



Interstate 95 Safety Improvements at Route 3 City of Fredericksburg

Thank you for attending tonight's "Pardon Our Dust" meeting to discuss the upcoming construction project to improve the Route 3 (Plank Road) interchange at Exit 130 on Interstate 95 in Fredericksburg.

Fast Facts

Design-Build Team:

Contractor: Branch Civil, Inc.

Designer: Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLP

Contract amount: \$18.2 million

Total cost: \$21 million

Construction start: June 2017

Construction complete: January 2019



What will this project accomplish?

The project will modify on- and off-ramps at the Route 3 interchange at I-95. The changes are intended to reduce vehicle merging and weaving that can lead to crashes, injuries and congestion for local traffic, and on the interstate. Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program funds (HSIP) are building this project. After reviewing the I-95 corridor, VDOT determined the Route 3 interchange in Fredericksburg had a crash rate above the statewide average. These improvements are designed to lower the crash risk by eliminating conflict points where vehicles currently merge.

What are the specific improvements?

Southbound I-95 Exit Ramp Improvements

For southbound I-95 traffic exiting to Route 3 westbound, the off-ramp will be extended and widened.

After construction, a separate free-flow lane will directly lead to the Carl D. Silver Parkway entrance at Central Park without any merging required.

Three right turn lanes will be built for traffic exiting to Route 3 westbound. These lanes would make a slight right turn onto Route 3, controlled by a traffic signal. On a green signal, this would give traffic the opportunity to enter Route 3 westbound without any merging required.

Route 3 Eastbound On-Ramp Improvements

The project will eliminate the existing cloverleaf on-ramp that carries Route 3 eastbound traffic onto I-95 northbound.

Once construction is complete, Route 3 traffic will access I-95 northbound using three left turn lanes controlled by a traffic signal. This means drivers on Route 3 eastbound who are entering I-95 northbound will no longer have to merge with drivers exiting I-95.

What can drivers expect during construction?

Beginning in late June 2017, travelers will begin to observe construction activity throughout the Exit



130 interchange. Motorists should be alert for construction workers, equipment, concrete barriers and orange barrels. Single lane closures will be needed during off-peak hours at the beginning of work to install concrete barriers along the shoulders of I-95, interstate ramps and Route 3. Crews will begin to move utilities, clear and grade land to modify the interstate ramps.

Lane closures will be scheduled to occur outside of peak travel times, especially during weekday mornings and afternoons. With more than 80,000 vehicles a day traveling Route 3 at the I-95 interchange, we will seek to minimize disruptions at this critical transportation hub.

For several days, several approaches to the Central Park entrance and exit at Carl D. Silver Parkway will be closed to install new water and sewer pipes. Traffic will be detoured to access Central Park at Central Park Boulevard. Specific dates and times will be announced, and message boards will be placed at the interchange to notify the public in advance.

During construction of the new triple left turn lanes on Route 3 eastbound, traffic shifts will be needed to build the lanes. Motorists can expect three eastbound lanes to remain open during peak travel times, but the eastbound lanes may shift slightly right or left starting in late 2017 as construction progresses to give crews space to work. Temporary pavement will provide a rougher ride and feel. Final paving will be performed at the end of the project.

Tentative Construction Milestones

While construction work may adjust slightly due to weather and resources, motorists can anticipate project improvements opening on this approximate schedule:

Late 2017: New traffic signal is activated on Route 3 westbound. The signal will be located at the end of the new I-95 southbound exit ramp with triple right turn lanes to Route 3 westbound.

Spring 2018: New separate free-flow lane leading directly to the Carl D. Silver Parkway entrance at Central Park opens. The new lane will be divided from Route 3 westbound by a barrier.

Fall 2018: New traffic signal is activated at three left turn lanes on Route 3 eastbound at the I-95 northbound entrance ramp. The new signal will also stop Route 3 westbound traffic.

January 2019: Construction of potential noise barrier along I-95 northbound is completed.

How can I stay informed during the project?

Visit the project page on www.VirginiaDOT.org. Click on "Projects and Studies," followed by "Fredericksburg."

Sign up to receive traffic alerts and project newsletters by email. Send your email address to VDOT Communications Coordinator Darragh Frye at Darragh.Frye@VDOT.Virginia.Gov.

Real-time information on work zones and lane closures is available 24 hours a day through 511Virginia. Visit www.511virginia.org, call 511 from any phone in Virginia, or download the free mobile 511Virginia app for iPhone and Android devices. Questions? Contact VDOT's 24-hour Customer Service Center at 1-800-FOR-ROAD (800-367-7623).