



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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BRISTOL – 108  
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**VDOT BRISTOL'S HIGHWAY SAFETY CHALLENGE TRAFFIC ALERT:  
September 15 - 21, 2008**

BRISTOL, Va. –Virginia's highway safety partnership — VDOT, the Department of Motor Vehicles, State Police and Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control — challenges drivers to help prevent highway fatalities.

- Buckle up
- Avoid distractions
- Share the road
- Drive drug and alcohol free
- Obey speed limits

For more information on the Virginia's Highway Safety Challenge, visit [www.safeVAhighways.org](http://www.safeVAhighways.org).

In an effort to keep motorists informed, VDOT provides weekly information about highway construction and maintenance projects in southwestern Virginia. When traveling through highway work zones, use caution and be alert to changes in traffic patterns and slow-moving or stopped traffic. **Motorists face a maximum fine of \$500 for speeding in highway work zones.** Law enforcement officers monitor highway work zones throughout the region.

**Underlined entries with asterisks (\*\*\*) indicate the listing is new or the status of the project has changed since last week's traffic alert.**

**INTERSTATE MAINTENANCE PROJECTS**

**\*\*\*Milling, paving and guardrail installation on I-81:** Weather permitting, be alert to lane closures beginning this week on northbound Interstate 81 between Mileposts 23 and 27 in Washington County due to milling, paving and guardrail installation. Use caution in this area and be alert to lane closures beginning during the early morning hours into the evening hours each day. (Completion: October 15, 2008)

**\*\*\*Paving – I-77/I-81 interchange at Ft. Chiswell:** Weather permitting, paving and possibly guardrail installation will be underway this week at the interchange where Interstates 81 and 77 meet in Ft. Chiswell. Motorists should use caution in this area and be alert to the possibility of lane closures. (Completion: September 2008)

**\*\*\*Interstate 77 – installation of pavement markers and rumble strips:** Be alert to the possibility of lane closures and shoulder closures on I-77 southbound between Mileposts 66 and 64 in Bland County due to the installation of rumble strips. **(Completion: October 15, 2008)**

**Construction of Emergency Cross-overs on I-81:** Be alert to the possibility of left lane closures northbound and southbound at various locations between Mileposts 31 and 57 on Interstate 81 due to the construction of emergency crossovers. Use caution in this area and pay close attention to message boards and signs in the work zones. (Completion: September 2008)

**\*\*\*Overhead signs replacement project on I-81 in Wythe County:** Be alert to the possibility of day and nighttime lane closures on southbound I-81 between Mileposts 72 and 76 due to the installation of overhead signs. (Completion: December 1, 2008)

**\*\*\*I-77 Tunnels – rehabilitation project:** A rehabilitation project at I-77 East River Mountain and Big Walker Mountain tunnels is now underway. Lane closures are scheduled as follows for the week of September 15:

**Big Walker Mountain Tunnel:** Be alert to the following:

- continuous northbound lane closure from 7 a.m. Monday (September 15) until 5:30 p.m. Tuesday (September 16).
- northbound lane closure from 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Wednesday (September 17).
- southbound lane closure from 7 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday (September 17 – 19).

There will be no lane closures over the weekend at Big Walker Mountain Tunnel.

**East River Mountain Tunnel:** No lane closures are scheduled the week of September 15 or over the weekend at East River Mountain tunnel.

For local motorists, VDOT recommends motorists travel through the tunnels during the morning hours, when traffic flow is at its lightest to avoid congestion. (Completion: fall 2008)

**\*\*\*Interstate 81 maintenance activities:** Be alert to the following maintenance activities this week along Interstate 81:

- Pothole patching north and southbound between Exit 35 in Smyth County and Exit 70 in Wythe County.
- Concrete patching northbound near Milepost 23 in Washington County.
- Bridge deck patching southbound near Milepost 51 and northbound near Exit 47 in Smyth County.
- Bridge cleaning north and southbound between Exit 35 in Smyth County and Exit 72 in Wythe County.

**\*\*\*Interstate 77 maintenance activities:** Be alert to bridge deck patching northbound near Exit 64 in Bland County.

***PRIMARY HIGHWAYS AND HIGH TRAFFIC SECONDARY ROADS:***

**Regional**

**\*\*\*Pavement Markings - mobile, rolling work zones:** Motorists should be alert to a caravan of slow-moving trucks applying pavement markings on highways at various locations *in the Ft. Chiswell area of Wythe County, the Coeburn area of Wise County and the Jonesville area of Lee County.*

**Buchanan County**

**\*\*\*Route 680 – railroad repairs:** Due to crossing repairs by Norfolk Southern Railroad, the crossing on Route 680 in the Pilgrim’s Knob area of Buchanan County will be closed Saturday, September 13 from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Use caution in this area and pay close attention to law enforcement personnel in the area.

**\*\*\*Route 662 - Ambrosia Road:** Be alert to lane closures on Route 662 – Ambrosia Road in Buchanan County due to roadway improvements. There will be flaggers directing traffic from 7 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. each week day. (Completion: late December 2008)

**Intersection of Routes 680 and 638 – bridge repairs:** Be alert to signals controlling traffic at the intersection of Route 680 – Contrary Road and Route 638 – Dismal Road in the Pilgrim’s Knob area of Buchanan County while bridge and water line repairs are underway. (Completion: May 1, 2009)

**Route 460 Grundy:** West and eastbound Route 460 traffic in the Town of Grundy has been moved from Riverside Drive to the newly constructed portion of Route 460 to allow for the removal of Riverside Drive. A temporary traffic signal has been added at the intersection of Route 83 and the traffic signal adjacent to the movie theater and redevelopment site has been removed.

Use caution in this area and be alert to the possibility flaggers directing traffic in the area. The posted speed limit is 25 mph in the work zone. Motorists should use caution and pay close attention to signs directing traffic through the work zone. (Completion: summer 2009)

**Shuttle Service during Route 460 relocation project in downtown Grundy:** A complimentary downtown Grundy shuttle service continues to be offered during the Route 460 relocation project. The service operates from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. Fridays.

There are three temporary parking lots for the shuttle service: the parking garage at the movie theatre, Grundy Church of Christ and the town’s redevelopment site. The shuttle will stop at each lot and at the corner of Walnut and Main Streets every 15-20 minutes. Two temporary shelters for shuttle patrons to use during inclement weather are located adjacent to the Grundy Church of Christ and near the redevelopment site.

**Grayson County**

**Route 842 – Twin Pond Road:** Be alert to the possibility of lane closures due to improvements along a section of Route 842 – Twin Pond Road in the Fries area. (Completion: December 2009)

**Route 748 – Laurel Creek Road:** Be alert to the possibility of lane closures due to improvements along a section of Route 748 – Laurel Creek Road in the Fries area. (Completion: December 2009)

**Route 58 – underground utility work:** Due to the installation of fiber optic cable, be alert to shoulder closures along Route 58 in Grayson County between Galax and Route 274. Use caution in this area and obey work zone signs. (Completion: December 2008)

### Lee County

**Alternate Route 58:** Due to a bridge reconstruction project, signals are controlling one 12-foot-wide lane across the Alternate Route 58 bridge over the North Powell River in Pennington Gap. Use caution in this area and pay close attention to signs in the work zone. (Completion: September 1, 2009)

### Russell County

**Route 735 - Sam Chapel Road:** Be alert to flaggers directing traffic on Route 735 – Sam Chapel Road in Russell County due to roadway improvements. (Completion: September 2008)

**Route 636:** Be alert to daily lane closures on Route 636 due to roadway widening, ditching and pipe replacement work from just over a half-mile south of Route 67 to about 2-miles south of Route 67. The daily road closures will be in place from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. (Completion: October 15, 2008)

**Route 636- Kent’s Ridge Road:** Due to a roadway widening project, a section of Route 636 – Kent’s Ridge Road will be closed from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. every Monday through Friday. The closure will be located from the Swords Creek Community Church to Route 711. (Completion: mid-November 2008)

**Route 618:** A section of Route 618 in the Rabbit Ridge section of Russell County has been closed to allow Paramount Coal Company Virginia LLC to perform surface mine operations in the area. The 0.4-mile section begins about one-mile east of Route 600 and extends eastward. When the mining operations are complete, Paramount Coal Company Virginia LLC will rebuild the closed section of Route 618, eliminating steep grades and sharp curves along the existing section of Route 618. (Completion: fall 2008)

**Russell County- Water Line Installation:** Work to install water lines in the following areas of Russell County will restrict traffic to one lane during daylight hours:

- Routes 640, 1070 and 1074 in the Castlewood Heights and Claremont subdivisions. (Completion: fall 2008)
- Route 19 between and Lebanon and Hansonville. (Completion: September 2008)

### Scott County

**\*\*\*Route 684 - Cowans Creek Road:** Be alert to flaggers directing traffic during daylight hours on Route 684 – Cowans Creek Road in Scott County due to reconstruction of the route from 1.54 miles north of Route 610 to Route 685. (Completion: November 30, 2008)

**Route 613 – Big Moccasin:** Be alert to the possibility of delays on Route 613 - Big Moccasin bridge located between Routes 688 and 891 due to bridge repairs. The bridge is located 4.5 miles east of the intersection of Route 71. (Completion: May 1, 2009)

### Tazewell County

**Route 19/460 bridge project:** Due to replacement of the southbound Route 19/460 bridge near Pounding Mill Quarry, two-way traffic has been diverted to the northbound lanes. The Lake Street entrance to Route 19/460 is temporarily detoured onto Post Street due to the construction. Additionally, the entrance to Quarry Road will be temporarily detoured through the Miner's Oil entrance. There will be a 12-foot-width restriction in the work zone. (Completion: June 2009)

### Washington County

**\*\*\*Route 663 – Goldenview Drive:** Due to replacement of the bridge deck, a section of Route 663 – Goldenview Drive will be closed to through traffic Monday (September 15) through mid-October. The bridge is located 1.3 miles south of Jonesborough Road in Washington County.

Once the deck has been replaced on Route 663, crews will move to Route 684 – Fall Hill Road in Washington County for a similar project. This project will be located 1.2-miles north of Route 700 – Rich Valley Road. It is scheduled to begin in mid-October and continue through mid-November. Use caution in these areas and pay close attention to signs and message boards directing motorists around the work zones.

**Route 736:** Work to improve Route 736 in Washington County, near the Emory Gates just off Route 11, is underway. Be alert to the possibility of flaggers controlling one-lane traffic. (Completion: December 1, 2008)

**Route 58 bridge – Damascus:** The Route 58 bridge located over Laurel Creek is being reconstructed and is restricted to two, 10-foot-wide lanes. Use caution in this area and pay close attention to workers and machinery in the area. (Completion: September 2008)

### Wise County

**\*\*\*Route 72:** Due to shoulder repairs and slope work, a section of Route 72 in Wise County will be restricted to one lane Saturday, September 12 and Sunday, September 14. The lane closure will be located near the intersection of Routes 72 and 649. Flaggers will control traffic during work hours and signals will control traffic at night. Motorists are advised to use caution in this area and expect delays. (Completion: September 23, 2008)

**Business Route 23 bridge:** One-lane traffic is being controlled by signals due to the replacement of the deck of the Business Route 23 bridge located over L&N and Southern railroads just north of Route 68 in Appalachia. Additionally, the width restriction during construction is 16 feet. Use caution in this area. (Completion: late October 2008)

**Alternate Route 58 at Virginia City:** Due to replacement of the eastbound Alternate Route 58 bridge at Virginia City, traffic has been reduced to one lane in each direction and detoured to the westbound lanes of Alternate Route 58. Use caution in this area and pay close attention to signs directing traffic through the work zone. (Completion: May 2009)

**\*\*\*Town of Appalachia – bridge projects:** Repairs to the Route 1308 bridge in Appalachia have been completed and traffic is now utilizing the bridge as a detour route during repairs to the Route 78 bridge. Motorists can access Route 78 by crossing the Route 1308 bridge and using the detour through the Payless Supermarket property. The bridges are located near the old Appalachia Town Hall in Wise County and both cross Callahan Creek. (Completion: late October 2008)

**Route 83 in Pound:** Traffic signals are controlling one-lane traffic across the Route 83 bridge in Pound due to replacement of the bridge deck, replacement of the bridge railings and the addition of a sidewalk. The width limit across the bridge is 11-feet.

The stop sign on Route 83 was removed so traffic coming across the bridge onto Business Route 23 will no longer stop at the intersection. Instead, north and southbound traffic along Business Route 23 is being controlled by stop signs at the intersection of Route 83. This keeps traffic from blocking the intersection and keeps traffic flowing across the bridge. Use caution in this area and be alert to the new traffic signals and signs. (Completion: October 2008)

### Wythe County

**Route 618 – Reed Creek Drive:** Due to surface treating of a section of Route 618 – Reed Creek Drive in Wythe County, the route will be closed to through vehicles from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. September 8 – 11 and September 15-18, weather permitting. The traffic restrictions will be one mile from the intersection of Route 609 – Stillwell Road to F045 – Topaz Drive. Use caution in this area. (Completion: September 18, 2008)

**Route 680 – bridge repairs:** Signals are controlling one-lane traffic across the Route 680 – Black Lick Road Bridge over Stony Creek in Wythe County due to bridge repairs. There is a 10-foot width restriction on the bridge during the repairs. The bridge is located 0.25 miles south of Route 52. (Completion: August 31, 2009)

**Route 749 – bridge repairs:** Traffic across the Route 749 – Cedar Springs Road bridge over Cripple Creek in Wythe County is being controlled by traffic signals and there is a 10 – foot width restriction due to bridge repairs. Motorists are advised to pay close attention to signs detouring traffic around the work zone. All tractor trailer traffic is prohibited from using Route 749 as well as the detour routes. (Completion: October 2008)

**Route 642 – bridge repairs:** The Route 642 – Pope Road bridge over Cripple Creek in Wythe County has been closed for repairs. Motorists can detour around the work zone by using Route 643 – Silings Road. (Completion: November 1, 2008)

**Route 613 – Locust Hill Road:** Be alert to the possibility of lane closures due to improvements along a section of Route 613 – Locust Hill Road in the Max Meadows area. (Completion: December 2009)

**Route 749 - Cedar Spring Road bridge:** Due to bridge repairs, the Route 749 bridge, located just south of the intersection of Route 614 in Wythe County, the bridge has a 10-foot width restriction. Be alert to traffic signals controlling one-lane traffic through the work zone. (Completion: November 2008)

**Route 52 – underground utility work:** Be alert to shoulder closures and the possibility of one-lane traffic on Route 52 in Wythe County between Fort Chiswell and Route 619 due to a water main installation project for Wythe County. (Completion: winter 2008)

**Routes 636 & 619 – Austinville:** Be alert to the possibility of one-lane traffic and shoulder closures on Routes 636 and 619 in Austinville due to water line installation work in conjunction with the construction of a new water treatment plant. (Completion: September 2008)

**Route 100 bridge:** Reconstruction of the Route 100 bridge located near Wythe/Pulaski County line is underway. Use caution in this area and pay close attention to workers in the work zone. (Completion: summer 2008)

(END)