



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Office of the
SECRETARY of TRANSPORTATION

Interstate 81 Corridor Improvement Plan Update

Nick Donohue
Deputy Secretary of Transportation
July 2018



SB 971 Legislation Requirements

- **Board shall study financing options for the I-81 Corridor**
- **Study shall evaluate-**
 - **Tolls on heavy commercial vehicles**
 - **High-occupancy toll lanes**
- **Study shall not evaluate tolling options that apply to commuters**
- **Board may consider other funding and financing options, including regional fuels tax**

SB 971 Legislation Requirements

- **Board shall develop I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan**

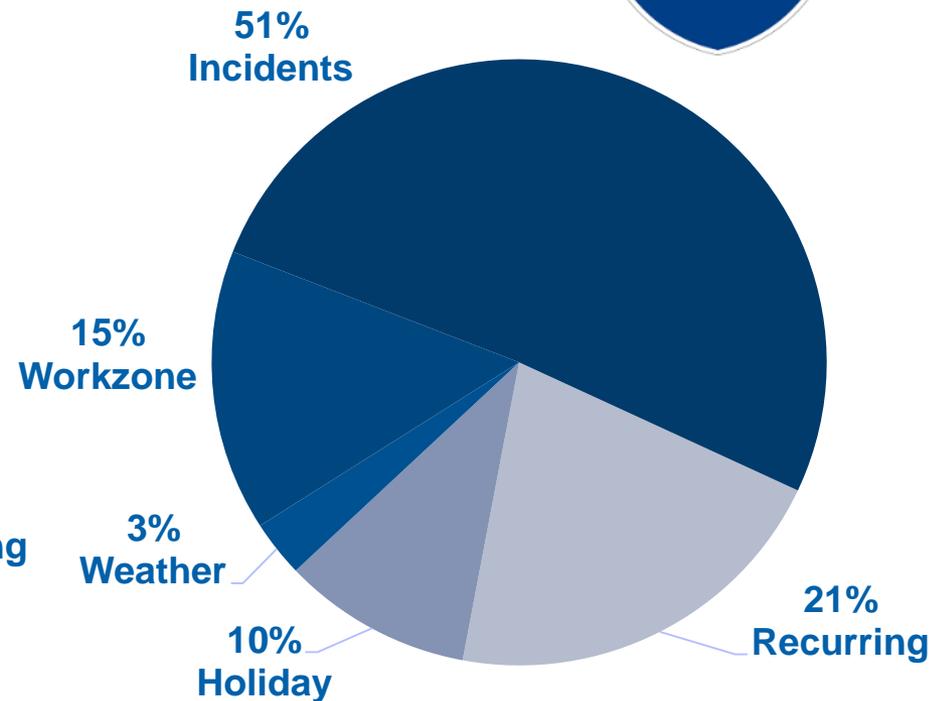
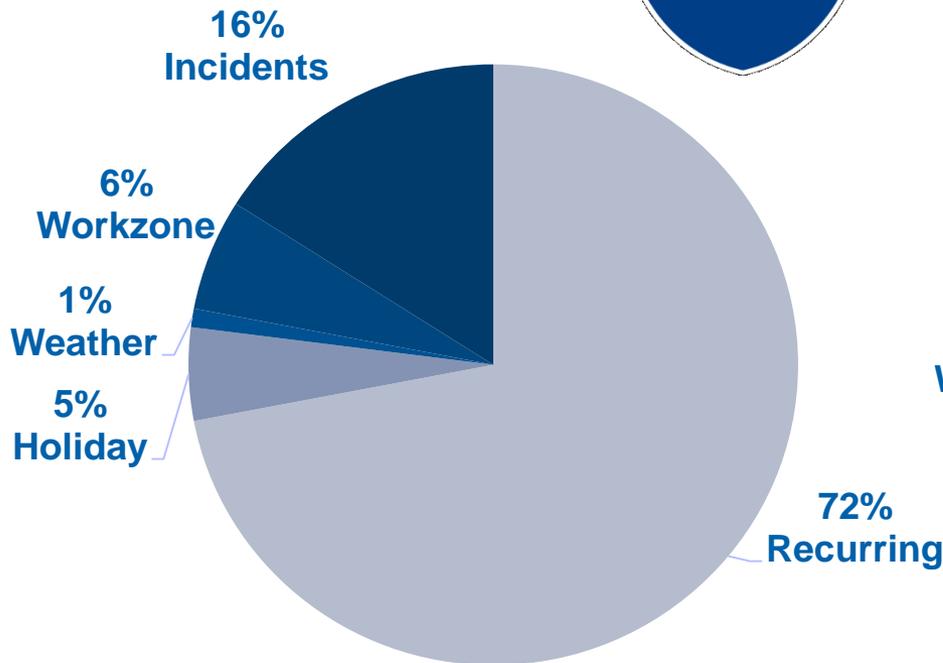
The plan shall-

- **Identify segments of I-81 for improvement**
- **Identify targeted set of improvements, for each segment that can be financed by evaluated financing options**
- **Include corridor-wide incident management strategies**
- **Evaluate concepts to minimize impact of truck-only tolls on local truck traffic and diversion of truck track**
- **Assess economic impacts on corridor for toll financing**

Problem Identification

What Makes I-81 Unique - Delay

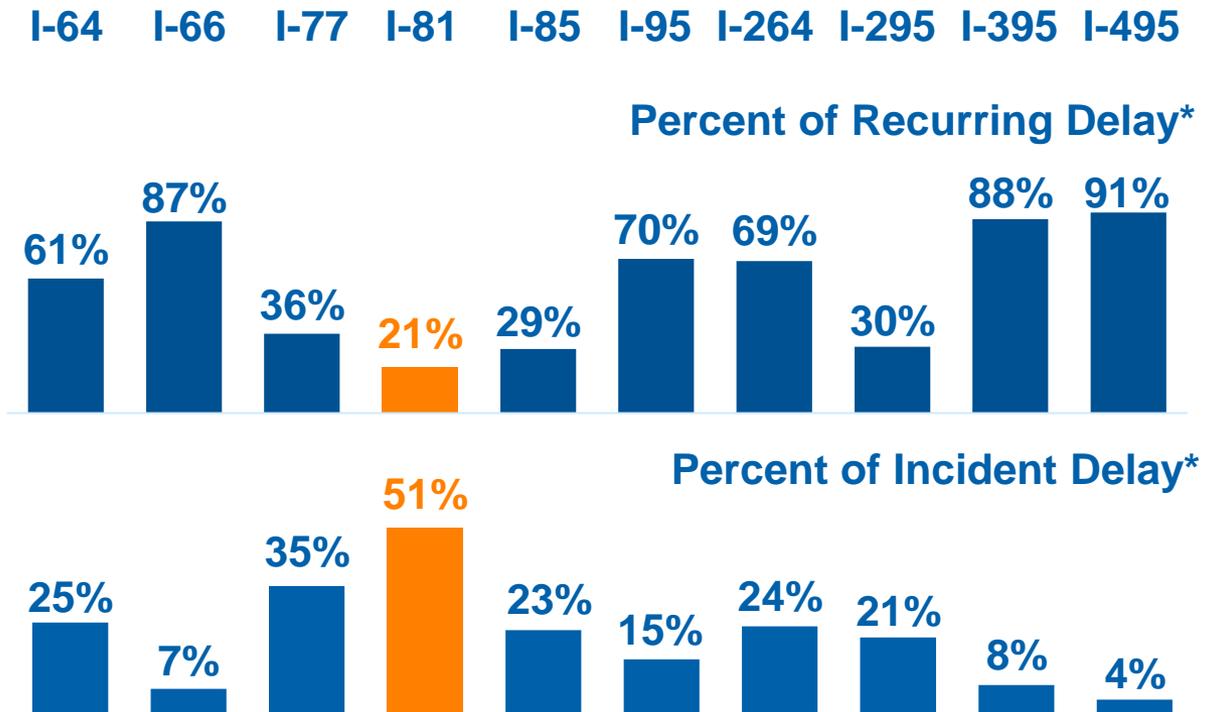
DELAY



Problem Identification

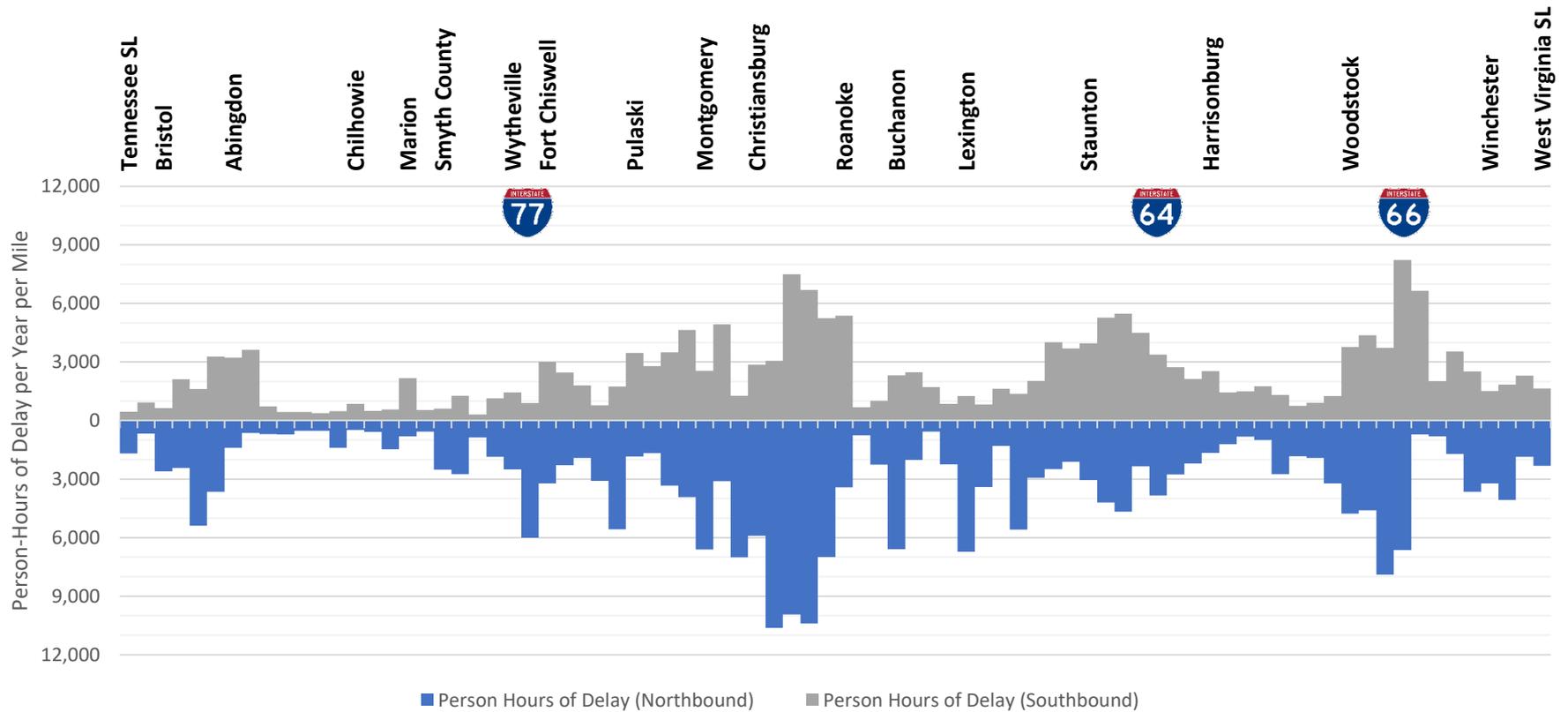
What Makes I-81 Unique - Delay

I-81 has the **lowest** proportion of **Recurring Delay** and the **highest** proportion of **Incident Delay** of any interstate in Virginia

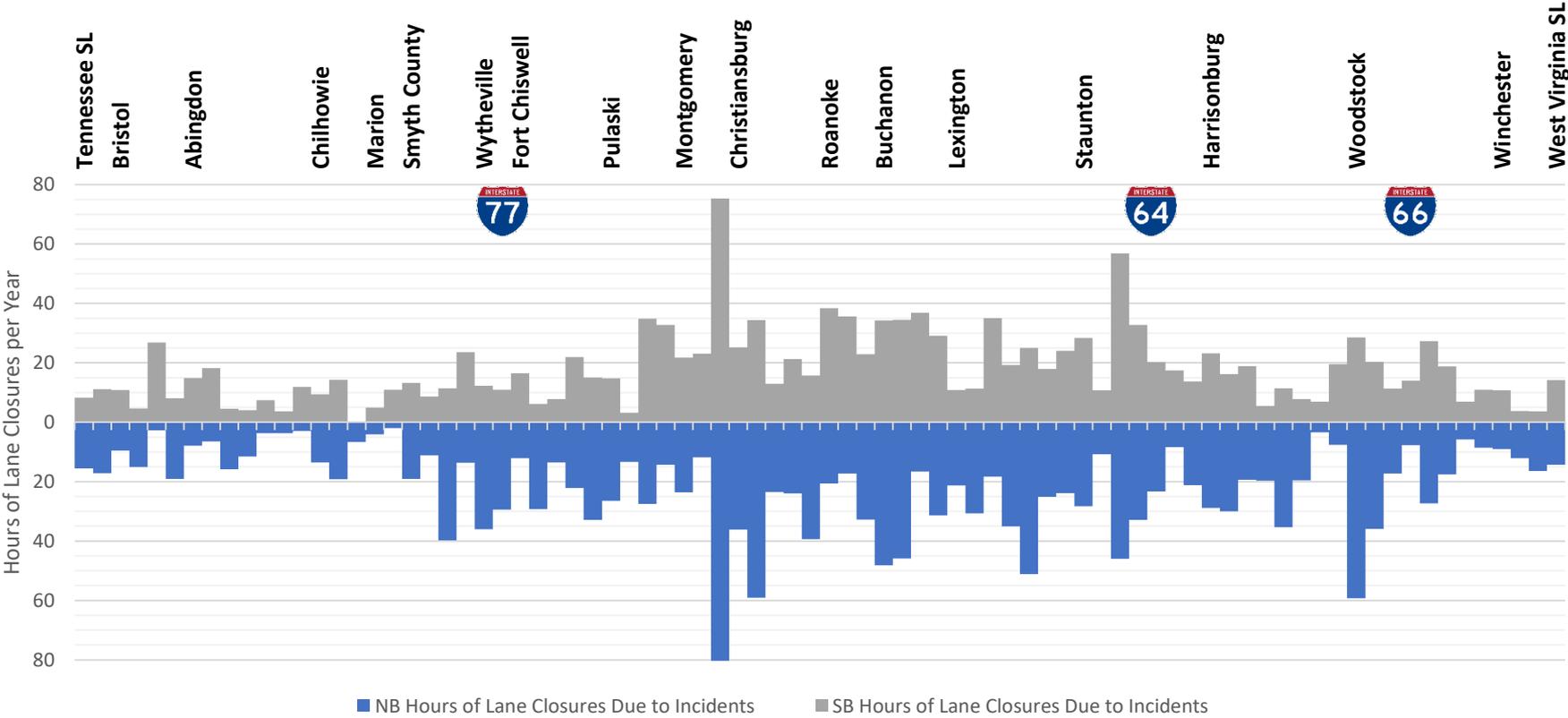


*Incidents defined as lane-impacting crash and disabled vehicle events on the interstate mainline that last > 30 minutes

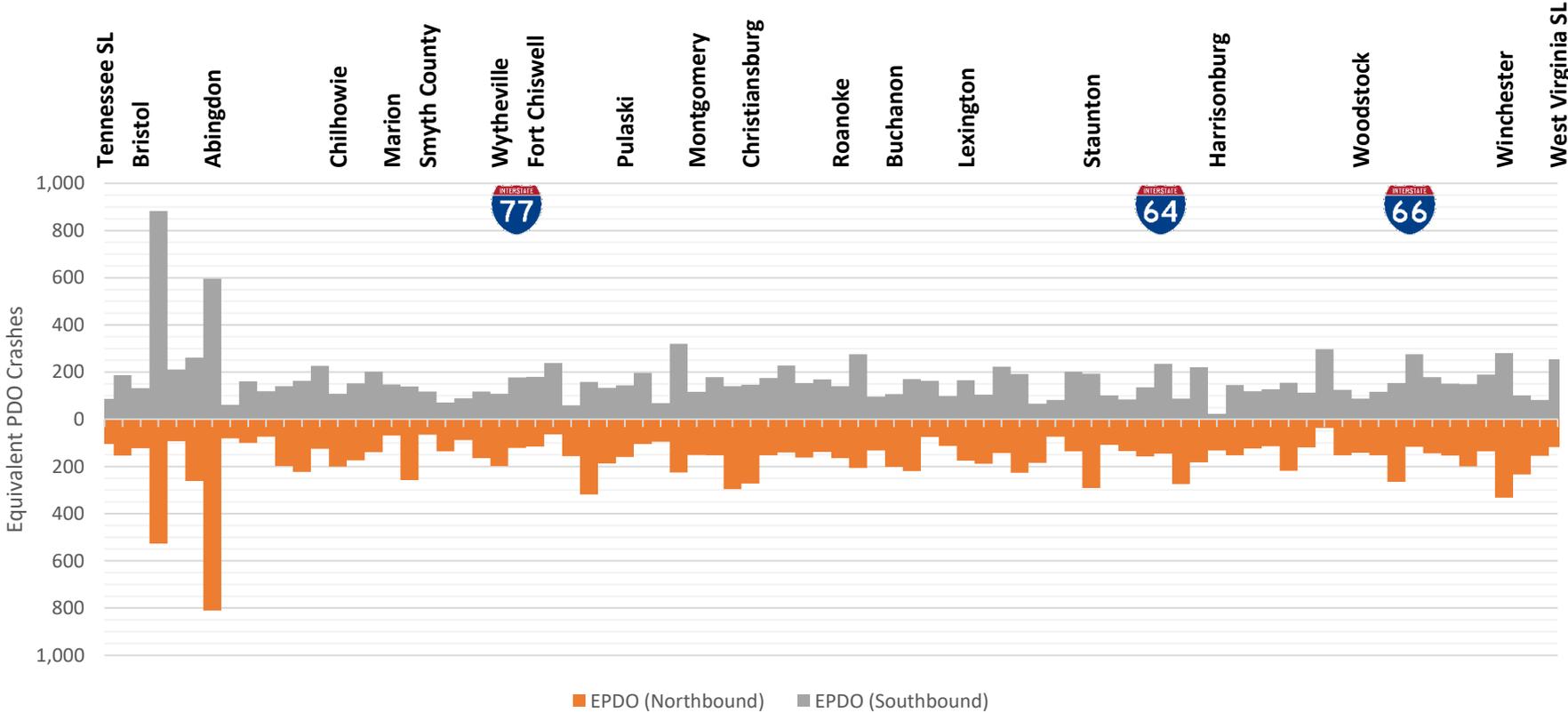
Person Hours of Delay between Interchanges – Average per One Mile Segment



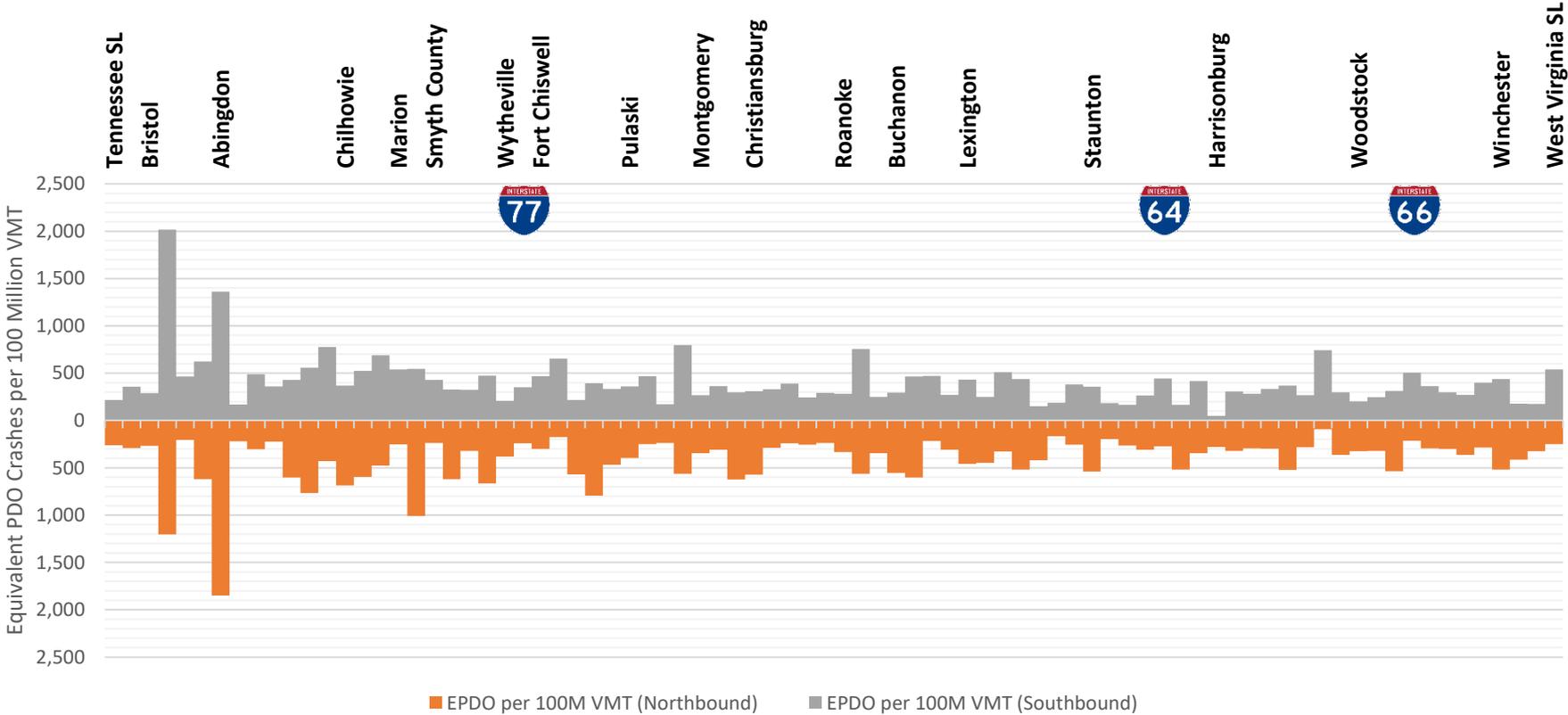
Duration of Incident-Related Lane Closures between Interchanges



Equivalent Property Damage Only – One-Mile Segments



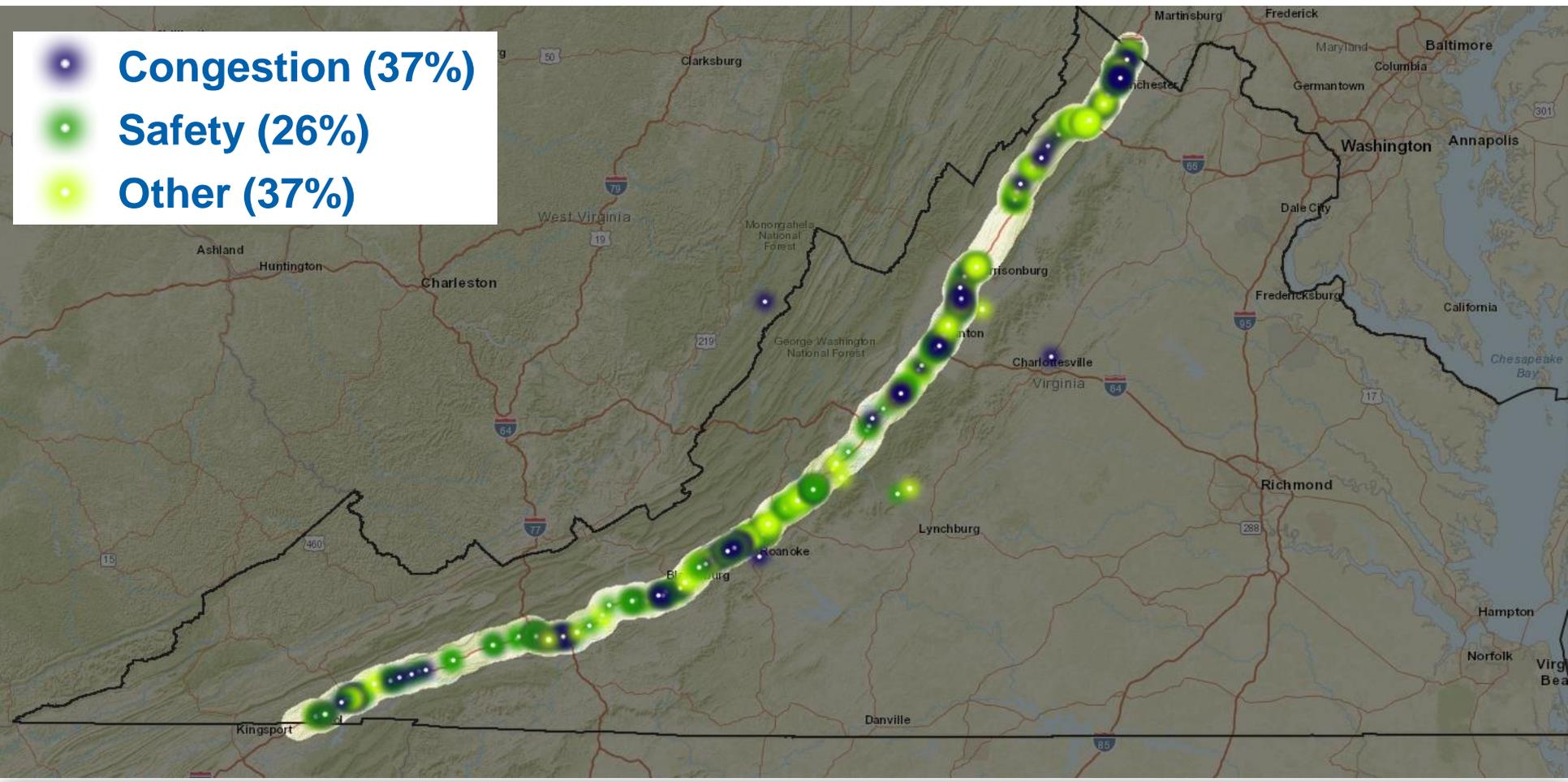
EPDO per 100M VMT – One Mile Segments



Public Involvement

- **Public Meeting Attendance**
 - June 6: Bristol - 41
 - June 12: Staunton (Strasburg) - 101
 - June 13: Staunton (Weyers Cave) - 104
 - June 14: Salem - 153
- **Several options to provide general and location/issue specific comments -**
 - **Public meeting display map dot activity and study website online map:** 680 public comments by geographic location
 - **Comment forms, Email and Phone:** 195 public comments

Public Comments by Geographic Location (680)



Public Comment Forms, Email and Phone (195)

■ Congestion (71 , 36%) ■ Policy (45 , 23%) ■ Safety (79 , 41%)



Development of Potential Improvements

- **Examining each identified problem to determine the cause(s)**
 - **Sharp curves**
 - **Steep grades**
 - **Traffic volumes**
 - **Weaving**
 - **Short acceleration and deceleration lanes**
 - **Lack of alternative routes and traveler information**

Development of Potential Improvements

- **Develop potential improvements that address causes of the identified problems**
 - **Improved operations and incident management**
 - **Widening**
 - **Geometric improvements**
 - **Truck climbing lanes**
 - **Interchange improvements**
 - **Acceleration and deceleration lanes**

Operations/Incident Management Improvements

- **Expanded operations / incident management component will form basis of all potential recommendations packages**
- **Potential options include:**
 - **Innovative incident response**
 - **Freight safety service patrol**
 - **Dynamic message signs**
 - **Corridor management to improve parallel routes**
 - **Instant tow dispatch**
 - **Towing response incentive program**

August Public Meetings

- **Summarize congestion and safety issues, public feedback received in June meetings**
- **Present potential improvements to address identified problems**
- **Provide information on potential revenue generation mechanisms**
- **Seek public feedback on potential recommendations and revenue generation mechanisms**

August Public Meetings

- **Meeting dates and locations:**
 - **August 20: Bristol – Holiday Inn Bristol Conference Center**
 - **August 22: Staunton (North) – Lord Fairfax Community College**
 - **August 23: Staunton (South) – Blue Ridge Community College**
 - **August 28: Salem – Salem Civic Center**

Next Steps After August Meetings

- Evaluate potential recommendations using SMART SCALE process along the corridor
- Evaluate economic impact of revenue generation mechanisms
- Develop recommended package of improvements and financing/funding options
- Host Fall public meetings along the corridor
- Present updated recommended package to the Board for consideration