The primary purpose of this project is to replace the two Interstate 81 bridges over Route 8. These aging bridges were constructed in 1964. To replace these bridges, mainline I-81 would be realigned, the exit 114 ramps modified and the grade changed at the bridges' approaches.

In designing the proposed bridges over Route 8, VDOT considered concepts for potential future modifications of the interchange. These included teardrop roundabout diamond, diverging diamond and conventional diamond interchanges.

Temporary lane closures, traffic shifts and road detours may be necessary during construction. Depending on the final design of the project, the estimated construction duration could be 42-48 months. Access to all properties would be maintained during construction.

The design of this project will be developed in compliance with the Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP). The construction of this project will conform to the nationwide best management practices, VDOT specifications and special provisions, and the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation regulations. During construction, every reasonable effort will be made to protect the environment with respect to dust and erosion control. No impacts to flood plains are anticipated on this project.

The following schedule has been proposed: Design Public Hearing – September 15, 2016 Advertise for Design-Build Construction – fall 2017

Total Cost (Bridge Replacements & Improvements): $34.9 million (approximately)

Engineering of Roadway & Bridge Plans: $6.4 million

Right of Way Acquisition, Relocation Assistance, and Utility Relocation: $0.5 million

Construction: $28 million

The phase costs are subject to change as project development continues. The project will be financed using state and federal funds.

VDOT must ensure that no impacts to floodplains are anticipated on this project.

Environmental Review

VDOT’s Environmental Section 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 Programmatic Categorical Exclusion has been developed in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and in accordance with federal guidelines. The Programmatic Categorical Exclusion includes information from various technical reviews including those related to natural resources, water quality, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, 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 provided in the project’s 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 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 Programmatic Categorical Exclusion and the results of other environmental studies are available at today’s hearing. Representatives from VDOT’s Environmental Section are available to discuss this information and to answer questions.

Anticipated Schedule

The following schedule has been proposed:

- Design Public Hearing – September 15, 2016
- Advertise for Design-Build Construction – fall 2017

This project is fully funded.

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

As currently proposed, the construction of the project does not require the displacement of any families, businesses or non-profit organizations.

As this project is further developed and finalized, additional easements for utility relocation may be required beyond the proposed right of way shown on the design public hearing plans and displays. 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.

After this meeting, information regarding right of way may be obtained from the right of way contact listed on the back of this brochure.

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On September 25, 2016, ten days after this design public hearing the public comment period will close. Project information shared here is available for review after the hearing at VDOT’s Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, VA 24153 and at VDOT’s Christiansburg Residency Office located at 105 Cambria Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

Comments must be postmarked, emailed or delivered to VDOT within 10 calendar days of today’s hearing in order to be included in the public record. Comments can also be submitted in writing to phillip.hammack@vdot.virginia.gov. Please reference “I-81/Route 8 Interchange Public Comment” in the subject heading.

VDOT will review and evaluate information received as a result of this design public hearing and after addressing comments, will present recommendations to VDOT’s Chief Engineer for consideration and decision on design approval.

If approval of the major design features is received for this project, the project will move forward to the final design phase.

This information, including the hearing summary, will be publicly available at VDOT’s Salem District Office and Christiansburg Residency Office.

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Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation’s (VDOT) Design Public Hearing for the proposed I-81/Route 8 (Exit 114) bridge replacements project in the Town of Christiansburg and Montgomery County.

This Design Public Hearing is being held to provide an opportunity for any person, acting on his/her own behalf or representing a group or governing agency, to give the Department 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.

A comment sheet is included in the handouts for this hearing, and your input is encouraged. All oral and written comments received on this project will be included in a transcript for review by VDOT personnel, citizens and other interested parties.

VDOT staff will evaluate questions and concerns raised as a result of this hearing before the project is presented to VDOT’s Chief Engineer for consideration of design approval.

Anticipated Cost – Approximately $34.9 million
Purpose – Replace the I-81 bridges over Route 8
From – 0.381 Mile South of Christiansburg Southern Corporate Limits
To – 0.510 Mile North of Christiansburg Southern Corporate Limits
Total length – 0.891 miles
Improvements – Replace I-81 bridges over Route 8, realign and make grade adjustments to I-81 and reconfigure exit 114 ramps to accommodate the new bridges.