

Get Involved

Ten days after this public hearing, the public comment period will close on **February 8, 2019**.

A comment sheet is enclosed and can be submitted at tonight's hearing or by mail to VDOT. Comments also may be submitted by email to kelly.dunn@vdot.virginia.gov.

Information must be postmarked, e-mailed or delivered to VDOT within 10 calendar days of tonight's hearing in order to be included in the hearing record.

This information, including the hearing summary, will be available for review at the VDOT office address listed in this brochure.

Project information shared here is available for review after the public hearing at VDOT's Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Ave., Salem, VA 24153.

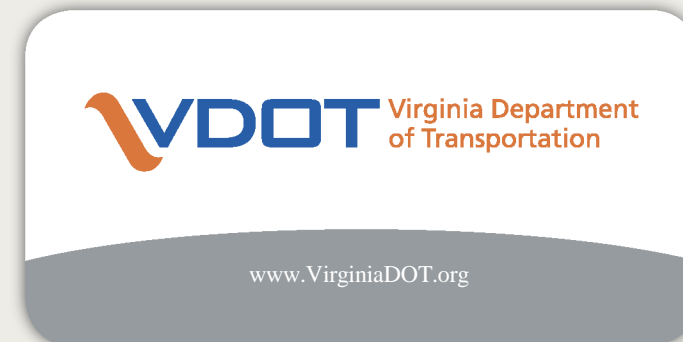
VDOT will review and evaluate the input received at this public hearing and this information will be considered during further project development.

Contact Information

Primary Contact: Mr. Kelly Dunn, PE, LS	Project Manager <i>Location and Design</i>	731 Harrison Ave. Salem, VA 24153	540-387-5353
Terry Hutchinson	Acquisition Manager <i>Right of Way</i>	731 Harrison Ave. Salem, VA 24153	540-387-5367
Jason Bond	Communications Manager <i>Office of Communications</i>	731 Harrison Ave. Salem, VA 24153	540-387-5493



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Design Public Hearing Interstate 81 S-Curve Safety Improvements Southbound Mile Markers 167.4 to 169.5 Botetourt County

Tuesday, January 29, 2019, 5 -7 p.m.
Inclement weather date: February 5, 2019

Buchanan Elementary School
255 School House Road
Buchanan, VA 24066

Design Public Hearing

Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) design public hearing for the southbound I-81 S-curve safety improvements project located between mile markers 167.4 and 169.5 in Botetourt County near Buchanan. The hearing will be held in an 'open-house' format.

This design public hearing is being held to provide an opportunity for citizens or 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. All oral and written comments received on this project will be reviewed by VDOT personnel and will be available for review by citizens and other interested parties.

Project Overview



I-81 Southbound S-curve near mile marker 168

Available Allocations – \$8.1 million

Purpose – To enhance safety and reduce crashes by implementing low-cost improvements

From – Southbound mile marker 167.4

To – Southbound mile marker 169.5

Project Length – 2.1 miles

Improvements –

- Widen the shoulders on two curves
- Apply treatment to increase pavement friction on the shoulders and travel lanes
- Close and remove the southbound off ramp at Exit 167 (Buchanan)
- Apply high visibility pavement markings

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this project is to reduce crashes by implementing relatively low-cost, safety improvements on southbound I-81 between mile markers 167.4 and 169.5. This location in previous years has had one of the highest crash rates along the entire I-81 corridor in Virginia.

The proposed safety improvements are intended to reduce conflicts between vehicles and prevent run-off-the-road type crashes. The improvements for this project include

- Widening the shoulders along the outside lane and in the median between Purgatory Creek and a point approximately 0.24 miles south of the Exit 167 bridge to provide more room for vehicles to recover
- Applying a treatment to the shoulders and travel lanes to improve roadway traction, particularly in wet and otherwise slick conditions
- Closing and removing the southbound off ramp at Exit 167 (Buchanan) to reduce speed differentials, conflict points and lane changes associated with exiting vehicles
- Applying enhanced pavement markings to improve nighttime and wet roadway visibility

Since 2012, VDOT has implemented similar safety measures in both directions on I-81 in this area, which have contributed to lowering the crash rate in the northbound direction by 55 percent. However, the crash rate in the southbound direction has only been reduced by 18 percent, so additional improvements are being considered.

Approximately 20,000 vehicles use this section of southbound I-81 each day.

The design of this project is in compliance with the Stormwater Management Act, stormwater regulations and the annual stormwater management standards and specifications approved by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. Potential impacts to the flood plains will be evaluated and addressed on this project.

The construction of this project will conform to the nationwide best management practices, VDOT specifications and special provisions, and the Virginia Department of Soil and Water conservation regulations. Also, during construction, every reasonable effort will be made to protect the environment with respect to dust and erosion control. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction.

Project Graphic



Estimated Project Cost

Available Funding: \$8.1 million

- Preliminary Engineering: \$500,000
- Construction: \$7.6 million

These costs are subject to change because development of the project is in its early design stages. The project will be funded using federal and state funds.

Civil Rights

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

If you need more information in regards to your civil rights on this project or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact the project manager listed on the back of this brochure.

Right of Way

The acquisition of right of way is not anticipated at this time; therefore, it is anticipated that no families will be displaced as a result of this project.

After this meeting, information regarding right of way may be obtained from the right of way contact listed on the back of this brochure.

Anticipated Schedule

The following schedule has been proposed for the project:

- Preliminary Engineering – Underway
- Construction Begin – Summer 2020
- Construction Completed – Late 2021

Environmental Review

VDOT's Salem District Environmental Office has performed environmental reviews and coordination to obtain information about environmental resources in the project vicinity; to provide natural and historic resource agencies an opportunity to review and comment on the project during its development; and to identify opportunities for avoidance, minimization and mitigation of potential environmental impacts.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is applicable to this project and a NEPA document in the form of a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion has been developed in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and in accordance with federal guidelines. The NEPA document includes information from various technical reviews including those related to natural resources, water quality, threatened and endangered species, air quality, noise, etc.

The project will continue to be coordinated with the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies as part of environmental review and approval processes required throughout project development and construction. All required environmental clearances and permits will be obtained prior to commencement of construction. Strict compliance with all environmental conditions and commitments resulting from regulatory approvals, and implementation of VDOT's specifications and standard best management practices will protect the environment during construction.

The NEPA document and the results of other environmental studies are available at today's meeting. Representatives from VDOT's Environmental Section are available to discuss this information and to answer questions.