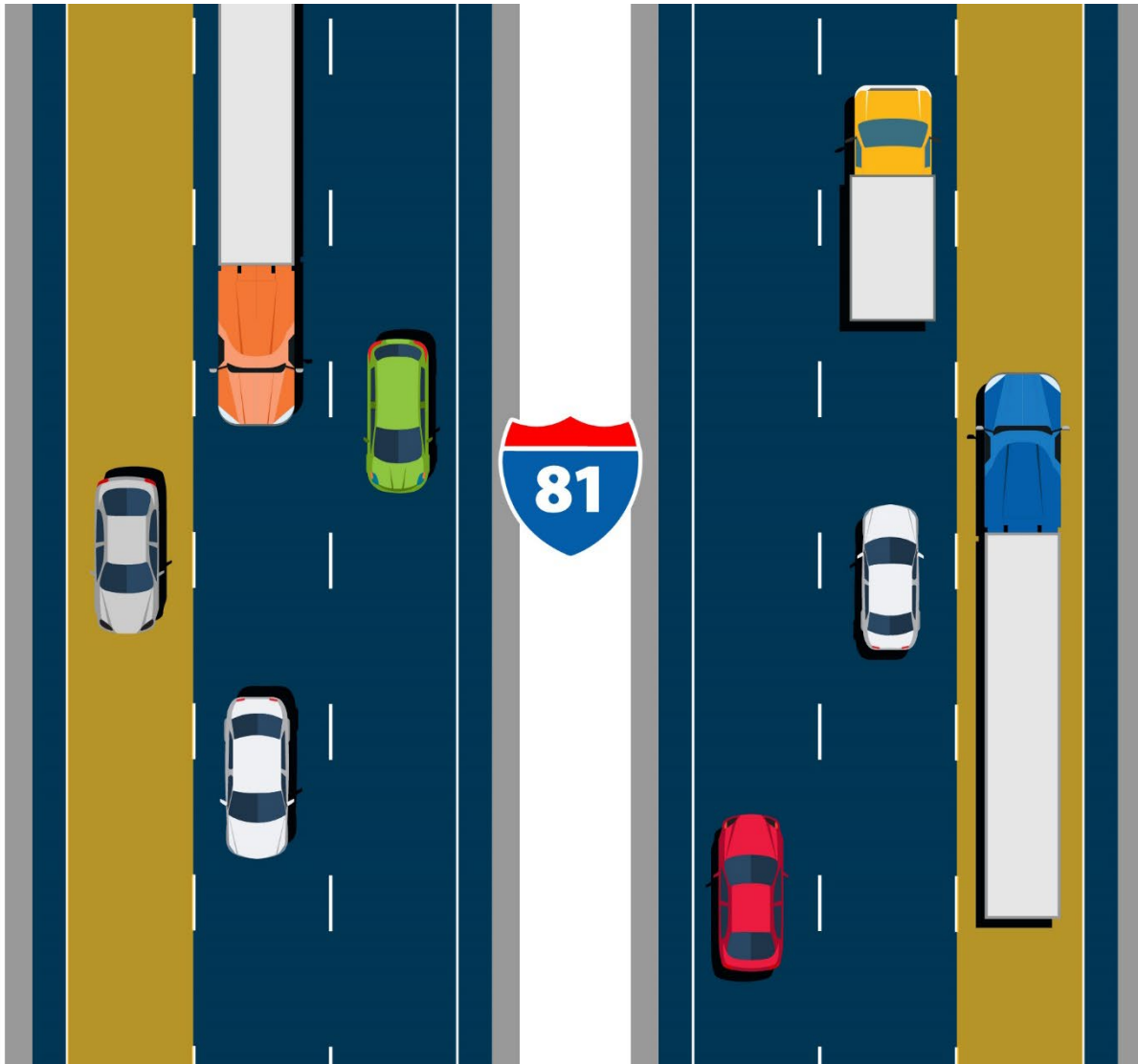
Takeaway Scorecard

Operational Projects

Projects		Status	Anticipated Completion
Improved Incident Clearance	✓	Complete	Spring 2021
Safety Service Patrol Expansion	✓	Complete	Summer 2019
Additional Cameras (51)	✓	Complete	Spring 2020
Additional Digital Message Signs (30)	✓	Complete	Fall 2021
Arterial Upgrades	🚧	Underway	VDOT signals underway, Locality signals complete in 2025
Completed Projects (23)	✓	Complete	Spring 2022
Active Construction Projects (15)	🚧	Underway	8 in 2022, 4 in 2023, 1 in 2024, 2 in 2026
Remaining capital projects (26)	🚧	Upcoming Projects	All complete by 2033

Capital Projects

Types of Projects



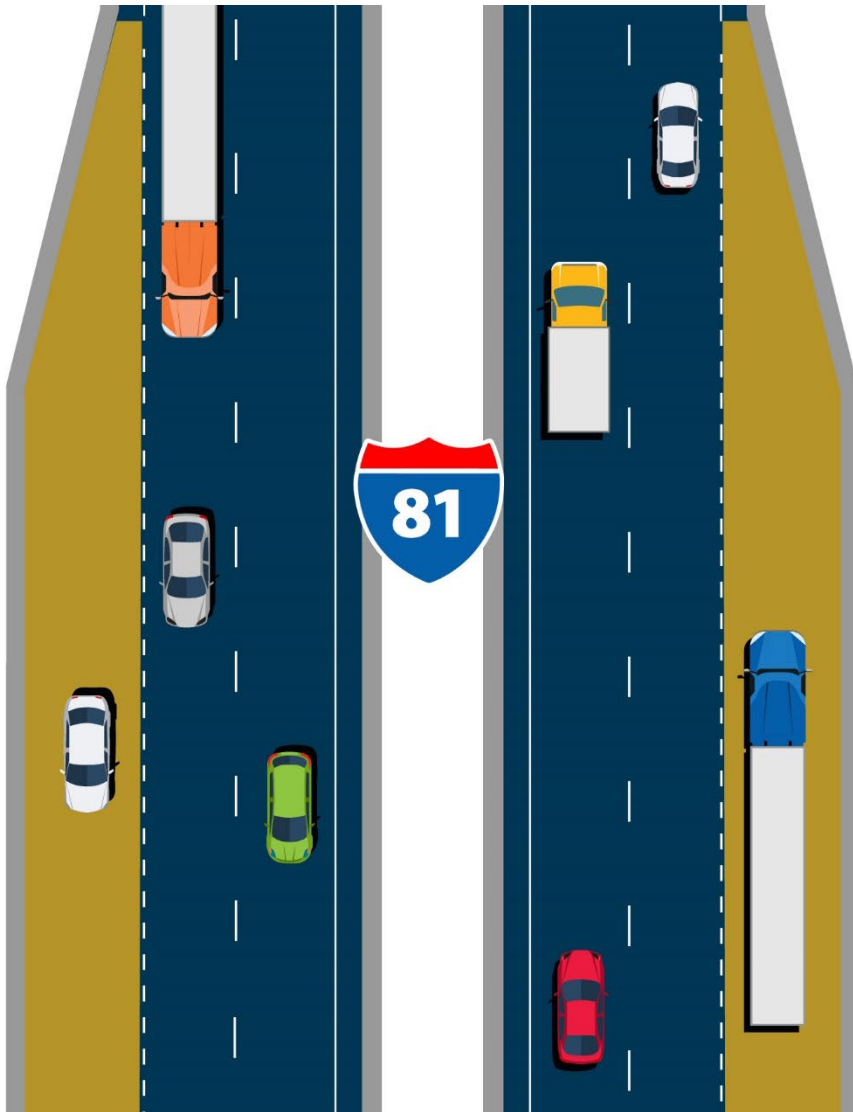
Capital Improvement Projects

Widening +1

10 Improvements

- 2 Projects Under Construction – Completion in 2026
- 8 Future Projects – Completion by 2033 or earlier

Types of Projects



Capital Improvement Projects

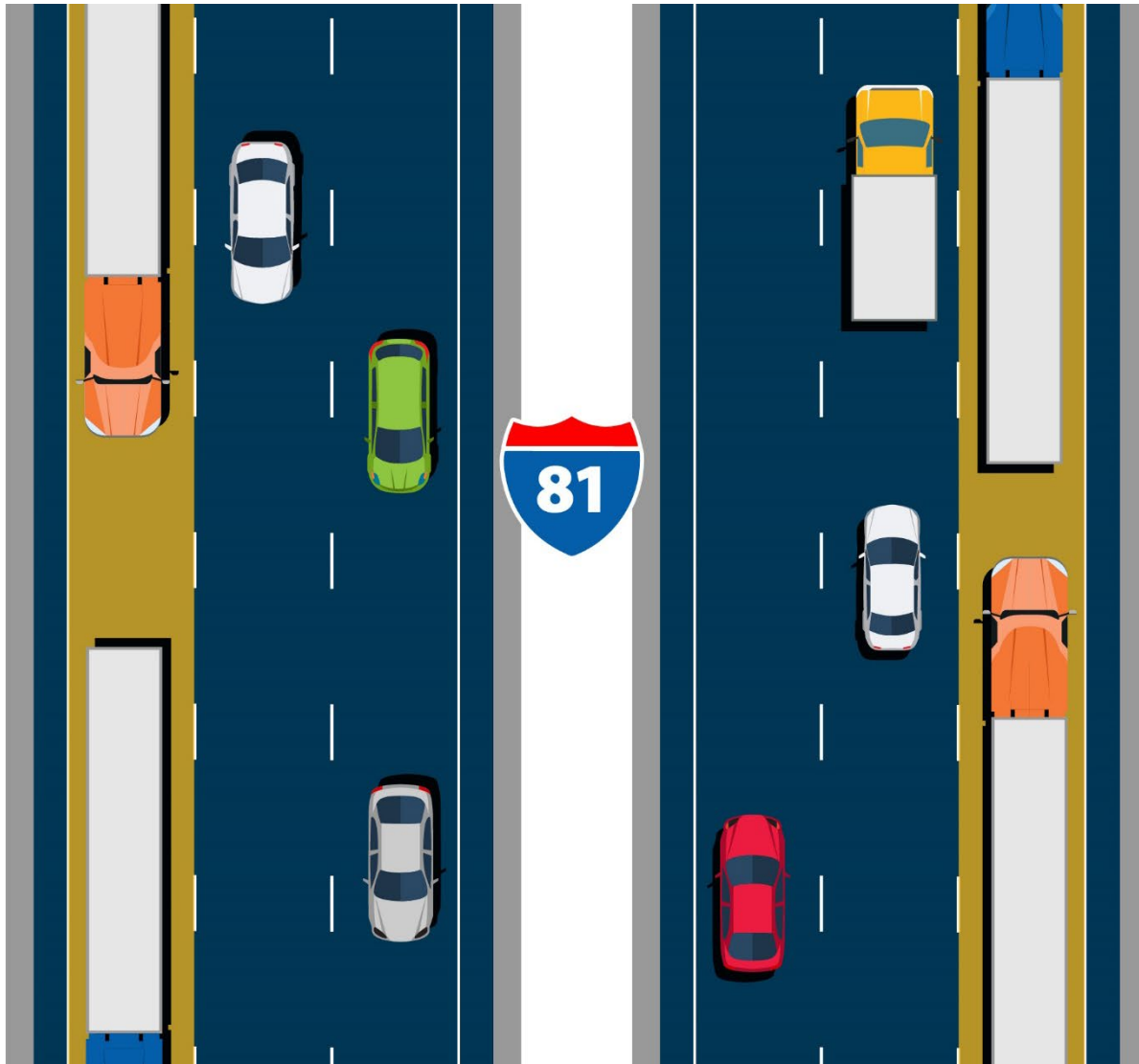
Acceleration & Deceleration Extension



36 Improvements

- 15 Projects Complete
- 11 Projects Under Construction
 - 7 Complete in 2022
 - 4 complete in 2023
- 10 Future Projects – Completion by 2033

Types of Projects



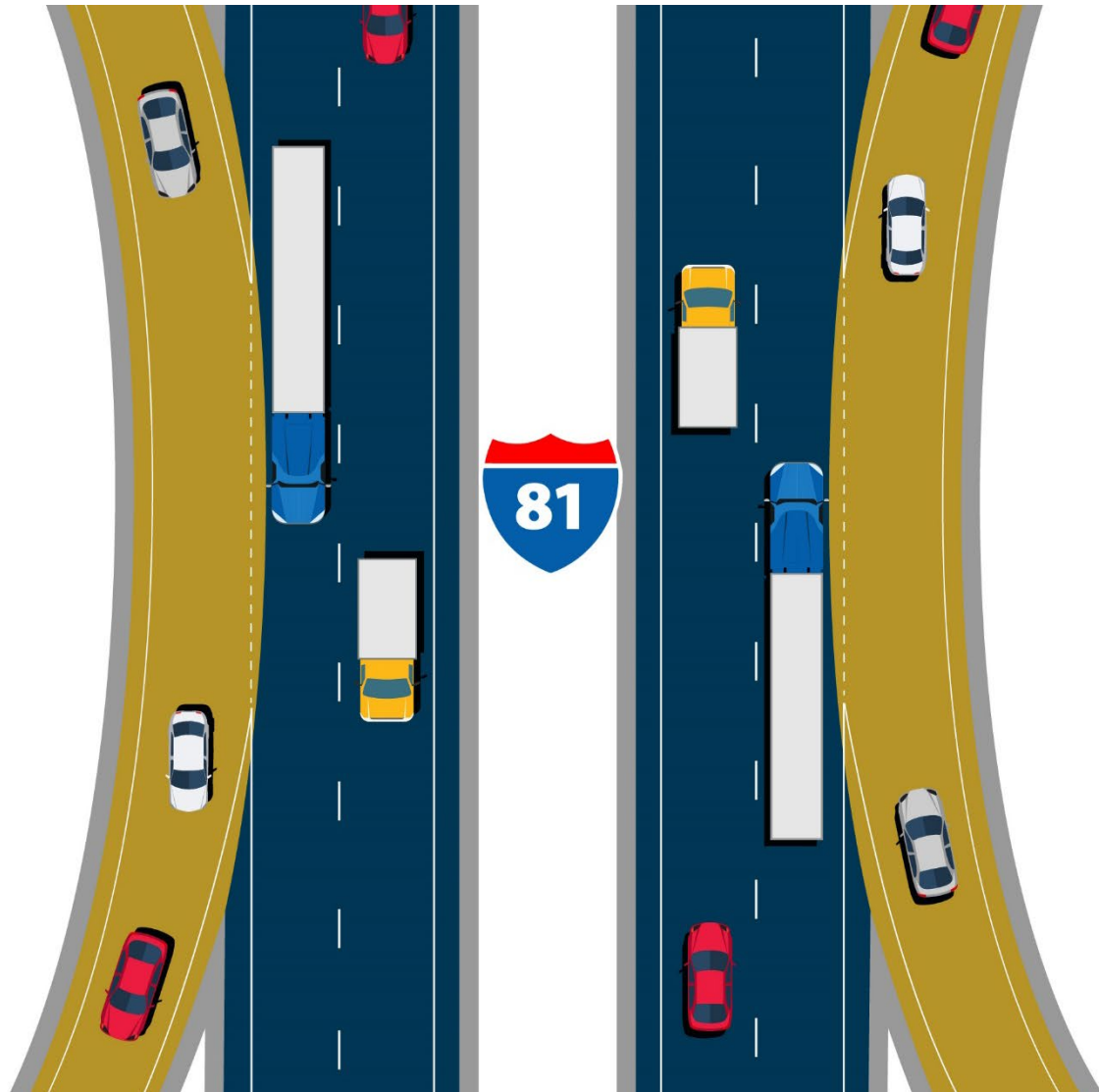
Capital Improvement Projects

Truck Climbing Lanes



- 5 Improvements**
- **1 Project Under Construction – Completion in 2024**
 - **4 Future Projects – Completion by 2033**

Types of Projects



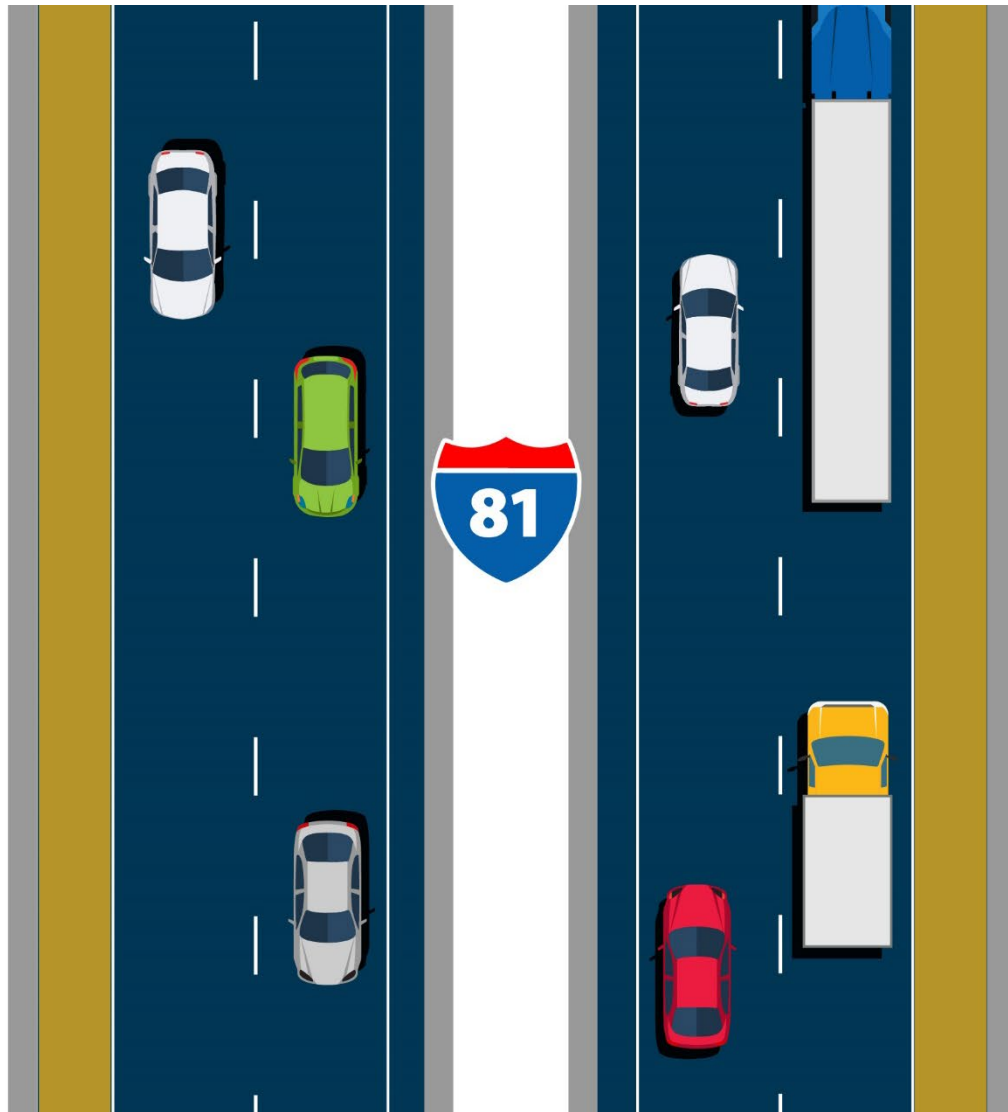
Capital Improvement Projects

Auxiliary Lane



- 4 Improvements**
 - **1 Project Under Construction – Completion in 2022**
 - **3 Future Projects – Completion by 2033**

Types of Projects



Capital Improvement Projects

+S Shoulder Widening
Curve Improvements 

1 Shoulder Improvement

- **1 Projects – Construction to begin in 2026**

8 Curve Improvements

- **All complete**

Types of Projects



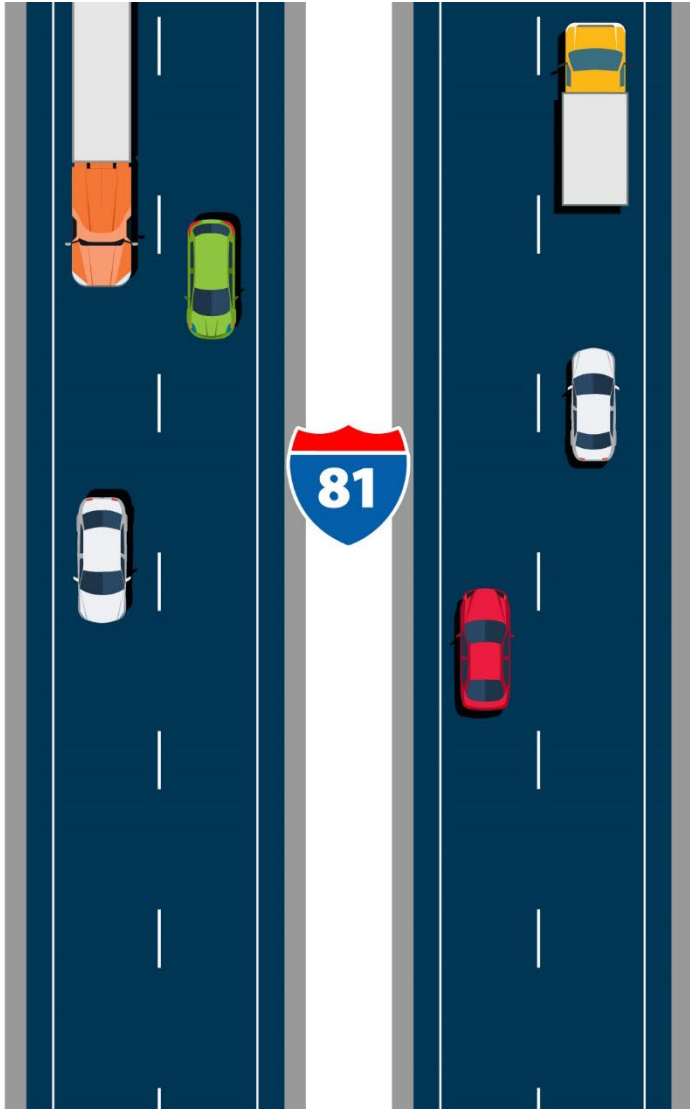
New digital message signs



New traffic cameras



Extended safety service patrols



Detour route improvements



Improved incident clearance

Operational Improvement Projects

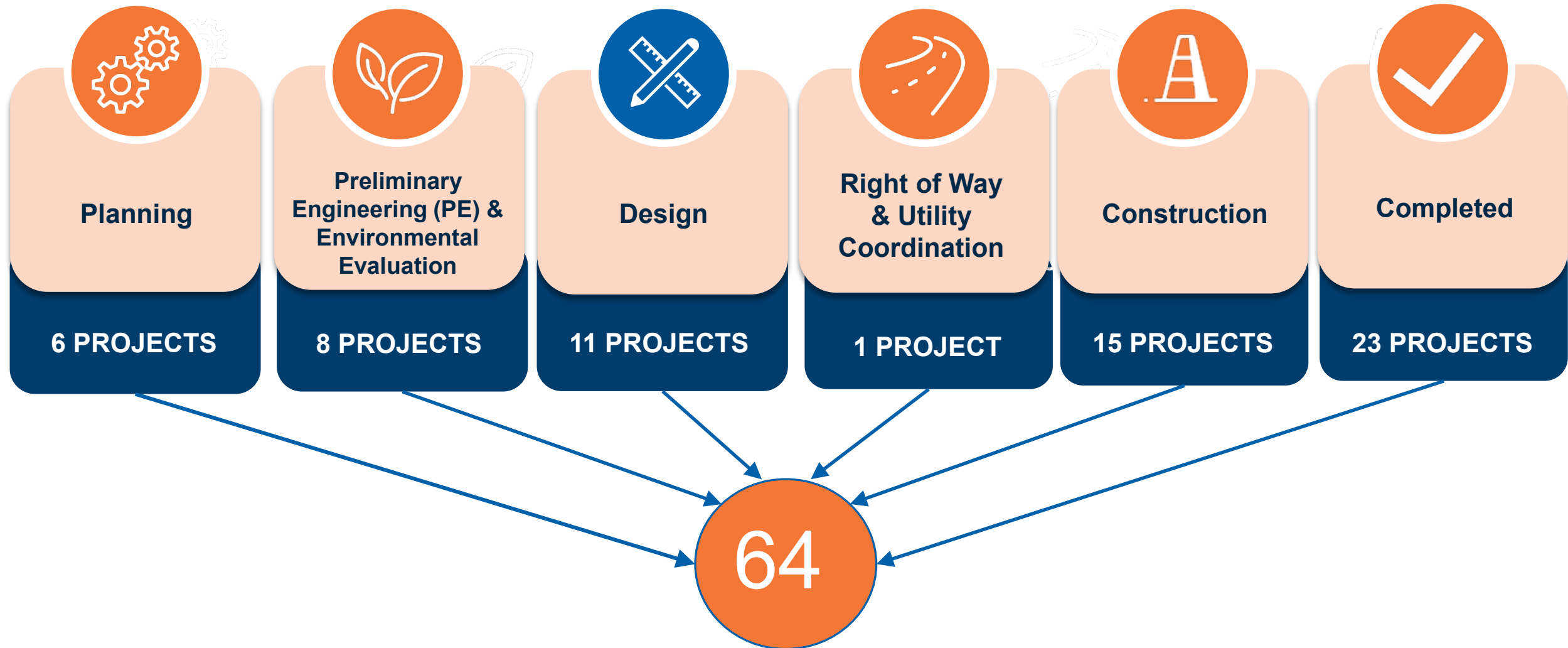
Operational Improvements



5 Improvements

- VDOT systems complete
- Locality systems will be complete by 2025

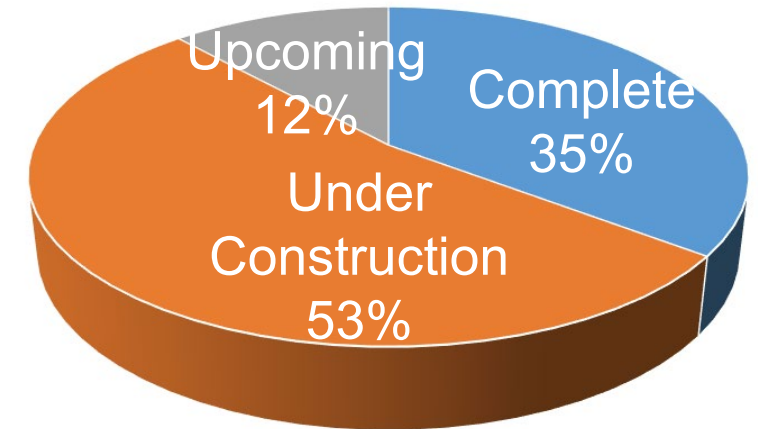
Project Development Process (Capital Projects)



Bristol District Project Status (Capital Projects)

Completed Projects:

- Shoulder strengthening contract (schedule) for 5 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)



Projects Under Construction:

- 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 17 SB Acceleration Lane Extension (Abingdon)

Bristol District Project Status (Capital Projects)

- Exit 39 NB Entrance Ramp – MM 40.6 NB Truck Climbing Lane
- Exit 54 SB Auxiliary Lane - (South of Rural Retreat)

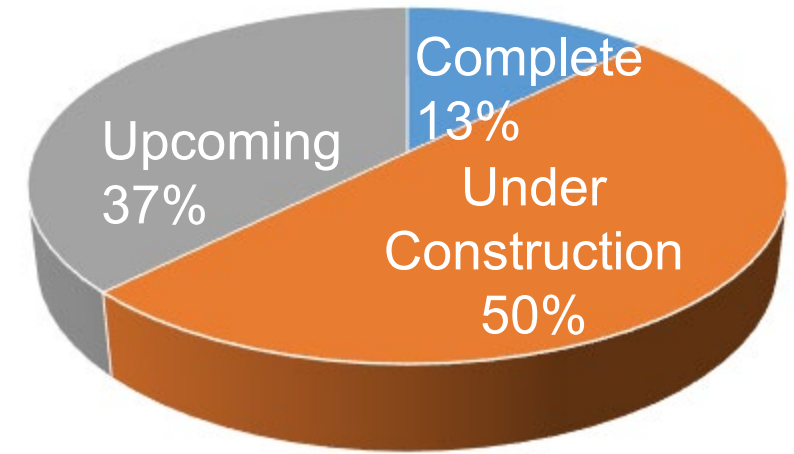
· Upcoming Projects:

- Exit 72 NB Decel Extension and I-77 Exit 41 to I-81 SB Exit 72 Auxiliary Lane – Design-Build with RFQ expected next year. (Wytheville)

Salem District Project Status (Capital Projects)

- **Completed Projects:**

- Exit 89 NB Acceleration Lane Extension (Pulaski)



- **Projects Under Construction:**

- Exit 137 to Exit 141 Widening NB and SB (Design Build, 2 projects bundled) - Salem
- Troutville Rest Area SB Entrance and Exit Extension (2 projects) - Troutville

- **Upcoming Projects:**

- MM 116 to Exit 128 Widening NB Only – Construction 2027 (Christiansburg to Ironto)
- Exit 128 to Exit 137 Widening NB Only – Construction 2027 (Ironto to Salem)
- Exit 143 to Exit 150 Widening NB & SB – Construction 2026 (Roanoke to Troutville)

Staunton District Project Status (Capital Projects)

Completed Projects:

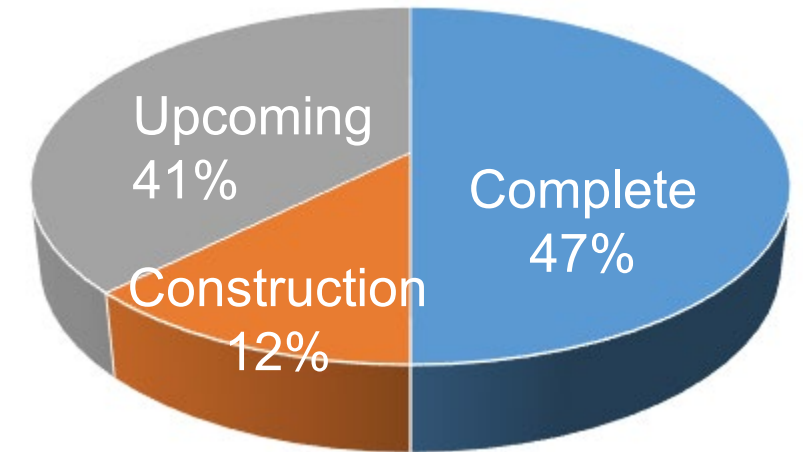
- Exit 302 NB Accel, Exit 302 SB Decel, Exit 283 SB Accel,
- Exit 269 NB Decel, Exit 279 SB Accel
- Exit 291 NB Accel, Exit 296 SB Accel, Exit 304 NB Accel

Projects Under Construction:

- Exit 205 SB Accel, Exit 205 NB Accel (Raphine)

Upcoming Projects:

- Exit 221 to Exit 220 SB Auxiliary Lane – Construction Fall/Winter 2023 (South of Staunton)
- Exit 221 to Exit 225 NB and SB Widening – Construction Spring/Summer 2023 (Staunton)
- Weyers Cave NB and SB Truck Climbing Lanes – Construction Spring 2025
- Exit 242 to Exit 248 NB and SB Widening – Construction Summer 2025 (Harrisonburg)
- Exit 299 to Exit 296 SB Widening – Construction Fall/Winter 2024 (Strasburg)
- Exit 313 to Exit 317 NB and SB Widening – Construction 2027 (Winchester)



Operational Project Status (Corridor-wide)

Completed Projects:

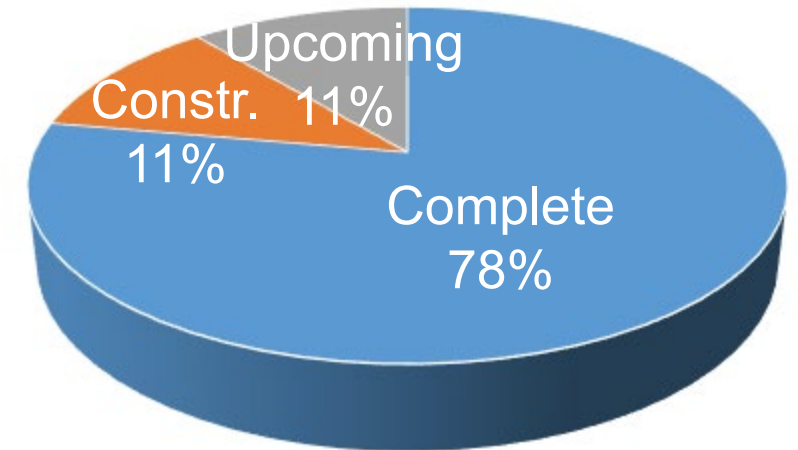
- Curve Improvements (Static And Flashing Chevron Signs)
- Safety Service Patrol Enhancements
- Lift and Tow Devices on SSP Vehicles
- Towing and Recovery Incentive Program (TRIP)
- Traffic Camera Installations (51)
- Digital Message Sign Installations (30)
- Arterial Intersection Improvements (3)

Projects Under Construction:

- Arterial Improvements (VDOT signal system upgrades)

Upcoming Projects:

- Arterial Improvements (Locality signal system upgrades)



Capital Project Advancement (Funding & Delivery)

- **Bristol District Funding Advancement:**

- Exit 81 SB Deceleration Lane Extension (\$15.5M)
- Auxiliary Lane Exit 73 to Exit 72 SB (\$21.2M)
- Exit 72 NB Deceleration Lane Extension (\$37.5M)
- Auxiliary Lane from I-77 SB to I-81 SB (Exit 40 on I-77 to Exit 72 on I-81) – (\$34.2M)
- Exit 45 NB Extend Deceleration Lane (\$24.7M)

- **Salem District Funding Advancement:**

- Exit 128 to Exit 137 NB Widening – Funding advanced by 18 months (\$265.3M)

- **Staunton District Delivery Advancement:**

- Staunton Area Widening advanced with decision to deliver as design-build project (delivery), accelerated by 12 to 18 months.

- **Total Funding Advancement To Date: \$398.4M**

Communications – Videos, Podcasts, Newsletters



Safety Service Patrol



Troutville Rest Area



Traffic Operations Center/
Customer Service Center



Exit 205



Exit 137 to Exit 141
Widening



Digital Message Signs



Wytheville Interchange
Improvements



Harrisonburg Widening



Staunton Area
Auxiliary Lane



Arterial Improvements



Picking the Projects



Bristol District Truck
Climbing Lanes



Strasburg Area Widening



Troutville Rest Area
Temporary Closure



Staunton Area Widening

Published to date

- 15 videos
- 16 podcasts
- 6 newsletters

Program Specific Website – Learn More!

Improve81.org

