



# TRAFFIC ALERT

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RELEASE: IMMEDIATE  
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## **VDOT BRISTOL'S WEEKLY TRAFFIC ALERT: *December 3 - 9, 2018***

**BRISTOL** – In an effort to keep motorists informed, the Virginia Department of Transportation (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.

To help motorists take the guesswork out of travel plans, call VDOT's 511 or visit <http://www.511virginia.org> for real-time traffic information.

*Remember: Virginia's Move Over Law applies to vehicles with amber lights, including VDOT vehicles and the vehicles of its contractors. On a highway having at least four lanes, if you see vehicles with amber lights along the shoulder move safely to the adjacent lane. If changing lanes is unreasonable or unsafe, slow down and proceed with caution.*

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

### ***INTERSTATE PROJECTS***

**\*\*\*Interstate 81 – bridges over Reed Creek:** Due to replacement of the Interstate 81 bridges over Reed Creek in Wythe County, anticipate periodic nighttime lane closures northbound. The bridges are located about one-mile north of the I-77 split at I-81 exit 81. Allow extra travel time and watch out for workers. (Completion: Fall 2021)

**Interstate 81 – bridges over Mulberry Lane:** Due to the project to replace the Interstate 81 bridges over Route 686 (Mulberry Lane) in Smyth County near exit 50, Mulberry Lane is closed underneath the interstate. Pay close attention to detour signs directing traffic around the closed portion of Mulberry Lane. Anticipate lane closures on I-81 during the overnight hours during construction. (Completion: Fall 2020)

**\*\*\*Interstates 81 and 77 maintenance activities:** This week, be alert to the following lane closures on interstates in southwest Virginia:

**Interstate 77:**

- Be alert to nighttime tunnel maintenance on I-77 northbound at East River Mountain Tunnel December 11 - 14 from 7 p.m. until 6 a.m. nightly. Wide loads over 12 feet must stop before entering the tunnel during the maintenance operation.

**Interstate 81:**

- No lane closures are scheduled this week; however, be alert to maintenance activities such as debris removal along the shoulder of I-81.

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

***Bland County***

**\*\*\*Route 608 (Wesendock Road):** Due to replacement of the Route 608 (Wesendock Road) bridge deck, the bridge is closed until Friday, December 14. The bridge is located .90-mile from Route 609 and near the intersection of Route 677. (Completion: December 14)

***Buchanan County***

**Route 460 from Tazewell County line to Grundy:** Be alert to a shoulder closure on Route 460 between Shortt Gap at the Tazewell County line and the town of Grundy due to work to install paved shoulders, rumble strips and striping along the shoulder. Rumble strips are a safety enhancement that change the noise a vehicle's tires make on the road, alerting drivers they are veering off the roadway. (Completion: December 2018)

**Route 609 at intersection of Route 460 Connector Phase II:** Due to construction of the 460 Connector Phase II, motorists should be alert to the possibility of flaggers periodically directing traffic where the road intersects with Route 609. The Route 460 Connector Phase II is a 6.2-mile limited access highway being built almost entirely on a new location. Phase II is located between the U.S. Route 460 Connector Phase I, near Breaks Interstate Park, Route 460 and a connection with proposed Route 121 in Buchanan County.

***Dickenson County***

**Sewer line installation - Route 83 and connecting secondary routes:** Sewer line installation work is underway along Route 83 and connecting secondary routes in Dickenson County, between Clintwood and the Wise County line. Use caution in this area and pay close attention to workers in the work zone. (Completion: Summer 2019)

***Grayson County***

**\*\*\*Route 58 – rumble strips:** Motorists should be alert to shoulder closures along Route 58 between Galax and Independence due to work to install rumble strips along the shoulder. Rumble strips are a safety enhancement that change the noise a vehicle's tires make on the road, alerting drivers they are veering off the roadway. (Completion: late December 2018)

### *Lee County*

**Route 352 (Saint Charles Road) – water line:** Delays may be possible during daylight hours on Route 352 (Saint Charles Road) due to water line installation work. The project begins at the intersection of Route 421 and extends north approximately 6,500 feet. (Completion: early fall 2019)

### *Scott County*

**\*\*\*Railroad Maintenance - various secondary routes in Weber City:** Due to railroad maintenance by Norfolk Southern, motorists can anticipate the possibility of delays and crossing closures at the following secondary highways that branch off Route 23 in Scott County: Routes 1114 (Chapel Street), 1112 (McNutt Street), 1127 (Blanton Drive), and 735 (Boone Street). (Completion: December 2018)

**Route 224:** Due to efforts to straighten a portion of Route 224 in Scott County, be alert to periodic delays and flagging operations. Watch out for highway workers. (Completion: July 2019)

**Route 627 bridge replacement:** Due to construction of a new Route 627 bridge over Copper Creek in Scott County that is being constructed upstream from the current bridge, motorists should use caution in this area. Be alert to flaggers in the work zone. (Completion: July 2019)

**Utility Projects – various locations:** Anticipate lane closures during daylight hours at the following locations in Scott County due to utility projects:

- Power line installation along Route 72 between Route 660 (Golf Course Road) and Route 627 (Reed Hollow Road). (Completion: Spring 2019)
- Power line installation along U.S. Route 23 between Route 58 at Duffield and Route 871 (Natural Tunnel Parkway). (Completion: Fall 2018)
- Tree removal and power line construction along Route 870 (Natural Tunnel Parkway) between US Route 23 at Duffield and Route 653 (Mabe Stanleytown Road). (Completion: fall 2018)

**Route 23 bridge replacement at Weber City:** Due to replacement of the Route 23 bridges over North Fork Holston River in the Weber City area of Scott County, motorists can expect one-lane traffic and a 12-foot-width restriction in each direction. The speed limit in the work zone is 35 mph. (Completion: Summer 2019)

### *Tazewell County*

**Route 460 bridge over Town Hill Creek - Richlands:** Motorists should be alert to an altered traffic pattern due to reconstruction of the Route 460 bridge over Town Hill Creek in Richlands. Use caution in this area. (Completion: June 2019)

**\*\*\*Route 102 bridge replacement:** A project to reconstruct the Route 102 bridge over Laurel Fork in the Pocahontas area of Tazewell County is underway. Use caution in this area and be alert to signals controlling one-way traffic across the bridge. (Completion: Spring 2019)

*Washington County*

**\*\*\*Four-way stop at intersection of Route 640 (Benhams Road) and Route 633 (Reedy Creek Road):** Stop signs were installed last week where Route 640 (Benhams Road) intersects with Route 633 (Reedy Creek Road), making the intersection a four-way stop. Use caution in this area as drivers' familiarize themselves with the change.

**\*\*\*Route 677 bridge replacement:** The Route 677 (Green Spring Church Road) bridge in Washington County is closed until fall 2019 for replacement. Route 658 (Lombardy Road) will serve as the detour route during construction. The bridge is located just east of Route 75. (Completion: June 2019)

**Route 91 bridge:** Due to replacement of a portion of the Route 91 bridge in the Damascus area of Washington County, traffic is restricted to one 10-foot-wide lane and being controlled by traffic signals. **Creeper Trail users should stop and use crosswalk buttons to safely cross Route 91.** Use caution in this area. (Completion: April 2019)

*Wise County*

**Route 893 – bridge work:** Replacement of a portion of the Route 893 bridge over Little Tom's Creek in the Banner area of Wise County is underway. Traffic is being controlled by "Yield to On-Coming Traffic" signs, and traffic is restricted to 10-foot-wide across the bridge. (Completion: April 12, 2019) (END)