I-81 2025 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PLAN

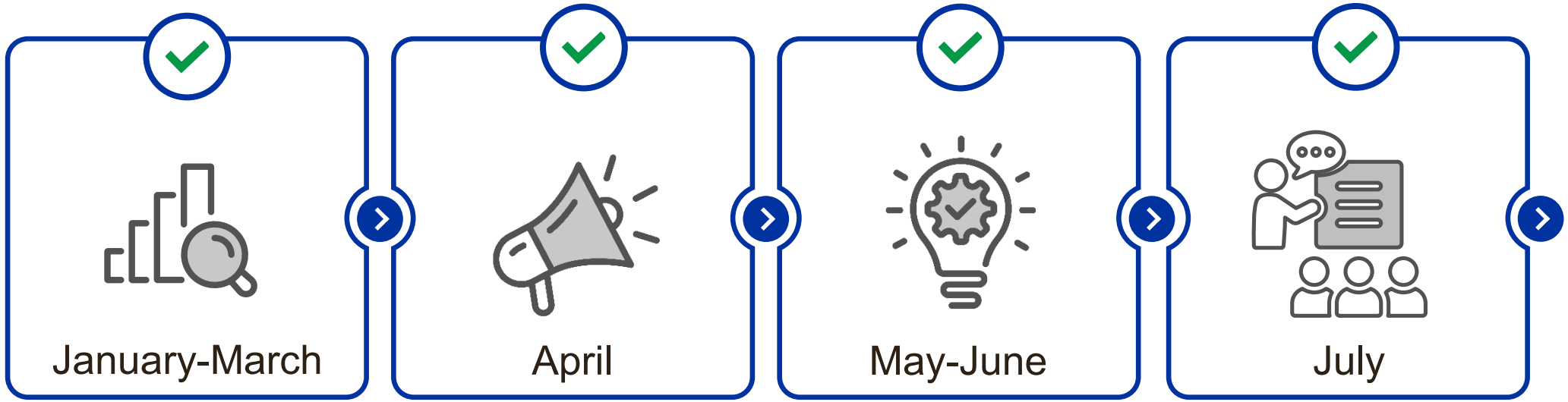
Commonwealth Transportation Board Update

Rob Williams, AICP

December 9, 2025

I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan Update Process

Steps completed for the 2025 I-81 CIP Update



Identified and analyzed the top 25% worst performing one-mile segments

Engaged the public to validate performance issues and gather feedback on potential solutions

Developed potential solutions to address the performance issues

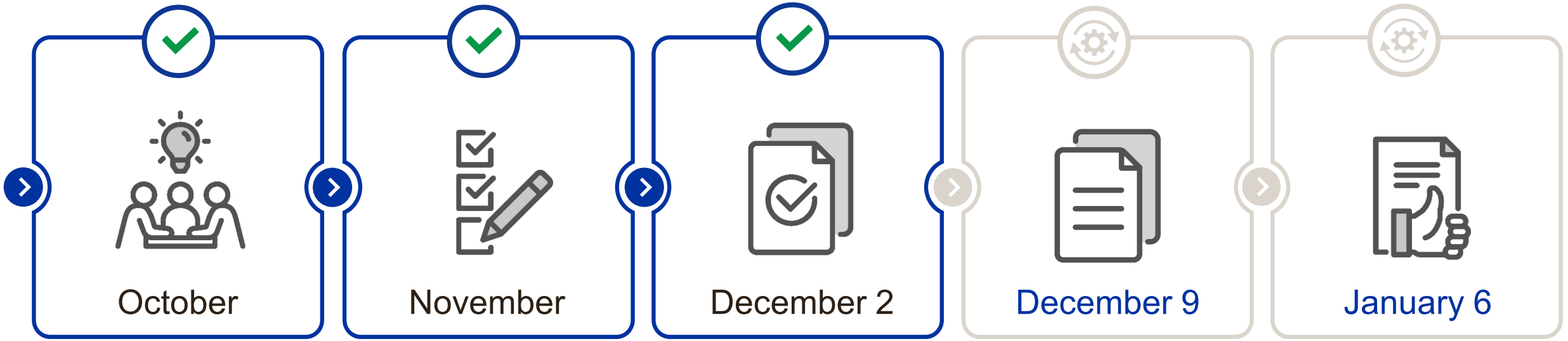
Conducted public engagement to present and receive feedback on the potential solutions

Continued on Next Slide

✓ Step is complete

I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan Update Process

Steps remaining for the 2025 I-81 CIP Update



Prioritize potential solutions using SMART SCALE-like process and share results

Share shortlist of solutions and cost estimates with CTB and I-81 Advisory Committee

I-81 Advisory Committee submits recommended projects to the CTB

CTB considers I-81 Advisory Committee recommendations

CTB adopts the I-81 Plan

✓ Step is complete

Step is incomplete

Round 2 Public Outreach - July
Potential Solutions Takeaways

IN-PERSON MEETINGS

4
MEETINGS

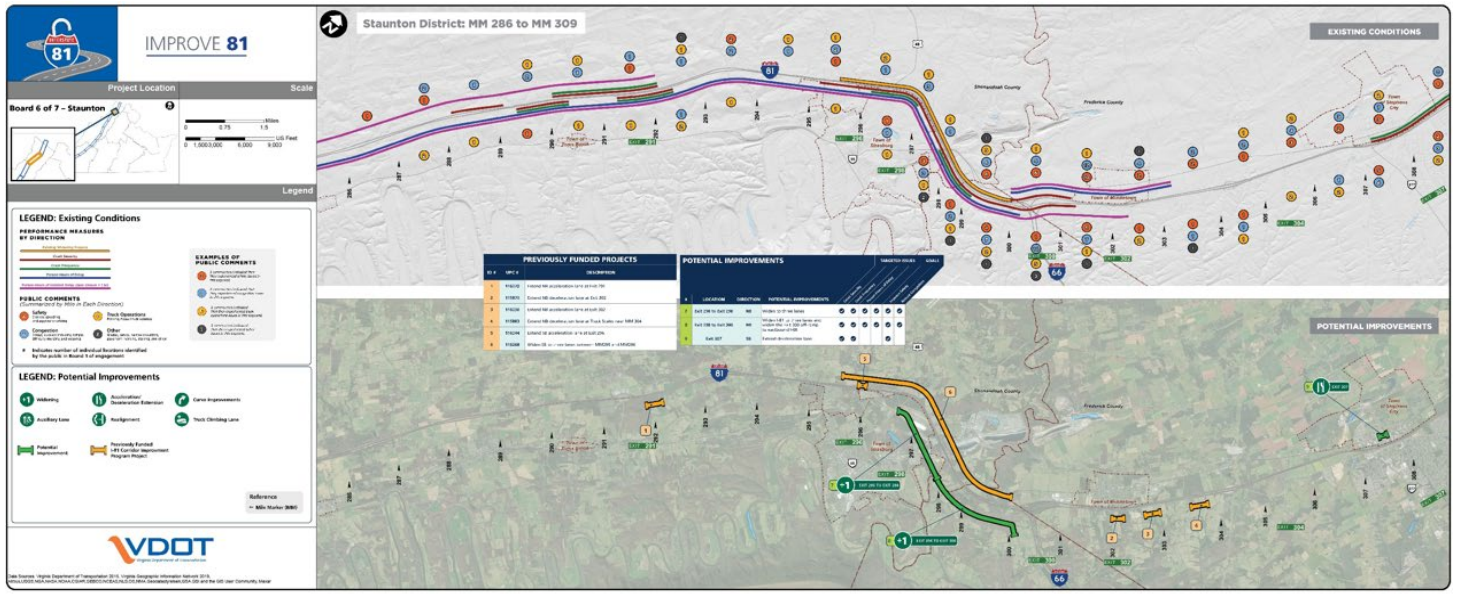
~100
PARTICIPANTS



VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT

1,136
COMMENTS

1,674
PARTICIPANTS



87% of respondents agreed with the overall list of potential solutions presented

Round 3 Public Outreach - Solutions Refinement

- Open October 27 to November 9, 2025

VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON ENGAGEMENT

409
COMMENTS

4
MEETINGS

312
PARTICIPANTS



- Public reiterated the need for capacity and safety improvements
- Additional comments addressed concerns for wildlife crossings, enforcement and roadway lighting

Staff Recommended Funding Scenario - Capital

Bristol District

Project	County	Mile Marker From/To	Direction	Corridor Prioritization Rank
Acceleration Lane Extension	Washington	25.1 to 25.7	NB	2
Acceleration Lane Extension	Washington	29.5 to 30.1	NB	3
Auxiliary Lane	Washington	4.5 to 5.0	NB	7
Acceleration Lane Extension	Washington	19.9 to 20.2	NB	11
Acceleration Lane Extension	Washington	24.8 to 24.4	SB	20
Widening (+1 Lane)	Washington	9.9 to 14.9	NB/SB	22
Grand Total Rough Order of Magnitude Range*	**$370-486M**			

* Cost estimates are conceptual and subject to refinement as projects are vetted prior to the December I-81 Advisory Committee and CTB presentations.

Staff Recommended Funding Scenario - Capital

Salem District

Project	County	Mile Marker From/To	Direction	Corridor Prioritization Rank
Acceleration Lane Extension	Botetourt	162.0 to 160.9	SB	6
Truck Climbing Lane	Pulaski	104.9 to 103.4	SB	15
Truck Climbing Lane	Montgomery	105.6 to 108.7	NB	16
Grand Total Rough Order of Magnitude Range*	**$271-425M**			

* Cost estimates are conceptual and subject to refinement as projects are vetted prior to the December I-81 Advisory Committee and CTB presentations.

Staff Recommended Funding Scenario - Capital

Staunton District (1 of 2)

Project	County	Mile Marker From/To	Direction	Corridor Prioritization Rank
Acceleration Lane Extension	Rockingham	251.1 to 250.7	SB	1
Acceleration Lane Extension	Shenandoah	265.2 to 265.5	NB	4
Deceleration Lane Extension	Frederick	307.5 to 307.3	SB	5
Acceleration Lane Extension	Augusta	227.8 to 228.1	NB	8
Acceleration Lane Extension	Shenandoah	269.3 to 268.2	SB	9
Auxiliary Lane	Augusta	220.8 to 221.5	NB	10
Widening (+1 Lane)	Augusta	221.7 to 216.7	SB	12
Widening (+1 Lane)	Rockbridge	204.8 to 209.9	NB/SB	13

* Cost estimates are conceptual and subject to refinement as projects are vetted prior to the December I-81 Advisory Committee and CTB presentations.

Staff Recommended Funding Scenario - Capital

Staunton District (2 of 2)

Project	City/County	Mile Marker From/To	Direction	Corridor Prioritization Rank
Widening (+1 Lane)	Augusta	209.9 to 212.9	NB/SB	14
Widening (+1 Lane)	Augusta/Rockingham	237.4 to 242.2	NB/SB	19
Widening (+1 Lane)	Shenandoah	298.6 to 300.3	NB	30
Grand Total Rough Order of Magnitude Range*	**$1.0-1.9B**			

* Cost estimates are conceptual and subject to refinement as projects are vetted prior to the December I-81 Advisory Committee and CTB presentations.

I-81 Advisory Committee Feedback

At their December 2, 2025 meeting, the I-81 Advisory Committee endorsed the staff recommended funding scenario

Next Steps - I-81 CIP Update

- Receive I-81 Advisory Committee recommendation on funding scenario
- CTB considers Advisory Committee feedback on funding scenario at December 9, 2025 Meeting
- CTB adopts final funding scenario and update to the I-81 CIP at January 6, 2026 meeting

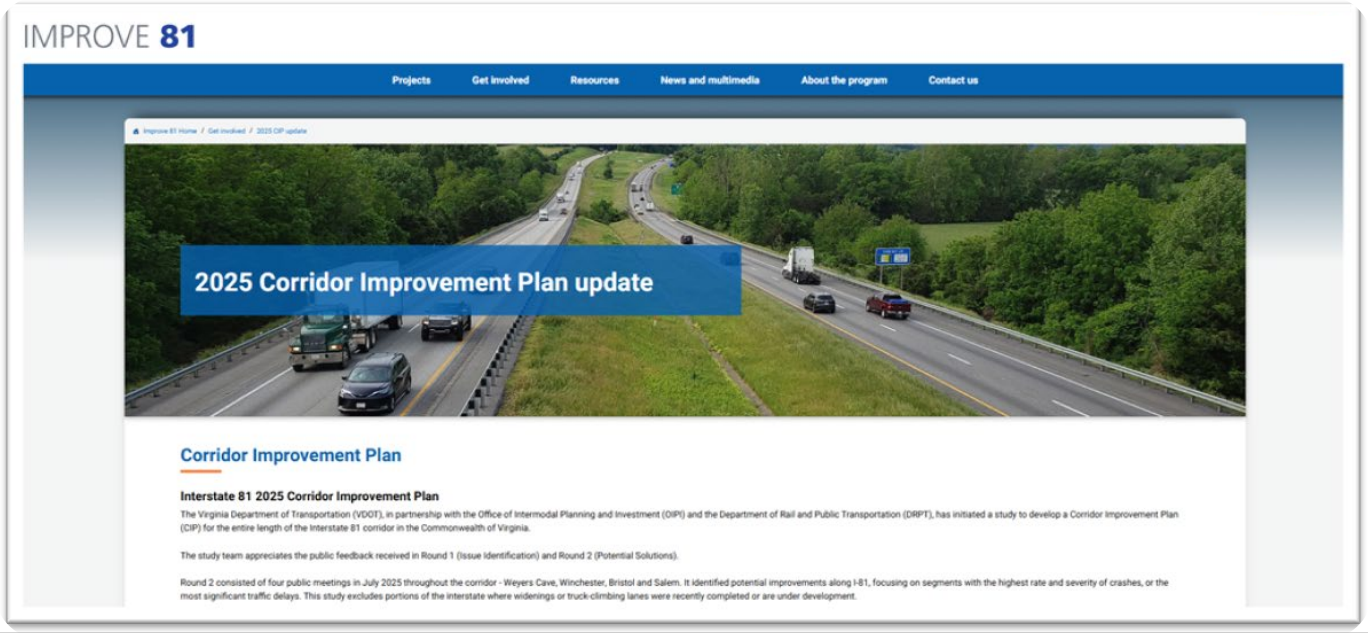
Questions

Study Manager: Rob Williams, AICP

va81corridorplan@vdot.virginia.gov

804-371-4868

www.improve81.org




VDOT
Virginia Department of Transportation