I-81 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT STUDY
Tier 2 I-77/I-81 Overlap

Scoping/Citizen Information Meeting
December 4, 2008

The purpose of the meeting is to provide you with preliminary information and seek your input on the scope of issues to be addressed in the study including:

- Purpose and need for the project
- Alternatives to be considered
- Environmental impacts

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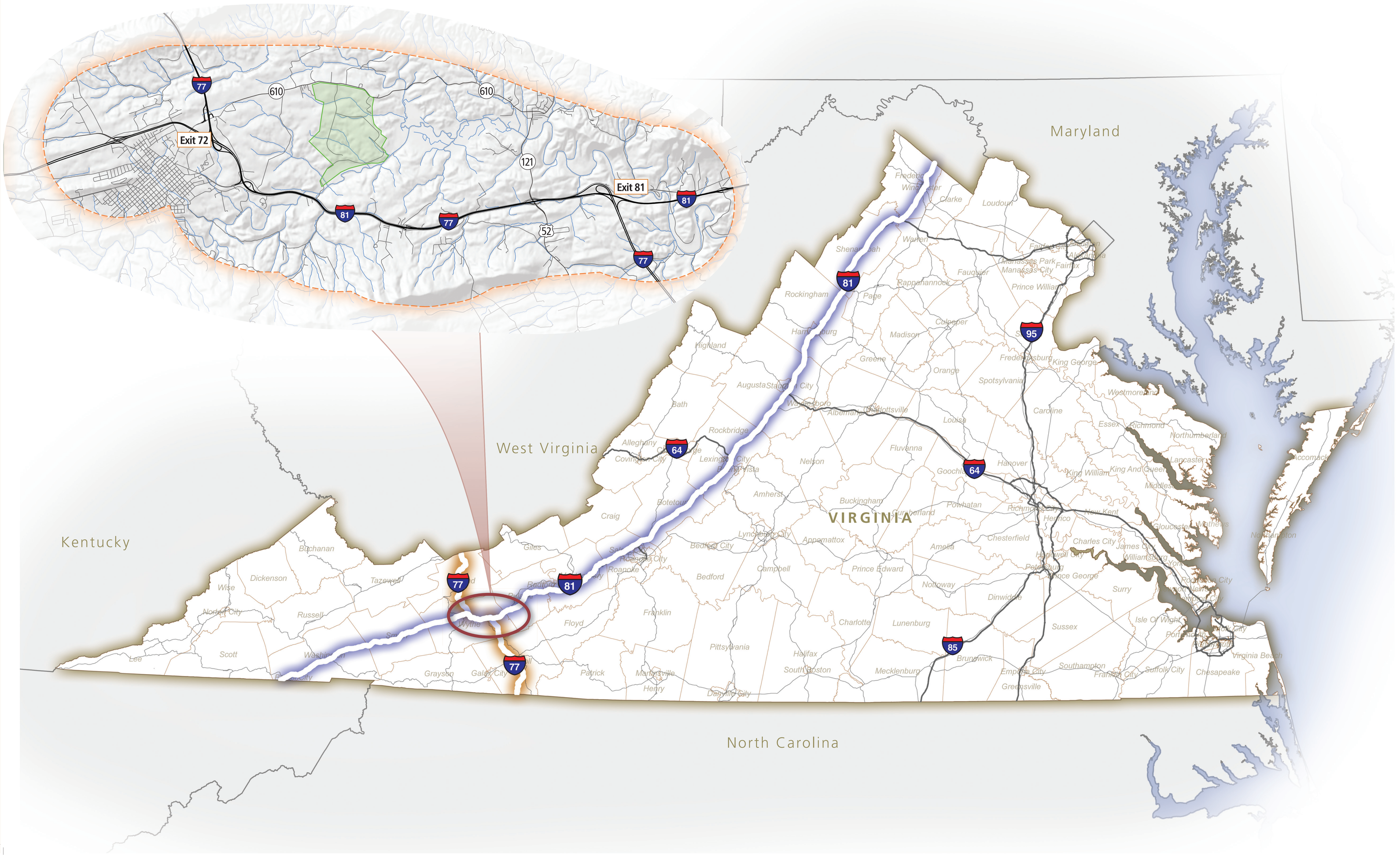
Study Area



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Tiered NEPA Process: Relationship Between Tier 1 and Tier 2

TIER 1

- Corridor-length purpose and need based on 2035 conditions
- Development of conceptual solutions
- Potential environmental impacts based on readily available information
- Identified sections of I-81 to be studied further

Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement completed 2007

TIER 2

- Refined purpose and need based on 2035 conditions
- Development of more specific alternatives
- Environmental Impacts based on more detailed studies
- I-77/I-81 overlap identified as section to be studied further

Environmental Assessment underway

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Scoping Process

Scoping

Determine range of issues to be addressed through coordination with local, state & federal agencies and the public.

Purpose & Need

Identify transportation deficiencies or needs within study area.

Alternatives

Develop conceptual alternatives, solicit input and use a screening process to narrow them down to Candidate Build Alternatives.

Impact Analysis

Topics to consider:

- Air/Noise
- Cultural Resources
- Endangered Species
- Wetlands and Streams
- Social and economics
- Farmland
- Parks and Recreation
- Hazardous Materials

Project Schedule

TIME FRAME	EVENT
Through 2008	Scoping and data collection
Fall 2008	Refine Purpose and Need
Oct / Nov 2008	Develop preliminary conceptual alternatives
December 4, 2008	YOU ARE HERE — Scoping/Citizen Information Meeting
Dec 2008 / Jan 2009	Using a screening process, narrow preliminary conceptual alternatives down to alternatives to be evaluated in the Environmental Assessment
Spring / Summer 2009	Develop alternatives, perform environmental studies, and determine impacts
August 2009	Complete Environmental Assessment and approval by the Federal Highway Administration
September 2009	Location Public Hearing
Fall 2009	Commonwealth Transportation Board action
November 2009	Revise Environmental Assessment based on Public Hearing comments and Commonwealth Transportation Board decision
Winter 2010	Final decision on the Environmental Assessment process by Federal Highway Administration

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Purpose and Need

Improvements are needed to increase highway capacity, improve future operating conditions, and provide safer travel.

Existing Conditions

- Traffic volumes on the I-77/I-81 overlap have more than doubled since 1978
- Two sections of the I-77/I-81 overlap have a crash rate higher than the statewide average
- Some sections of the I-77/I-81 overlap do not meet current design standards and may contribute to existing and future safety concerns
- Poor operating condition exists at Exit 77 ramp junction with service road

Future Conditions

- By 2035, traffic on the I-77/I-81 overlap is projected to double again
- By 2035, truck traffic on the I-77/I-81 overlap is projected to more than double
- By 2035, operations on the I-77/I-81 overlap will substantially degrade causing regular delays
- By 2035, intersection operations at Exit 77 and Exit 80 will substantially deteriorate

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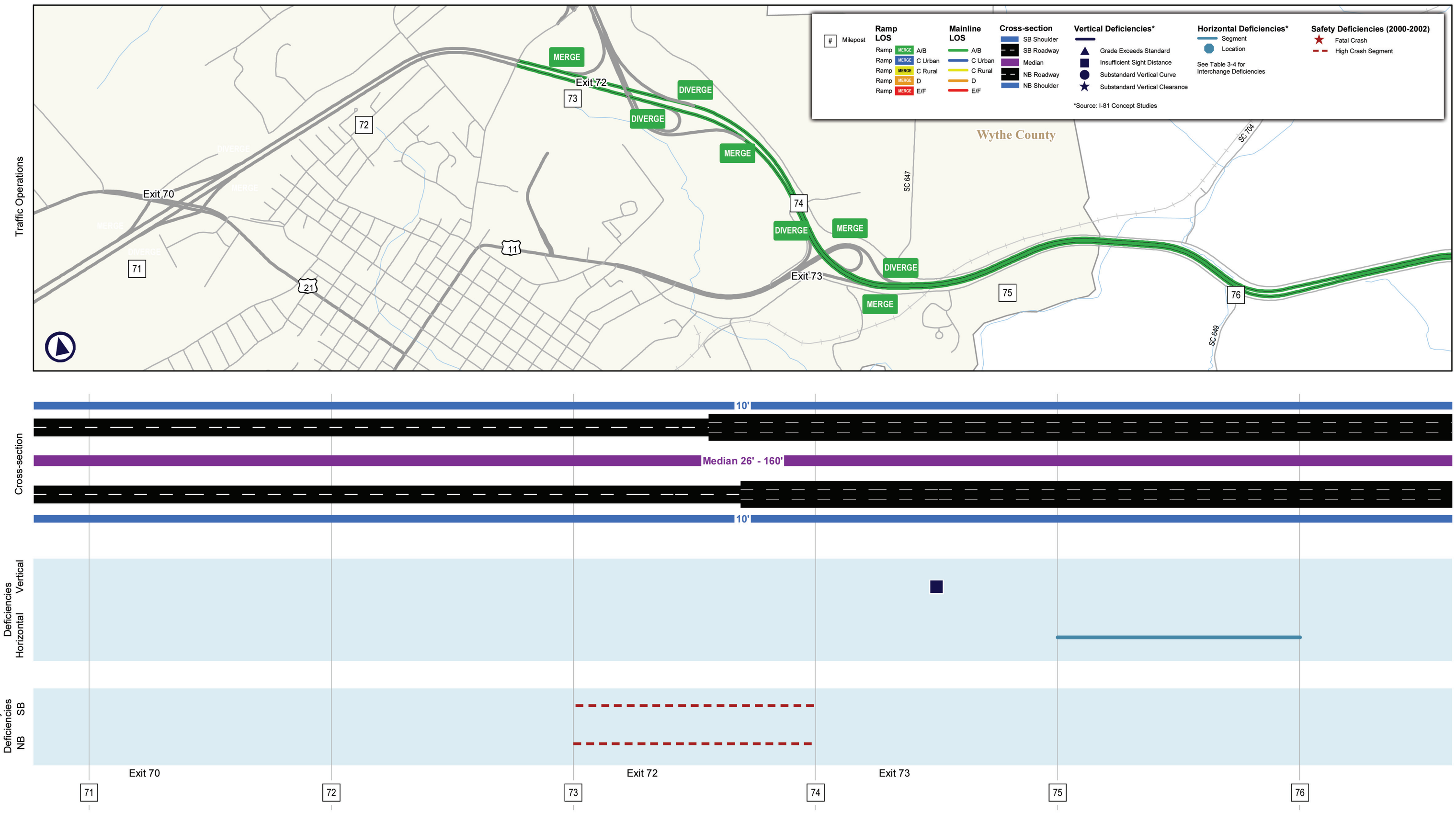
Existing Conditions on I-77/I-81 Overlap



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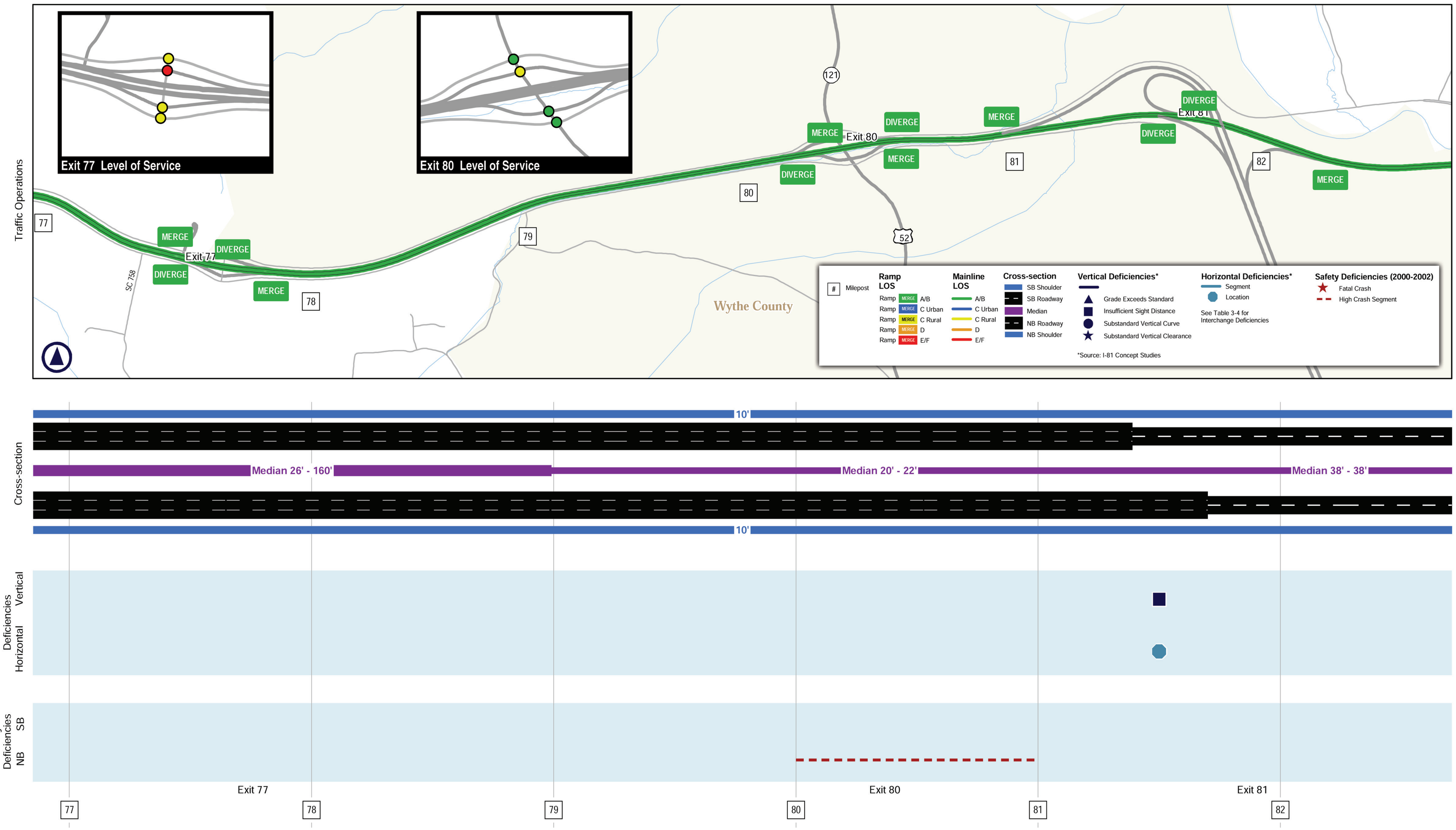
Existing Conditions on I-77/I-81 Overlap



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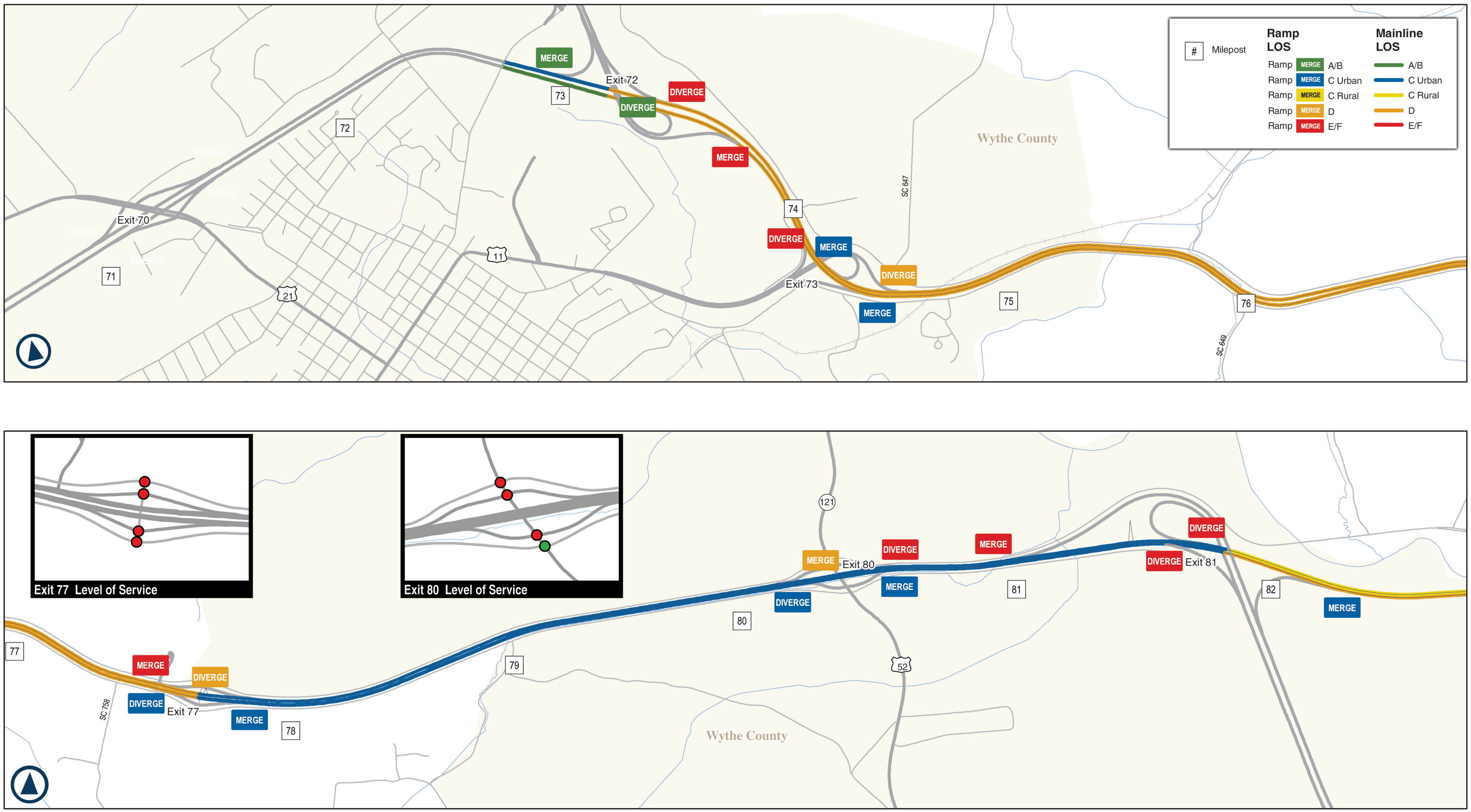
Future (2035) Conditions on I-77/I-81 Overlap



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Alternatives Development and Screening Process

STEP I

Develop Conceptual Alternatives & Solicit input from Public and Agencies

STEP II

Purpose and Need Met?

YES

STEP II

Screening Criteria Met?

- Engineering
- Right of Way/ Displacements
- Traffic/Transportation
- Environmental impacts

YES

Alternatives Retained

NO

Eliminate Conceptual Alternatives

NO

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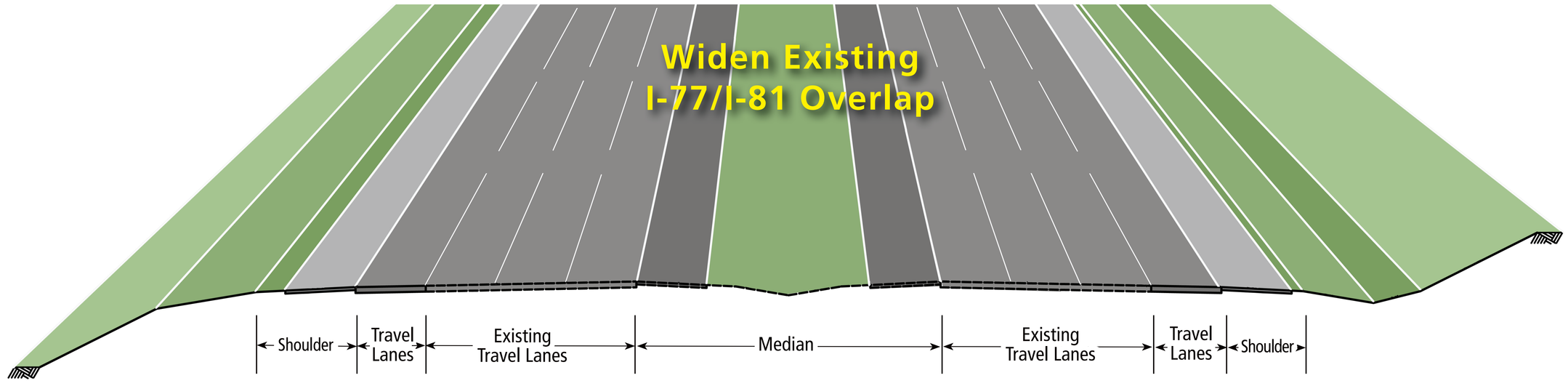
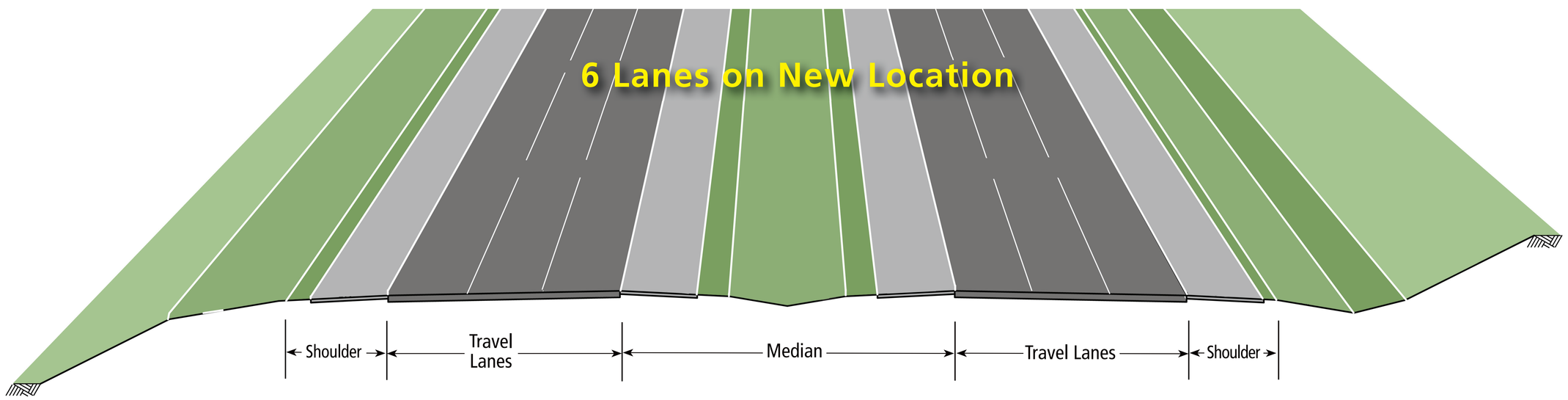
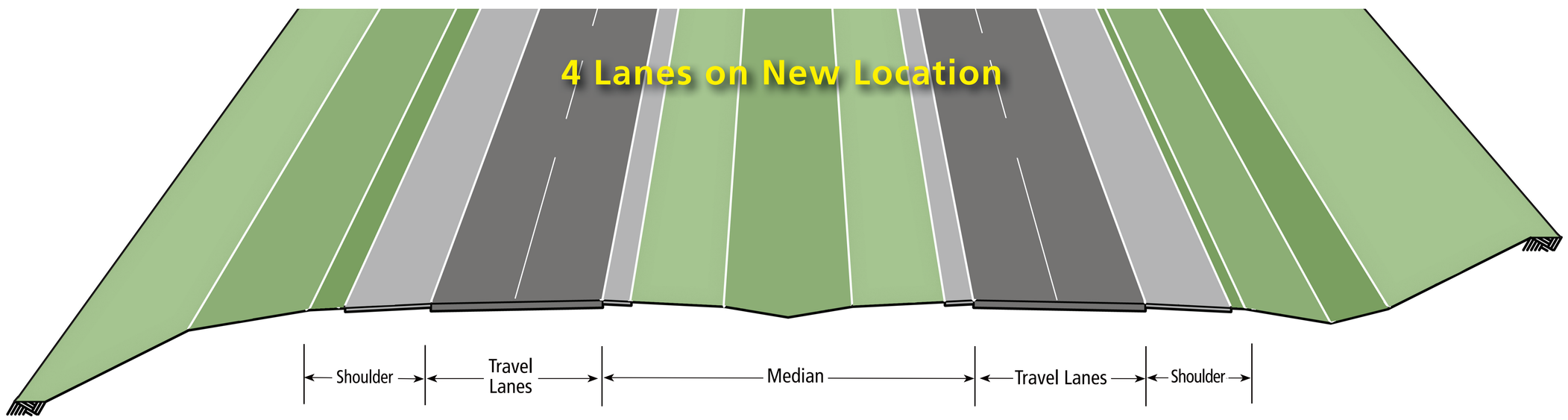
Typical Sections for Alternatives







Preliminary Conceptual Alternatives