



www.VirginiaDOT.org
SalemInfo@VDOT.Virginia.gov

CITIZEN INFORMATION MEETING

Tier 2 Environmental Assessment I-81 Corridor Improvement Study, SIU #4 Montgomery & Roanoke Counties; City of Salem & Town of Christiansburg

Wednesday, February 6, 2013
5 - 7 p.m.

Falling Branch Elementary
735 Falling Branch Road
Christiansburg, VA 24073

Thursday, February 7, 2013
5 - 7 p.m.

Fort Lewis Elementary
3115 West Main Street
Salem, VA 24153

PURPOSE OF MEETING

Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) Citizen Information Meeting on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements to I-81 from Exit 118 (US 460) in Christiansburg to Exit 143 (I-581) in Roanoke County.

This Citizen Information Meeting is being held to provide an opportunity for citizens and organizations 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. Please provide suggestions on the proposed project and the scope of issues to be addressed in the Environmental Assessment with respect to the purpose and need, alternatives, and environmental issues.

All verbal and written comments received on this study will be included in a summary report for consideration by VDOT personnel, citizens, and other interested parties and will be made available upon request.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

VDOT, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is preparing an Environmental Assessment for proposed highway improvements on I-81 between Exit 118 (US 460) in the Town of Christiansburg and Exit 143 (I-581) in Roanoke County. The proposed improvements along this 25-mile corridor are the result of findings in the broader Tier 1 Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the entire 325-mile I-81 corridor in Virginia that was completed in March 2007 and approved with a Record of Decision (ROD) in June 2007. The concept being advanced into Tier 2 would involve the construction of no more than two general purpose lanes in each direction.



State Project: 0081-962-116, P101; UPC 67588

Federal Project: NH-0005(183)

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Tiering is a staged approach to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) whereby the assessment of broad programs and issues is completed in initial (Tier 1) or systems-level analyses, and the analysis of site-specific proposals and impacts is conducted in subsequent tier studies. Accordingly, the 2007 Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for I-81 allowed for decision-making on corridor-length capacity and safety issues associated with I-81 in Virginia and deferred design and location decisions and the evaluation of site-specific conditions and impacts.

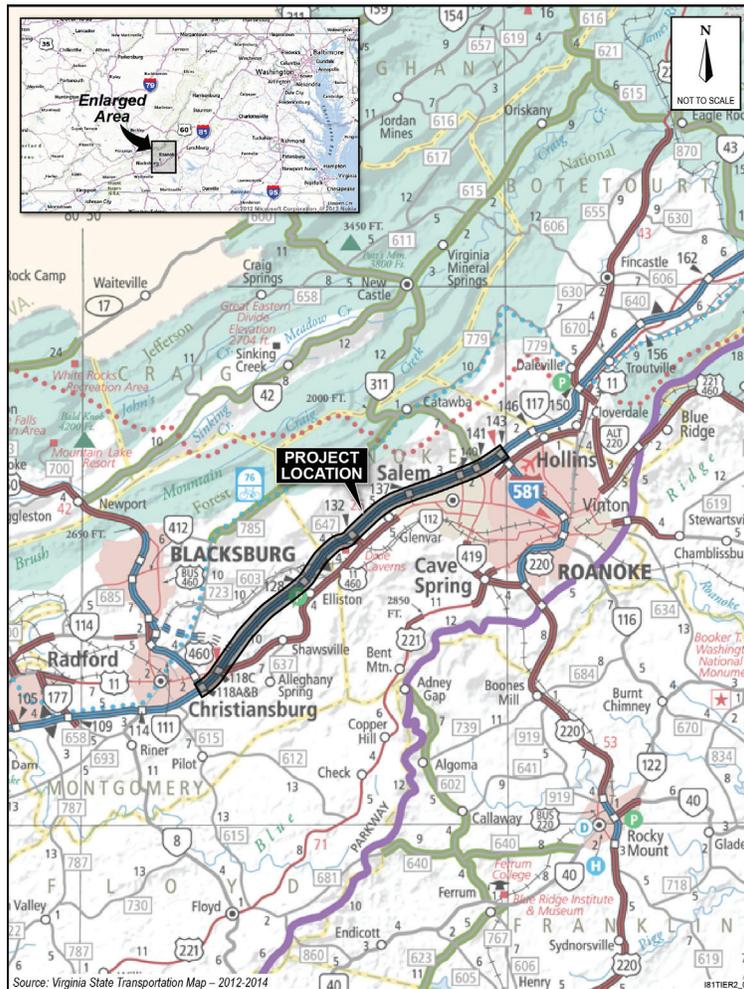
The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) issued a resolution in October 2006 and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) subsequently signed a Record of Decision (ROD) for the I-81 Tier 1 EIS in June 2007 stating that improvements to existing I-81 would include construction of not more than two general purpose lanes in each direction, only where needed to address 2035 travel demands.

The EIS indicated that the vast majority of I-81 needs additional highway capacity by 2035, but that no consistent corridor-length solution meets the future travel demand needs without providing excess or insufficient capacity. Furthermore, the analysis indicated that a varying number of general purpose highway lanes would most efficiently address the future travel demand.

Based upon the 2035 travel demand forecasts, eight sections of independent utility (SIU) were identified for subsequent Tier 2 analysis.

The Tier 2 Environmental Assessment (EA) for SIU #4 covers the 25-mile section of I-81 between Exit 118 (US 460) in the Town of Christiansburg and Exit 143 (I-581) in Roanoke County, as shown in the figure below, and the concept advanced includes the addition of no more than two lanes in both the northbound and southbound directions of I-81 within this SIU.

PROJECT LOCATION

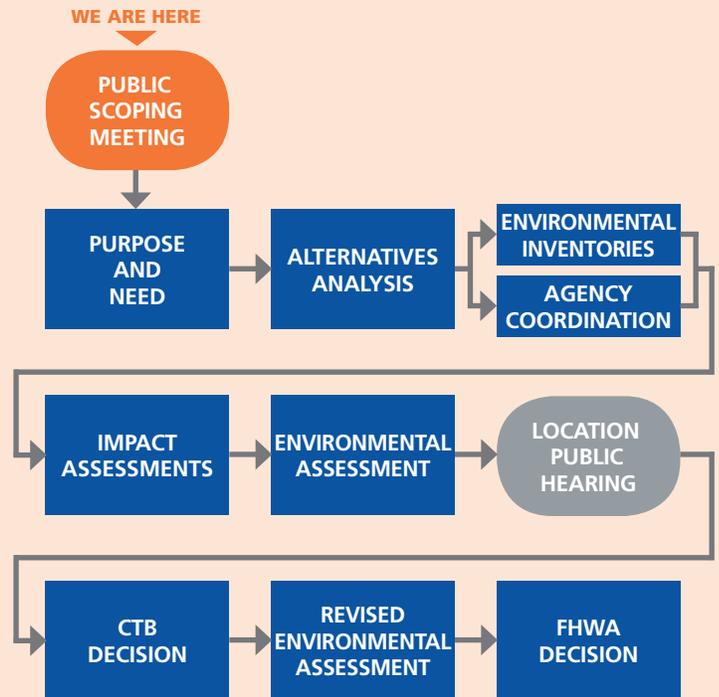


LOCATION STUDY PROCESS

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires consideration of potential environmental consequences of transportation improvements, documentation of the analyses, and making the information available for comment before a decision is made.

Tonight's meeting is a critical element in the study's initial scoping process whereby public input is gathered to help identify viable courses of action for meeting the identified travel needs and to recognize the area's environmental context. During this stage, we welcome your initial input on these important study elements:

- Purpose and Need: Confirm transportation problem(s) to be solved.
- Alternatives: Offer ideas for implementing the proposed improvement concept or suggestions for additional improvement concepts.
- Environment: Report important natural, cultural, and human environmental considerations.



SCHEDULE



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 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

RIGHT OF WAY

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

GET INVOLVED

Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to review the materials presented at this public meeting. Your comments are valuable and greatly appreciated. VDOT will carefully consider all comments received at this meeting and during the comment period.

Written comments must be postmarked or sent electronically **no later than February 21, 2013** and may be submitted in three ways:

At this Meeting:

Put written comments in the designated box or make an oral comment to the court reporter.

By Mail:

Submit written comments to:

Ms. Angel Deem
Environmental Division
Virginia Department of Transportation
1401 E. Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

By E-mail:

Angel.Deem@VDOT.Virginia.gov

Please reference "I-81 Tier 2 EA" in the subject line.

Additional information can also be found on the project website, which will be updated periodically during the course of the study:

http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/salem/i-81_tier_2_nepa_environmental_study.asp

CONTACT INFORMATION

Primary Contact: Angel Deem	Project Manager	1401 E. Broad Street Richmond, VA 23219	804-371-6756
Jason Bond	Salem District Communications	731 Harrison Avenue Salem, VA 24153	540-387-5493