

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this project is to reconstruct the Exit 14 interchange on I-81 to accommodate increased traffic volumes and future growth.

The proposed improvements will reconstruct I-81 northbound and southbound before and after the interchange and replace the I-81 northbound and southbound bridges over Jonesboro Road. The interchange ramps will also be reconstructed.

Jonesboro Road will be reconstructed to provide two through lanes in each direction with a raised median and dual left turn lanes for the I-81 northbound entrance ramp. Two traffic signals will be installed where I-81 ramps intersect Jonesboro Road.

Dennison Drive will also be reconstructed to raise the roadway. A retaining wall will be constructed between I-81 and a portion of Dennison Drive. The intersection with Jonesboro Road will be relocated opposite the reconstructed northbound ramp.

This project will be developed in compliance with the Stormwater Management Act, the Stormwater Regulations, and the annual Stormwater Management

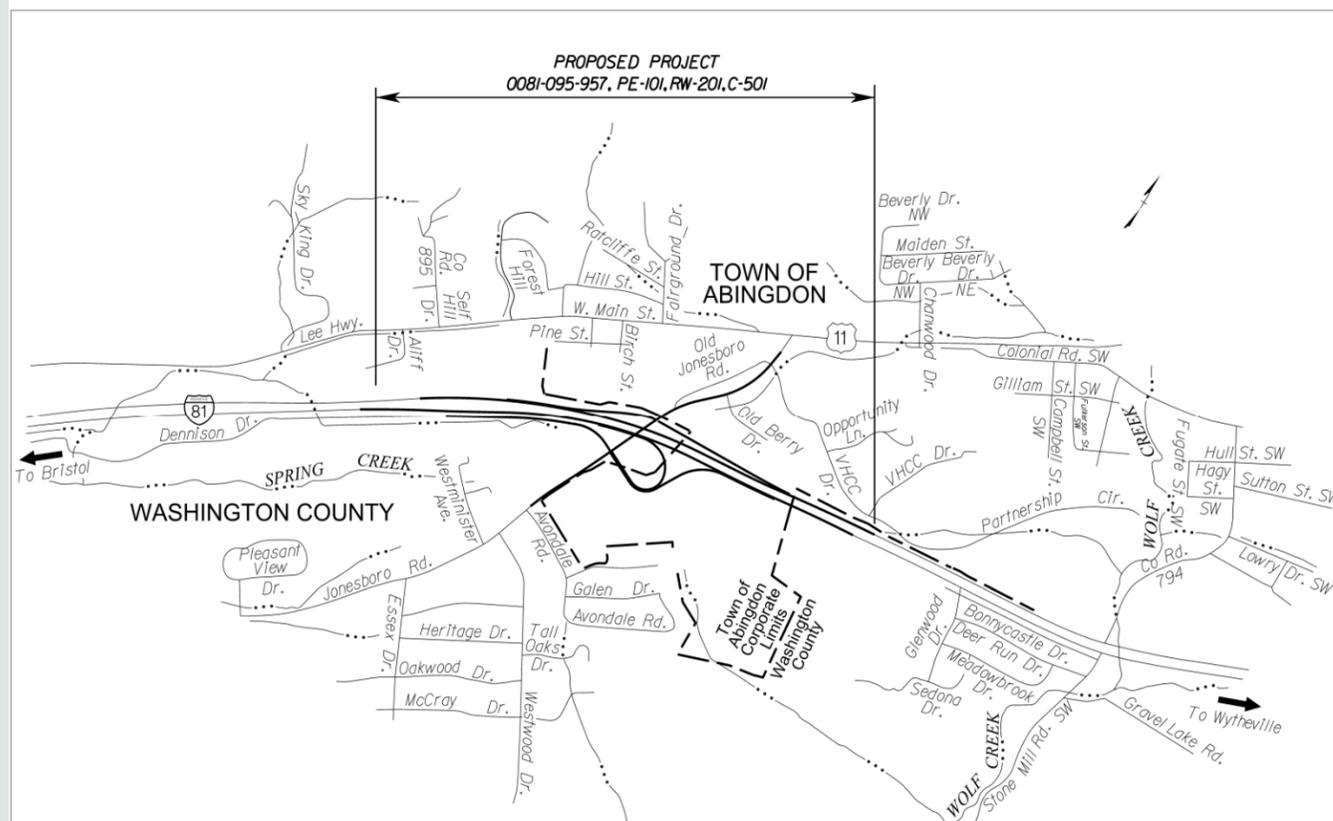
Standards and Specifications approved by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. Based on current regulations all Stormwater Management requirements have been met.

Potential impacts to flood plains, streams and wetlands were evaluated and the project is not expected to generate any negative flood plain impacts to upstream properties.

It is anticipated that northbound I-81 traffic exiting onto Jonesboro Road will be detoured during some of the construction. Traffic will be detoured to I-81 Exit 13 where Route 11 will be used to access Jonesboro Road.

During construction, every reasonable effort will be made to protect the environment with respect to dust control and erosion control.

Project Graphic



Location Map

Estimated Project Cost

The preliminary estimated cost for the project includes the following:

Preliminary Engineering:	\$ 1,400,000
Right of Way:	\$ 3,910,000
Construction:	<u>\$30,410,000</u>
Total Cost:	\$35,720,000

Because this project is in the preliminary design stage, the estimated costs are subject to change. This project includes state and federal funds.

Environmental Review

VDOT's Bristol District Environmental Section completed an environmental review of the project to obtain preliminary information about environmental resources in the project vicinity; identify opportunities for avoidance, minimization, and mitigation during the early stages of development.

In addition, this project was coordinated with the appropriate federal, state and local agencies as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). A NEPA document, categorical exclusion, was prepared for this project in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and in accordance with federal guidelines. The NEPA document includes information from various technical reviews such as noise, air, natural resources (streams, wetlands, threatened and endangered species, etc.) and hazardous materials. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed project on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is also provided in the environmental documentation.

The NEPA document and associated studies are available at today's meeting. Representatives from VDOT's environmental section are available to discuss the NEPA process and the associated studies that were performed, and to answer any questions the public might have.

Anticipated Schedule

The following schedule has been proposed:

- Design Approval – mid 2013
- Right of Way Acquisition – late 2013
- Advertisement for Construction – early 2015

Civil Rights

Representatives from VDOT are present to discuss the project and answer your questions. It is the responsibility of VDOT to ensure that all members of the community are afforded the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation systems and projects affecting them.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Bristol District Office of Civil Rights, 870 Bonham Road, Bristol, VA 24201, or call 276-645-1677, toll free 800-611-5812, or TDD 711.

Right of Way

The Plans on display at this meeting show the extent of right of way that is needed for this project. As currently proposed, 12 parcels of land are affected by the acquisition of right of way and/or easements. No businesses or dwellings will be displaced or relocated as a result of this project.

Easements are required for construction of slopes as well as maintenance of drainage facilities. As we further develop and finalize this project, additional easements for maintenance, construction and utility relocations may be required beyond the proposed right of way shown on the public hearing plans. Property owners will be informed of the exact location of these easements during the right of way acquisition process prior to construction.

Information about right of way purchase is discussed in VDOT's brochure titled, "Right of Way and Utilities: a Guide for Property Owners and Tenants." Copies of this brochure are available from a VDOT right of way agent.

After this meeting, information regarding right of way may be obtained from VDOT, Bristol District Right of Way and Utilities Office, 870 Bonham Road, Bristol, VA 24201, or call 276-669-9925, toll free 800-611-5812, or TDD 711.

Get Involved

Eleven days after this meeting, the public comment period will close (February 11, 2013). At that time, VDOT representatives will review and evaluate any information received as a result of the meeting, adjusting the project design as needed.

After the public hearing, the Abingdon Town Council and Washington County Board of Supervisors will be requested to pass a resolution approving the major design features and then VDOT's chief engineer will act on the design. The project will then progress to the right of way acquisition stage.

Acquisition of right of way is expected to begin in late-2013.

Once awarded, construction should be completed in approximately 36 months. Access to properties and businesses will be maintained at all times but a temporary detour during construction of an interchange ramp will be required.

Contact Information

Primary Contact: Mr. Dennis Harris, P.E., PMP	Bristol District Location & Design Engineer	870 Bonham Road Bristol, VA 24201	276-669-9910
Mr. Chase Buchanan, P.E.	Project Manager	870 Bonham Road Bristol, VA 24201	276-645-4878
Michael Black	Right of Way	870 Bonham Road Bristol, VA 24021	276-669-9925
Michelle Earl	Communications	870 Bonham Road Bristol, VA 24021	276-669-9999



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Design Public Hearing

Interstate-81 – Exit 14 Interchange Washington County

Thursday, January 31, 2013, 4 -6 p.m.
Snow Date: February 7, 2013. 4-6 p.m.
Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center
Grand Hall
One Partnership Circle

Public Meeting

Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) design public hearing on the proposed improvements to Interstate-81 – Exit 14 interchange in the Town of Abingdon/Washington County. The improvements along I-81 begin about a half-mile west of Route 647 (Jonesboro Road) and end about a half-mile east of Route 647. Improvements are also proposed to Jonesboro Road and Dennison Drive.

This public hearing is being held to provide an opportunity for any person, acting on behalf or representing a group or governmental agency, to give VDOT comments and / or suggestions on the proposed project.

VDOT strives to ensure that all members of the community have the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation projects and programs affecting them.

VDOT representatives are present to discuss the project and answer your questions.

A comment sheet is included in the handouts for this meeting, and your input is encouraged. All oral and written comments received on this project will be included in a transcript for review by VDOT personnel, citizens and other interested parties.

VDOT staff will address questions and concerns raised as a result of this meeting before the project is presented to VDOT's Chief Engineer for consideration.

Project Overview



Interstate 81 over Jonesboro Road

Anticipated Cost – Approximately \$35.3 million

Purpose – Replace the bridges, make safety and operational improvements (remove weaving movement), upgrade interchange to accommodate increased traffic volumes and future growth.

From – 0.537 Mile West of Route 647 (Jonesboro Road)

To – 0.580 Mile East of Route 647

Total Length – 1.086 miles