



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Office of the
SECRETARY of TRANSPORTATION

Interstate 81 Corridor Improvement Plan

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Interstate 81 Overview



I-81 Corridor Significance



11.7
MILLION TRUCKS PER YEAR



\$312
BILLION IN GOODS PER YEAR



42%
OF STATEWIDE INTERSTATE
TRUCK VMT



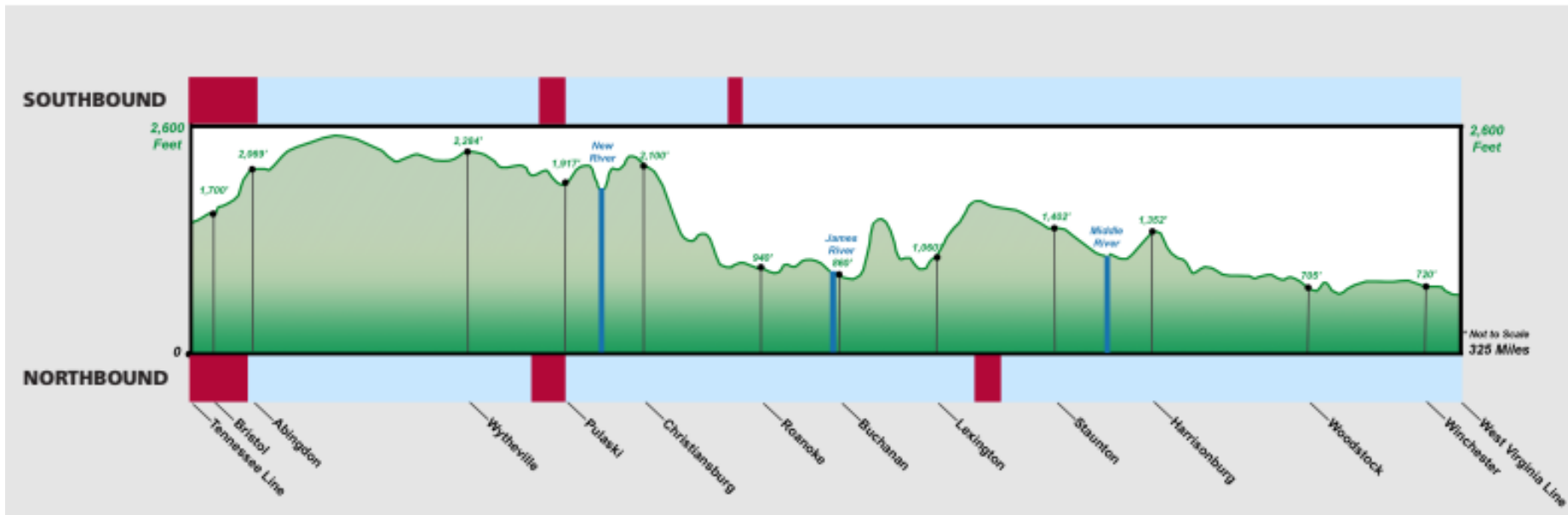
≈ 11,000
CRASHES OVER 5 YEARS



30
CRASHES PER YEAR
(WITH CLEARANCE TIMES
GREATER THAN 6 HOURS)

* Data sources include TRANSEARCH INSIGHT and VDOT data between 2012 and 2016

Interstate 81 Elevation Profile

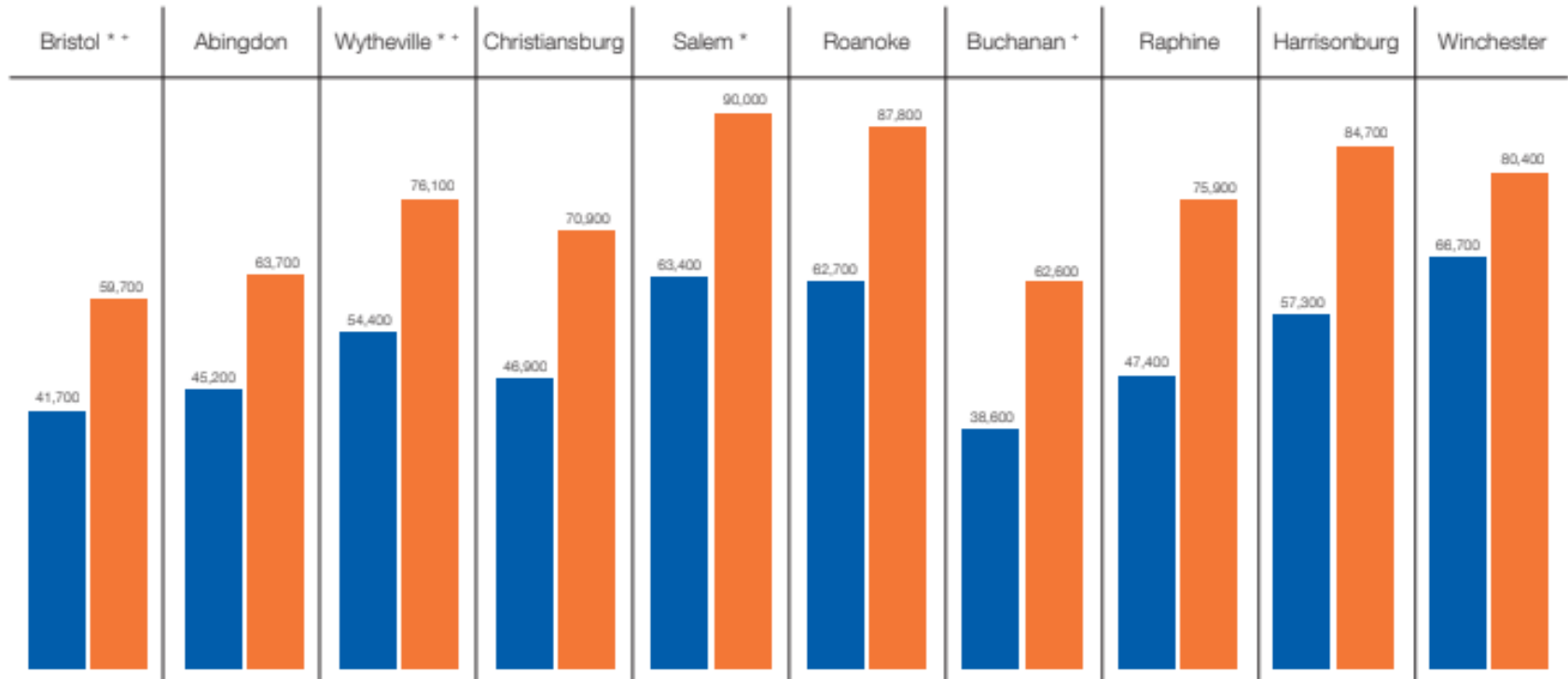


LEGEND:
■ 3-LANE SECTION
■ 2-LANE SECTION

Effect of Length of Grade and Trucks on I-81



2016 AADT Versus Passenger Car Equivalent (PCE) AADT



Source: VDOT continuous traffic count stations and Statewide Planning System

Description: Traffic volume that has been adjusted to account for the effects of the number of trucks and type of terrain

Definition: PCE = Passenger Car Equivalent (factor used to convert trucks into passenger cars)

■ 2016 AADT
■ 2016 AADT converted to PCE

* Portions of section are three lanes in southbound (*) and/or northbound (+)

SB971 – Legislation Requirements



- **Board shall study financing options for the I-81 Corridor**
- **Study shall evaluate–**
 - **Tolls on heavy commercial vehicles**
 - **High-occupancy toll lanes**
- **Study shall not evaluate tolling options that apply to all users of I-81**
- **Board may consider other funding and financing options, including regional fuels tax**

SB971 – Legislation Requirements



- **Board shall develop I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan. The plan shall—**
 - Identify segments of I-81 for improvement
 - Identify targeted set of improvements, for each segment that can be financed by evaluated financing options
 - Include corridor-wide incident management strategies
 - Evaluate concepts to minimize impact of truck-only tolls on local truck traffic and diversion of truck traffic
 - Assess economic impacts on corridor for toll financing

I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan

Element #1



Problem identification – review entire I-81 corridor to identify areas for improvement based on severity of identified problems

The following conditions will be evaluated:

- **Safety – examining both crash rate and crash frequency**
- **Congestion – person hours of delay**
- **Resiliency – incident-related delay and multi-hour lane closures**

Board will be updated at July meeting on findings

I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan

Elements #2 and #3



- **Recommendations development – a fresh look at potential strategies and projects to address identified problems in the Corridor**
 - Operational strategies will be considered first, where appropriate
 - Capital improvements will be targeted
- **Tolling and financing analysis – evaluate potential financing and funding options to determine**
 - Analysis will examine potential impacts on Virginia agriculture, manufacturing, and logistics sectors
- **Board will be updated at its September meeting**

I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan

Element #4



Recommended Corridor Improvement Plan

- Identify key corridor-wide operational improvements to be funded
- Prioritize potential improvements using SMART SCALE process
- Evaluate potential packages of strategies and improvements that could be financed with revenues generated
- Identify recommended package and financing option

Board will have briefings at October and Nov/Dec meetings



Public Outreach Plan

- **Initial outreach at Spring SYIP meetings**
- **3 sets of public meetings along the Corridor in 4 locations**
 - **Problem identification (present data and solicit solution input)**
 - **Recommendations development and tolling feasibility/ economic analyses**
 - **Recommendations packages**
- **Public meetings to be co-hosted by MPOs and PDCs on the corridor**



Problem Identification Public Meetings

- **Meetings will be from 4-7 PM in each location**
 - 4-5 PM- briefing of public officials
 - 5-7 PM- citizen's information meeting
- **Meeting dates and locations:**
 - June 6: Bristol - SW VA Higher Education Center
 - June 7: Salem - Salem Civic Center
 - June 12: Staunton (north) - Strasburg High School
 - June 13: Staunton (south) - Blue Ridge Community College



I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan

Next Steps

- **Status report to CTB in July**
- **Host “Recommendations development” public meetings in July-August**
- **Status report to CTB in September**
- **Host “Recommended Corridor Plan” public meetings in September/ October**
- **Draft report to CTB in October**
- **Revised report with recommended package to CTB at November/December**