Fred Altizer, Jr., P.E.
Assistant to the Chief Engineer & I-81 Program Manager
I-81 Initiatives
Current Conditions

- 325 miles; 90 interchanges
- Rolling and mountainous terrain
- Traffic increased from 25,000 vpd in 1990 to 57,000 (near Roanoke) in 2003
- Designed for 15% trucks; now 20%-40%
I-81 Initiatives

The terrain of I-81 in Virginia from Tennessee to West Virginia
I-81 Initiatives

Corridor Improvement Study

- NEPA
  - In partnership with FHWA, launched study in January 2004
- Tiered EIS process
  - Tier 1: corridor-wide issues
  - Tier 2: site-specific issues
- Includes highway and rail concepts
Corridor Improvement Study

- Tier 1 decisions
  - Concepts for highway and rail
    - Number of lanes
    - Partial or complete separation of trucks and cars
    - Defined segments
    - Additional rail capacity
  - Approval to advance I-81 as a toll pilot

- Draft Tier 1 EIS and public hearings – Fall 2005
I-81 Initiatives

Tolling Application

- Tolling is a funding option under consideration
- March 2003 – VDOT submitted tolling application to FHWA under Section 1216(b) of TEA-21
- FHWA granted “conditional provisional acceptance” of VDOT’s application
Tolling Application

• Provisional approval will not occur unless supported by Tier 1 environmental study

• Some other actions required to obtain approval:
  – MPO consultations
  – Public involvement plan
  – Basic financial plan
  – Project management plan
  – Pilot study history
I-81 Initiatives

PPTA
Public Private Transportation Act of 1995

• Under PPTA, a *Virginia purchasing law*, VDOT solicited proposals to design, build, maintain and/or operate all or parts of I-81

• March 5, 2004 - Commissioner directed VDOT to begin negotiations with STAR

• I-81 Corridor Improvement Study will help determine what can be built
I-81 Initiatives

PPTA

Public Private Transportation Act of 1995

- Negotiating a comprehensive agreement
- NEPA provides the basis for a decision
Welcome to the I-81 Corridor in Virginia

Have questions?
Get the facts at www.i-81.org

Thank you.