

I-81 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT STUDY, VIRGINIA
FROM THE TENNESSEE BORDER TO THE WEST VIRGINIA BORDER

Tier 1 Final Environmental Impact Statement

Submitted Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4332 (2)(c)

by the

U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal Highway Administration

and the

Virginia Department of Transportation

Cooperating Agencies

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service

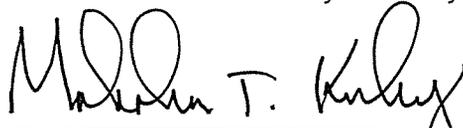
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. Coast Guard

Tennessee Valley Authority

3/21/07

Date of Approval


Chief Engineer
Virginia Department of Transportation

3/21/07

Date of Approval


for Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

Abstract: This Tier 1 Final Environmental Impact Statement identifies the current and future need for increased capacity and improved safety along the entire 325-mile corridor of I-81 in Virginia and evaluates the effectiveness of conceptual-level improvements in addressing those needs. The concepts evaluated include the No-Build and a range of "Build" concepts consisting of roadway improvements and improvements to Norfolk Southern's Shenandoah and Piedmont rail lines in Virginia. For the "Build" concepts, No Toll, Low Toll, and High Toll scenarios were evaluated. Potential impacts of the concepts on the natural and human environment were also assessed. Upon completion of Tier 1, decisions will be made on the improvement concepts to be advanced; on advancing I-81 as a toll pilot under Section 1216(b) of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century; on the projects with independent utility and logical termini to be studied in Tier 2; on the levels of Tier 2 National Environmental Policy Act document(s) for those projects; and on the location of the corridor for studying alignments in Tier 2.

A Federal agency may publish a notice in the Federal Register, pursuant to 23 USC §139(l), indicating that one or more Federal agencies have taken final action on permits, licenses, or approvals for a transportation study. If such notice is published, claims seeking judicial review of those Federal agency actions will be barred unless such claims are filed within 180 days after the date of publication of the notice, or within such shorter time period as is specified in the Federal laws pursuant to which judicial review of the Federal agency action is allowed. If no notice is published, then the periods of time that otherwise are provided by the Federal laws governing such claims will apply.

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