

## Get Involved

Ten days after this public hearing, the public comment period will close on **February 19, 2021**.

Comments must be postmarked, e-mailed or submitted through the online survey to VDOT within 10 calendar days of tonight's hearing in order to be included in the hearing record.

Comments may be submitted by email to [181-MM136-141@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:181-MM136-141@vdot.virginia.gov) or be mailed to Mr. Craig Moore, PE, Project Manager, Virginia Department of Transportation, 731 Harrison Avenue, 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.

After the public hearing, project information including the hearing summary will be available upon request.

Please contact the project manager listed in this brochure, so VDOT can make arrangements for personnel to share this information.

## Contact Information

<b>Primary Contact:</b> Mr. Craig Moore, PE	Project Manager <i>Location and Design</i>	731 Harrison Ave. Salem, VA 24153	540-387-5353
Carl Mohnney	Acquisition Manager <i>Right of Way</i>	731 Harrison Ave. Salem, VA 24153	540-387-5323
Jason Bond	Communications Manager <i>Office of Communications</i>	731 Harrison Ave. Salem, VA 24153	540-387-5493



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## Virtual Design Public Hearing Interstate 81 Widening Exit 137 to Exit 141 Roanoke County and City of Salem

<http://www.virginiadot.org/i81exit137to141>

February 9, 2021, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Alternate date: February 11, 2021

## Design Public Hearing

**Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) design public hearing for the southbound and northbound I-81 widening project located between mile markers 136.6 and 141.8 in Roanoke County and the City of Salem. The hearing will be held in a virtual 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.

An online survey is provided for this hearing 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 Exit 140 at Route 311

**Available Allocations** – \$292.5 million

**Purpose** – To provide additional capacity and improve safety

**From** – Mile marker 136.6

**To** – Mile marker 141.8

**Project Length** – 5.14 miles

**Improvements** –

- Add one lane in each direction
- Improve acceleration and deceleration lanes where needed
- Replace six bridges and widen two bridges
- Improve southbound exit 137 intersection with Wildwood Road
- Construct 2.6 miles of sound wall barriers along northbound lanes

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this project is to provide additional capacity and improve safety by adding an additional lane in both directions of Interstate 81 between mile markers 136.6 and 141.8. The proposed improvements are intended to increase capacity, lower crash rates, lessen delays and enhance crash response times. These include:

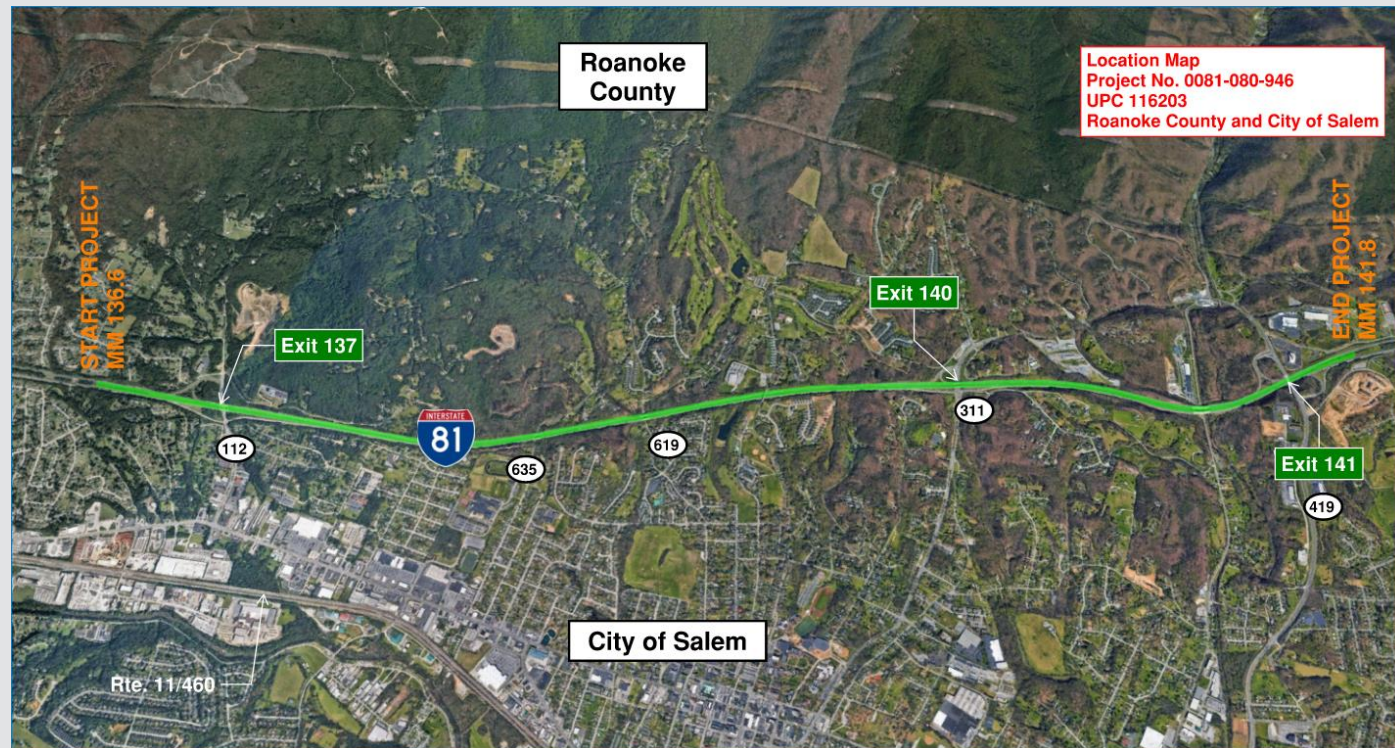
- Adding one additional lane in each direction of I-81
- Replacing the pairs of bridges over Route 112 (Wildwood Road), Route 635 (Goodwin Avenue) and Route 619 (Wildwood Road)
- Widening the pair of bridges over Route 311 (Thompson Memorial Drive) at exit 140
- Improving the intersection of the southbound exit 137 off ramp and Wildwood Road
- Adding interchange lighting at exits 137, 140 and 141
- Improving acceleration and deceleration lanes where needed
- Installing concrete barrier wall along narrow median sections
- Constructing approximately 2.6 miles of sound barrier walls along the northbound lanes (final length TBD)

This segment of I-81 experiences frequent congestion and major delays related to significant crashes and incidents as identified in the I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan completed in December 2018. Along this section of I-81 between October 2016 and September 2019, there were 312 crashes. Traffic volumes vary between interchanges and range between 63,000 and 67,000 vehicles per day with 21-22 percent heavy trucks.

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: \$292.5 million

- Preliminary Engineering: \$6.8 million
- Right of Way: \$6.3 million
- Construction: \$279.3 million

*These costs are subject to change because development of the project is in its early design stages. This project is financed with the Interstate 81 Corridor Improvement Fund and is being developed with 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 construction of this project will not require the displacement of any families, businesses or non-profit organizations.

As we further develop and finalize the development of this project, additional easements for utility relocation may be required beyond the proposed right of way shown on the public hearing plans. The property owners will be informed of the exact location of the easements during the right of way acquisition process and prior to construction. Information about right of way acquisition is discussed in VDOT's brochure entitled, "Right of Way and Utilities: a Guide for Property Owners and Tenants." Copies of this booklet are available from a VDOT right of way agent or on VDOT's website.

After this hearing, 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 – Late 2021
- Construction Completed – Early 2026

## 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 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. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed project on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is also provided in the environmental documentation.

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 is available online. VDOT's Environmental Section is available to discuss this information and to answer questions.