

IMPROVE **81**

I-81 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

I-81 Committee Meeting

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

October 2, 2023

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

Washington County

Smyth County

Wythe County

Pulaski County

City of Radford

Montgomery County

City of Salem

Roanoke County

City of Roanoke

Botetourt County

Rockbridge County

City of Lexington

City of Buena Vista

Augusta County

City of Staunton

City of Waynesboro

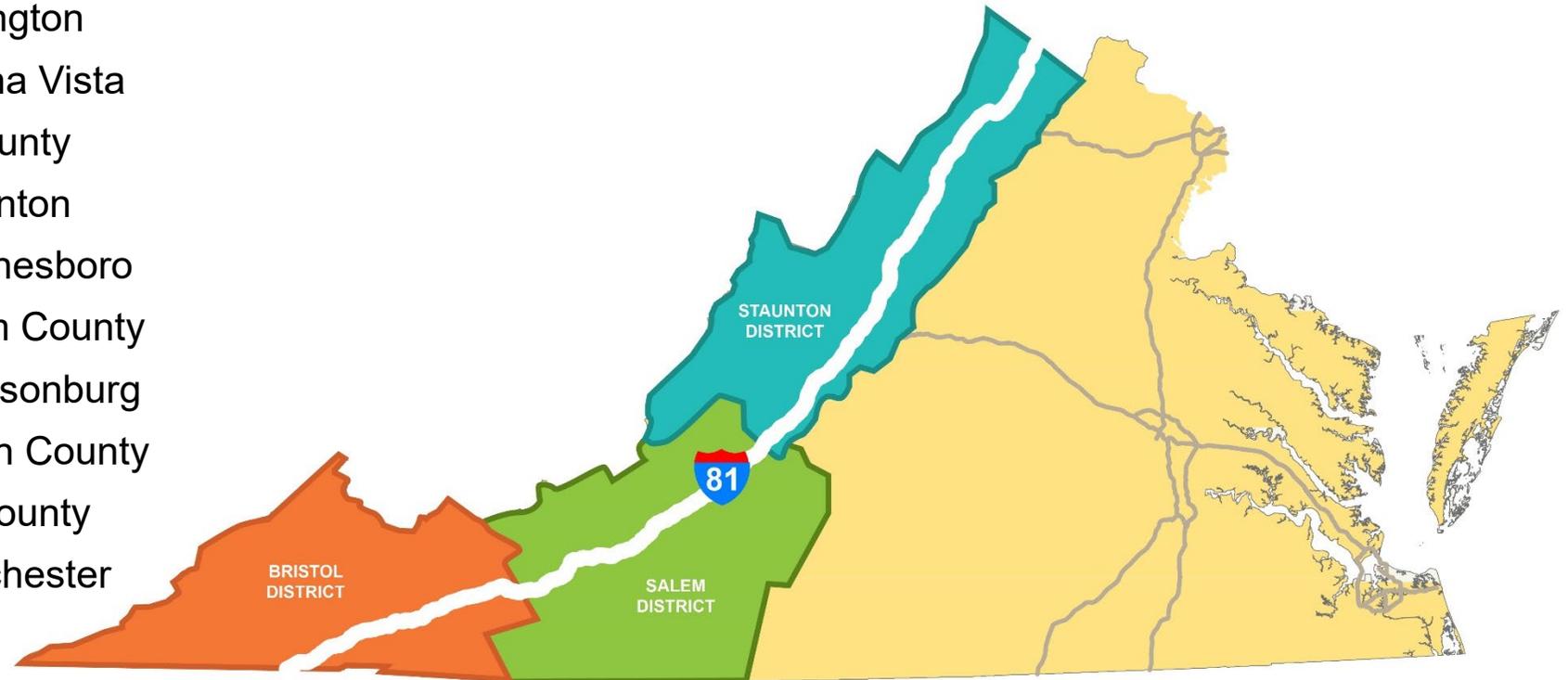
Rockingham County

City of Harrisonburg

Shenandoah County

Frederick County

City of Winchester



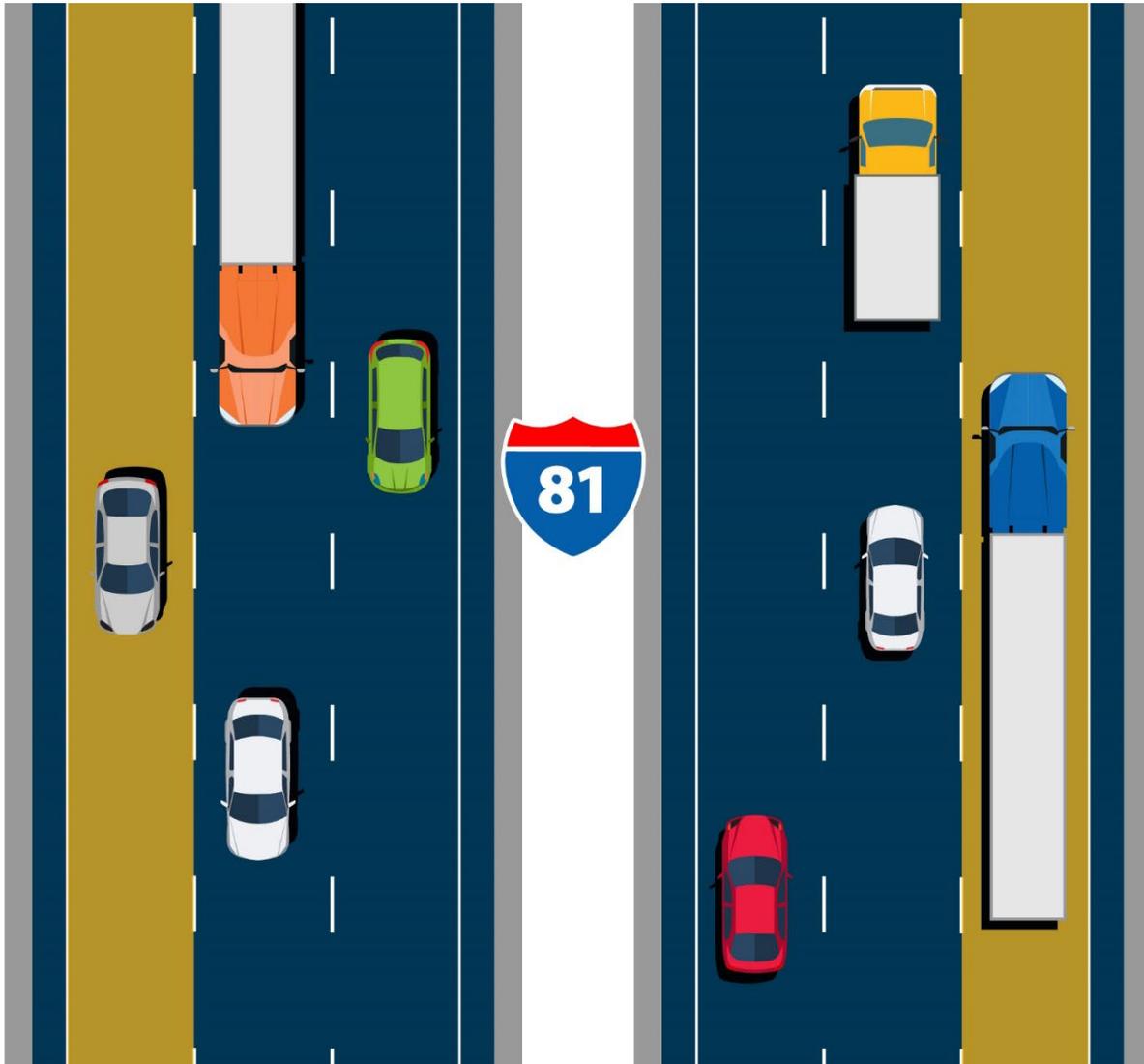
Takeaway Scorecard

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	43 VDOT signals complete, 39 under construction, 111 Locality signals complete in 2025
Completed Projects (34) 	Complete	N/A
Active Construction Projects (6) 	Underway	1 in 2024, 2 in 2025, 2 in 2026, 1 in 2027
Remaining capital projects (24) 	Upcoming Projects	All complete by 2033

Types of Projects



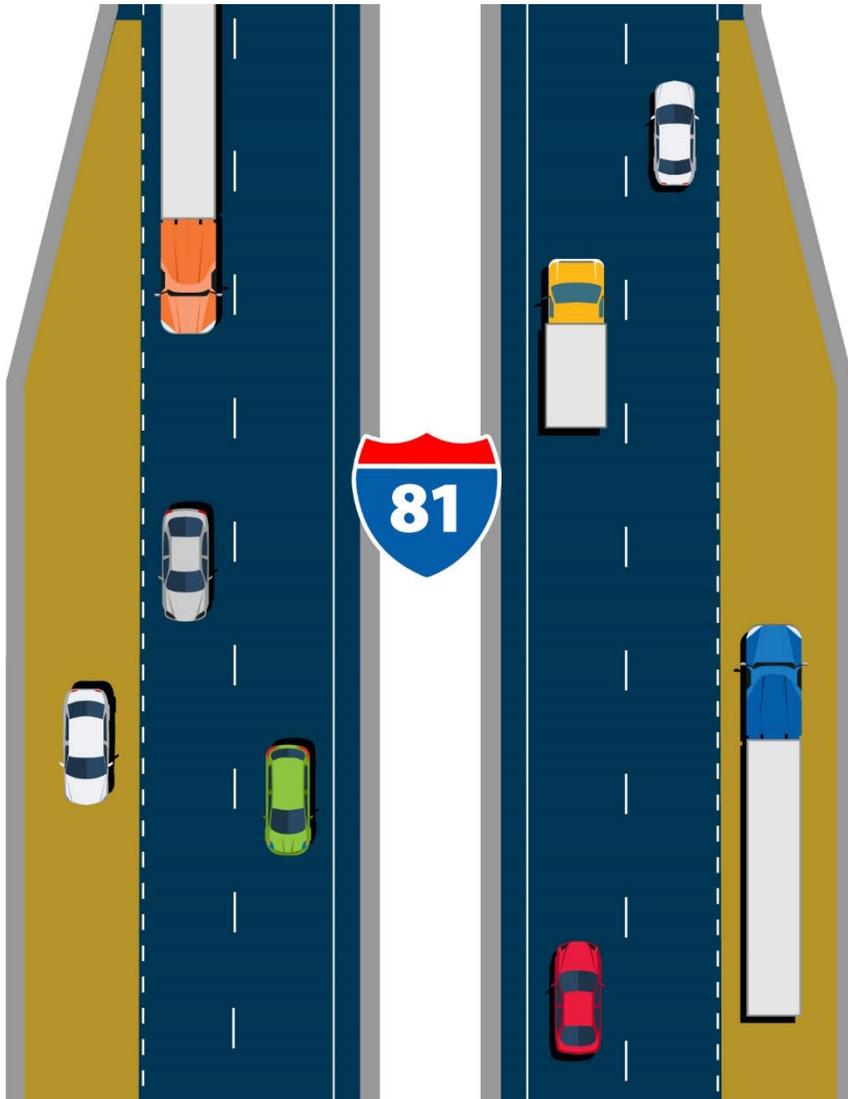
Capital Improvement Projects

Widening +1

10 Improvements

- 3 Projects Under Construction – Completion in 2026 and 2027.
- 7 Future Projects – Completion by 2033 or earlier

Types of Projects



Capital Improvement Projects

Acceleration & Deceleration Extension

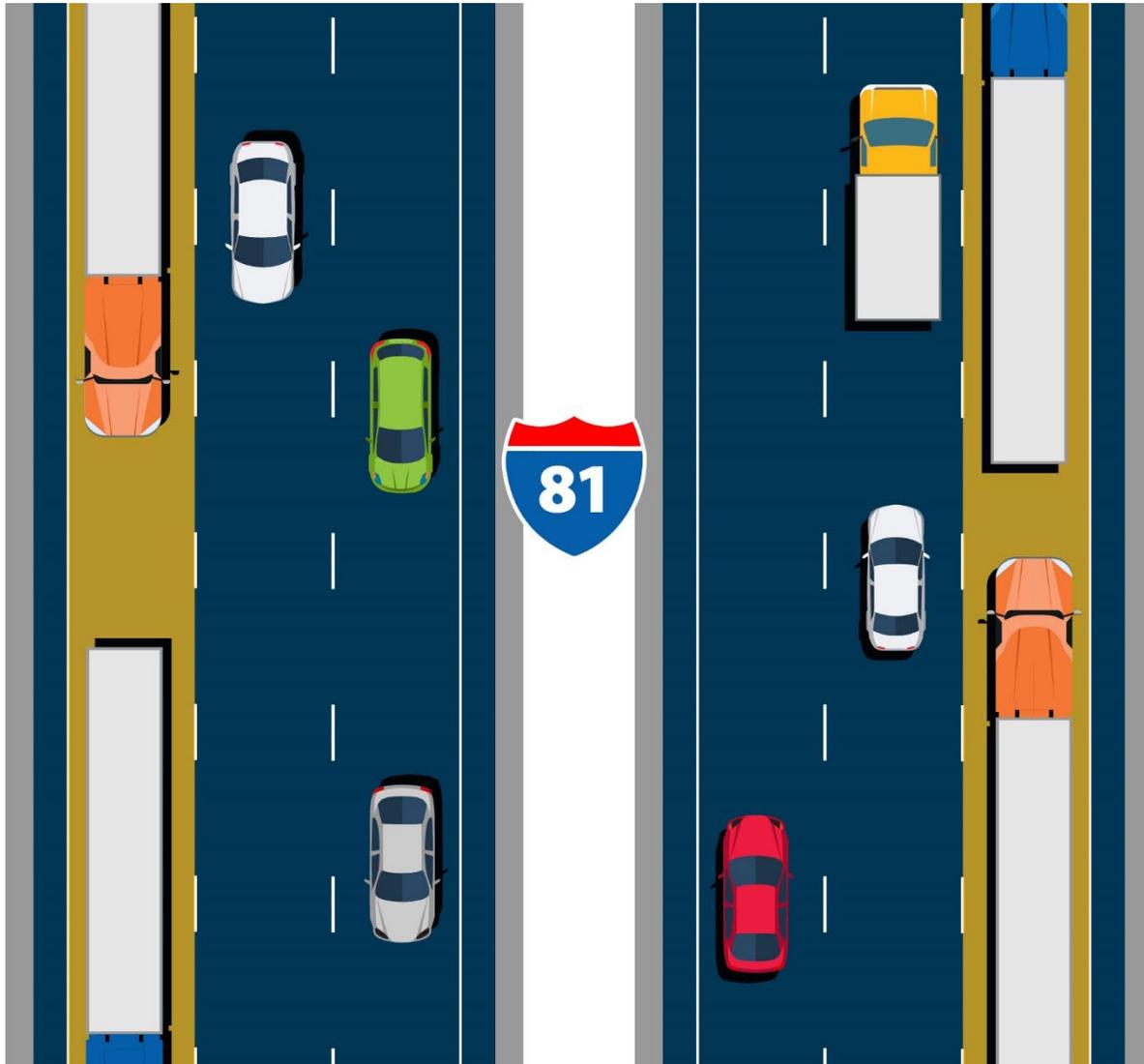


36 Improvements

- 25 Projects Complete
- 0 Projects in Construction
- 11 Future Projects – Completion by 2033
- *Results – 2020-2021 a 45% reduction in total crashes.

* Less than 3 years data available

Types of Projects



Capital Improvement Projects

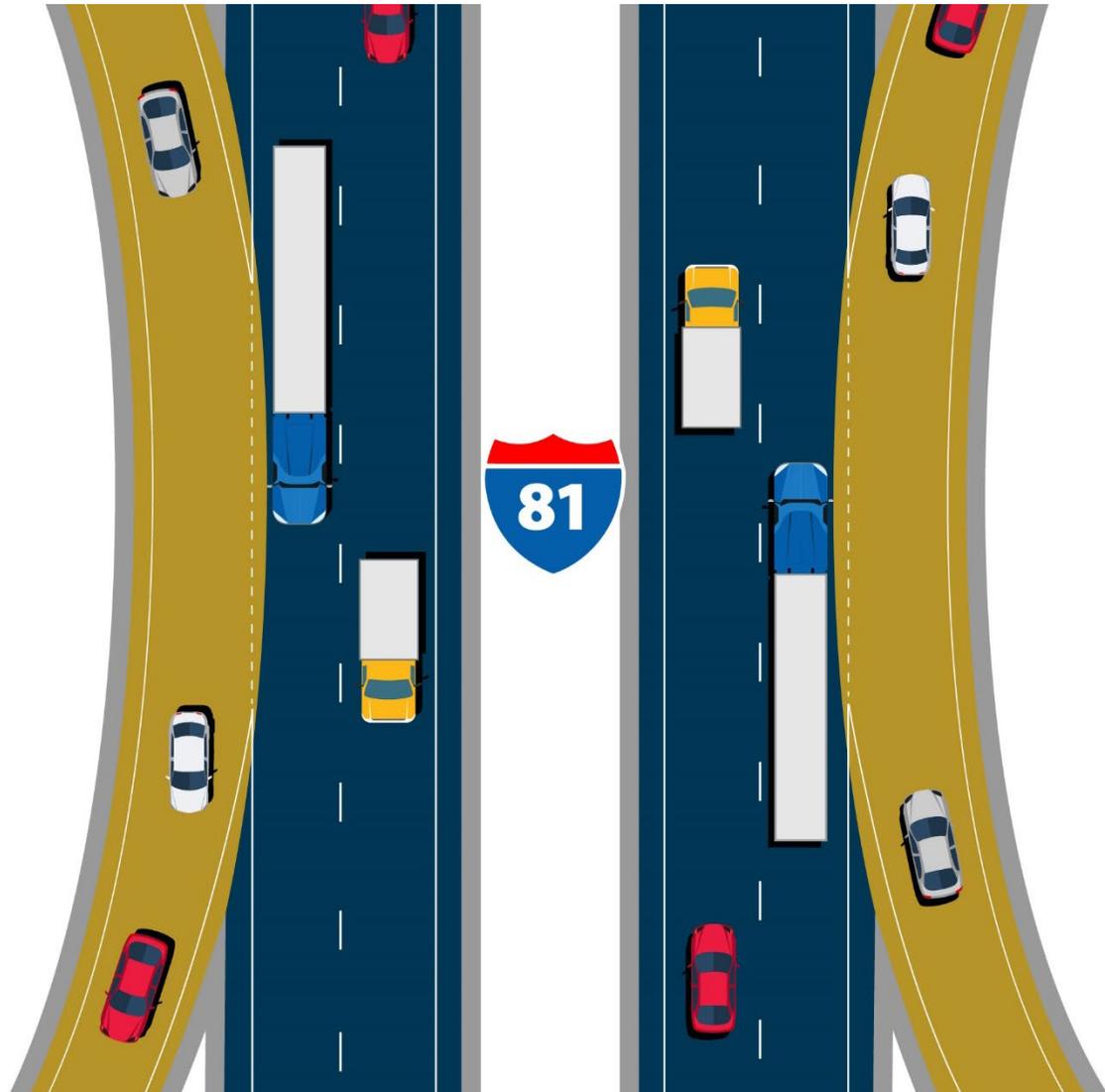
Truck Climbing Lanes



5 Improvements

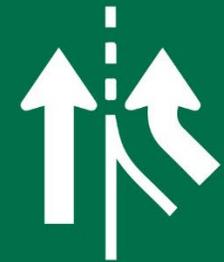
- 3 Projects Under Construction – 1 Complete in 2024, 2 Complete in 2025
- 2 Future Projects – Completion by 2033

Types of Projects



Capital Improvement Projects

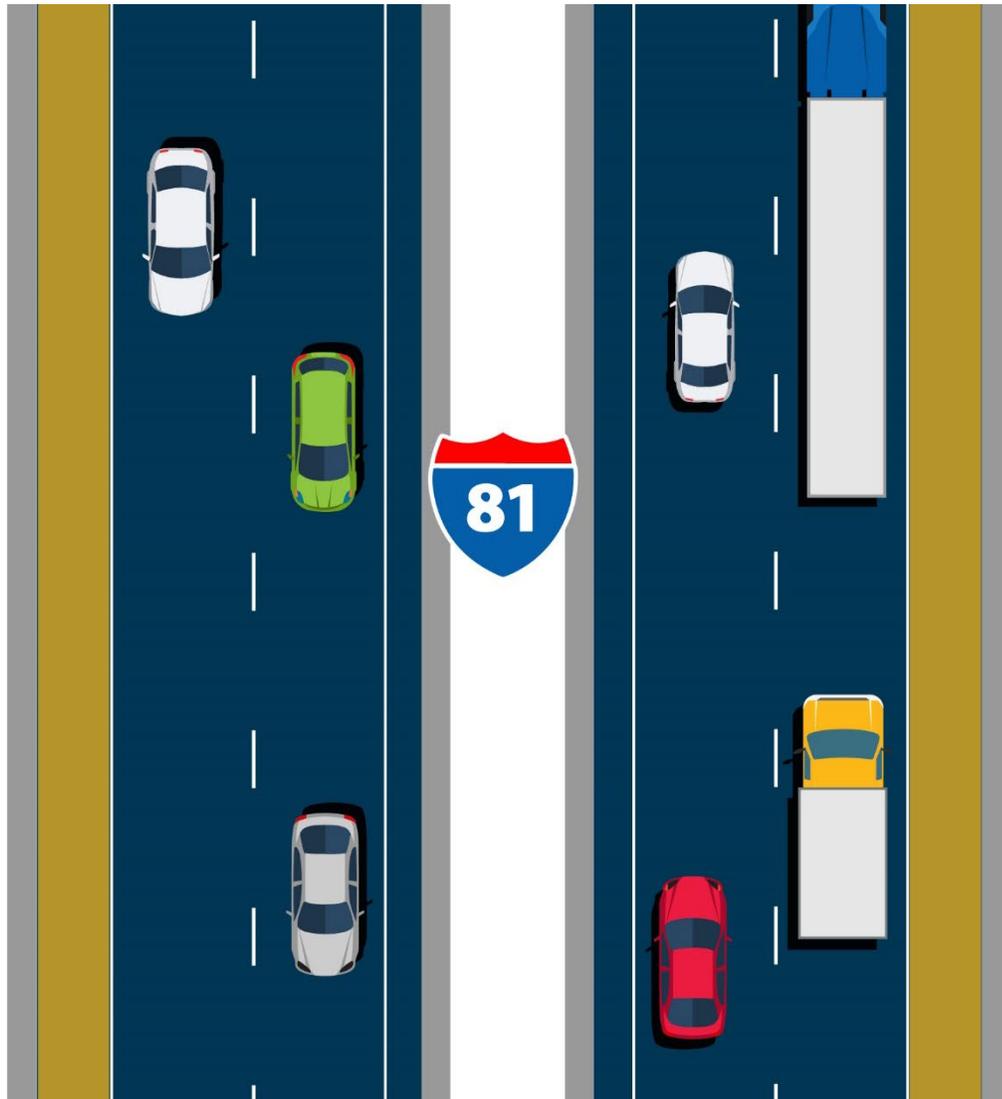
Auxiliary Lane



4 Improvements

- 1 Project Complete
- 3 Future Projects – Completion by 2033

Types of Projects

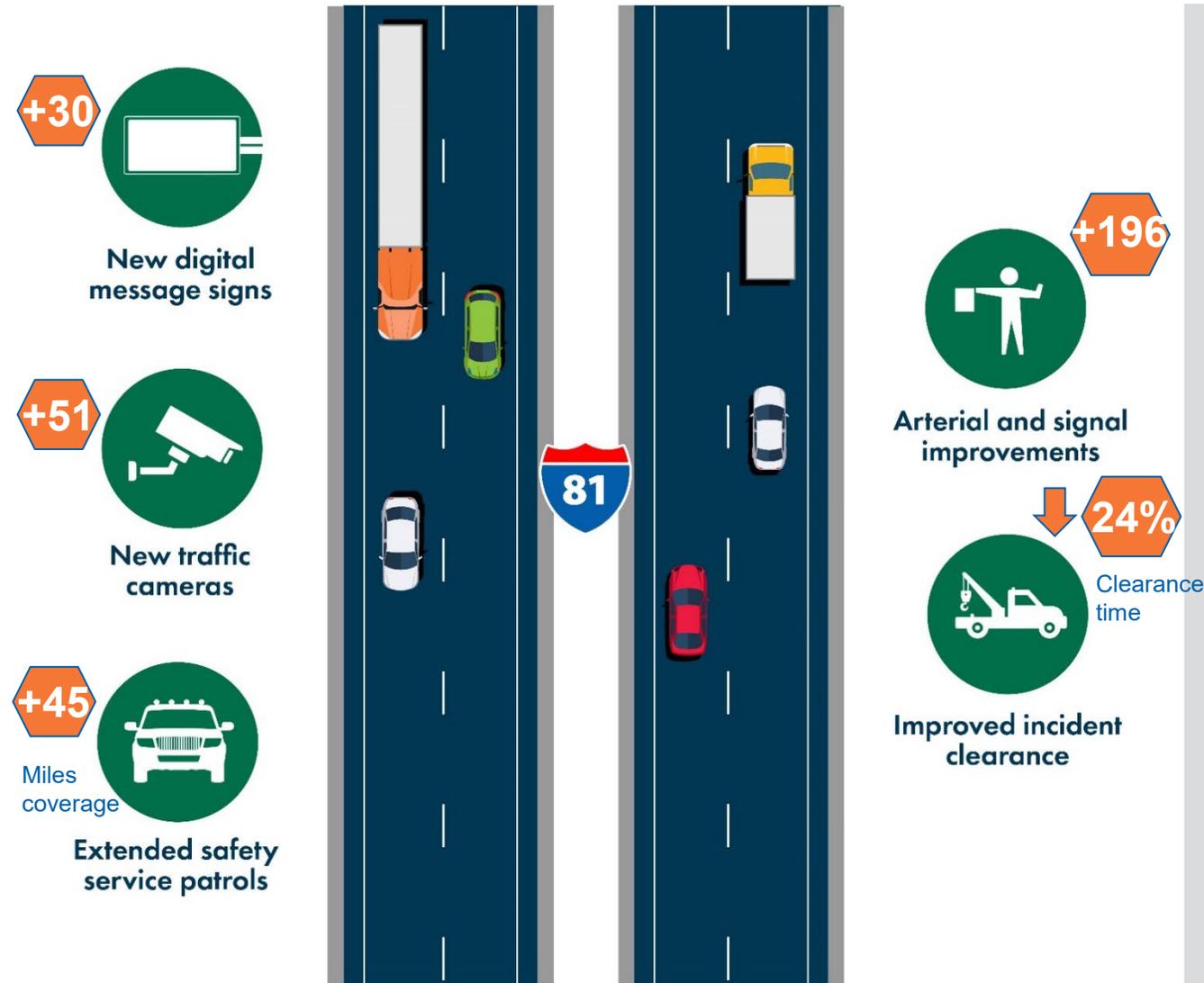


Capital Improvement Projects

+S Shoulder Widening
Curve Improvements 

- 9 Total Improvements
 - 1 Shoulder Improvement
 - Construction to begin in 2026
 - 8 Curve Improvements
 - All complete

Types of Projects



Operational Improvement Projects

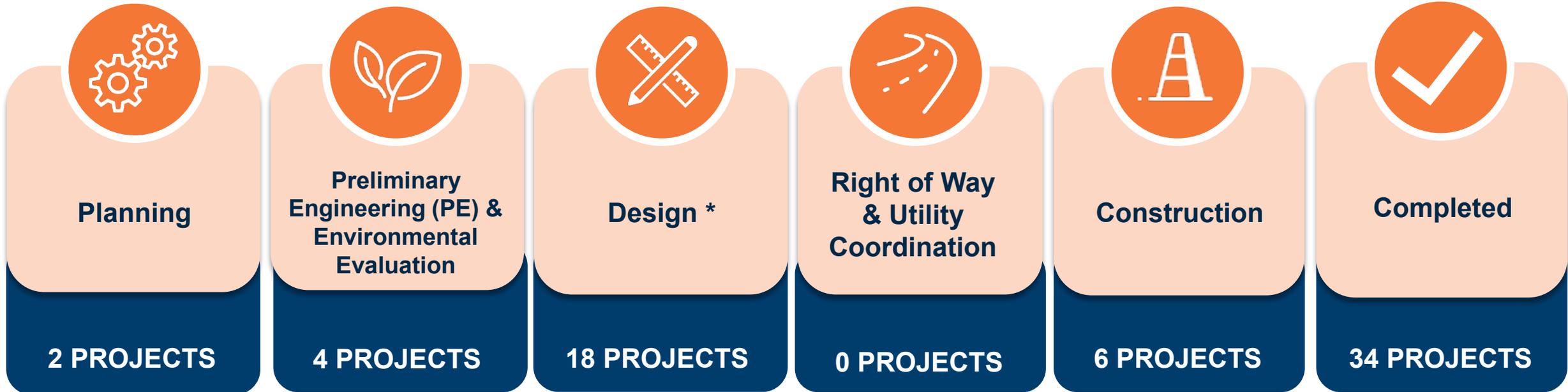
Operational Improvements

5 Improvement Types

- 43 VDOT signal improvements complete
- 39 VDOT signal improvements under construction
- 111 Locality signal improvements underway and will be complete by 2025
- 3 Geometric Improvements complete

Project Development Process (Capital Projects)

Project Status Today (64 Projects)



* 3 projects currently on ad schedule with awards in October and November

Project Status July 2022 (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)**
- **Four curve improvements (chevron signs in Wytheville and Abingdon)**
- **Exit 17 SB Acceleration Lane Extension (Abingdon)**

Bristol District Project Status (Capital Projects)

Projects Under Construction:

- **Exit 39 NB Entrance Ramp to MM 40.6 NB Truck Climbing Lane – Completion June 2024**
- **MM 32.4 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**

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)

Projects Under Construction:

- Exit 137 to Exit 141 Widening NB and SB (Design Build, 2 projects bundled) – Salem
 - Approximately 50% complete. Completion date is January 2026

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)

Projects Under Construction:

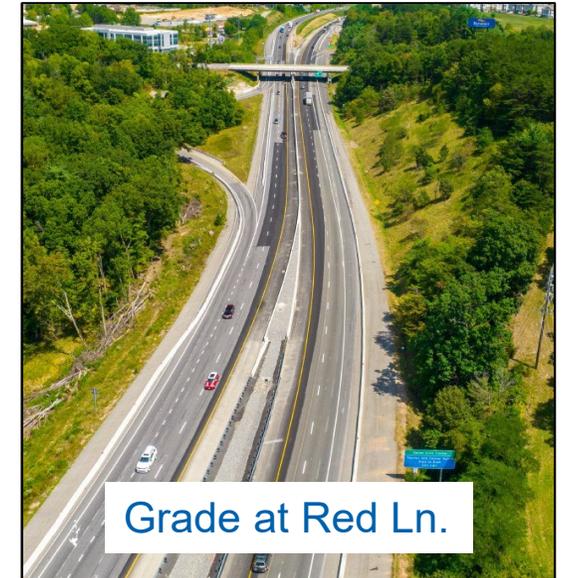
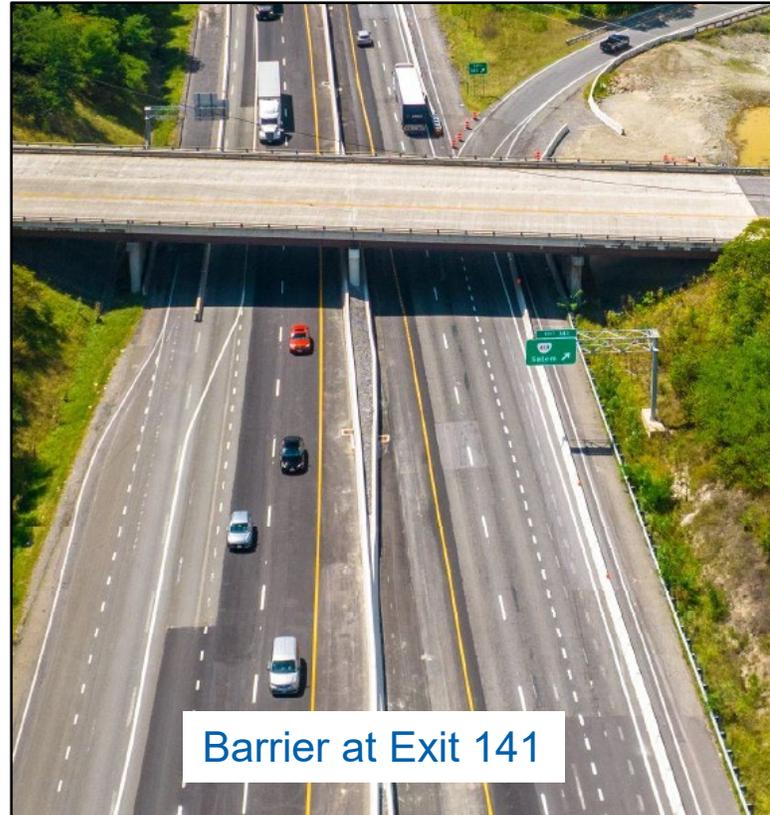
- Exit 221 to Exit 225 NB and SB Widening – Construction Spring/Summer 2023 (Staunton), Completion June 2027

Upcoming Capital Projects (Corridor-wide)

Bristol District	Project Description	Anticipated Construction Start
	Exit 72 NB Decel Extension and I-77 Exit 41 to I-81 SB Exit 72 Auxiliary Lane (Wytheville)	2024
	MM 8.1 to MM 9.7 SB Widening to three lanes (Bristol) – Letting Date Oct. 25	2024
	Exit 72 Deceleration Lane (Wytheville) – Letting Date Nov. 15	2024
	Exit 72 to Exit 73 Auxiliary Lane – Letting Date Nov. 15	2024
Salem District	Project Description	Anticipated Construction Start
	Exit 143 to Exit 150 Widening NB & SB (Roanoke to Troutville)	2024
	Exit 128 to Exit 137 Widening NB Only (Ironto to Salem)	2027
	MM 116 to Exit 128 Widening NB Only (Christiansburg to Ironto)	2028
Staunton District	Project Description	Anticipated Construction Start
	Exit 221 to Exit 220 SB Auxiliary Lane (South of Staunton)	2023
	Exit 299 to Exit 296 SB Widening – Construction Fall/Winter 2024 (Strasburg)	2024
	Weyers Cave NB and SB Truck Climbing Lanes (2 Projects)	2024
	Exit 242 to Exit 248 NB and SB Widening (Harrisonburg)	2025
	Exit 313 to Exit 317 NB and SB Widening – Construction 2028 (Winchester)	2028

Salem Exit 137 to Exit 141 Project Progress

Illustrative of major widening project



Stay up-to-date – 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

- 22 videos
- 22 podcasts
- 11 newsletters

Program Specific Website – Learn More!

Improve81.org

