



News Release

VirginiaDOT.org

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UPDATED: VDOT Bristol's Weekly Traffic Alert: *October 17 - 23, 2022*

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.

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 Exit 17: Be alert to nightly lane closures on Interstate 81 at exit 17 and on Route 75 beneath the interstate as part of the I-81 exit 17 improvement project. The exit 17 project includes improvements to the exit 17 northbound on and off ramps, improvements to a segment of Route 75, reconstruction and relocation of Gravel Lake Road, lengthening the I-81 southbound on ramp, and relocation of the frontage road located adjacent to the northbound exit 17 off ramp. The speed limit is 60mph through the work zone. (Completion: Spring 2023)

I-81 exit 54 southbound ramp extension project (Smyth County): Be alert to a lane shift along exit 54 southbound, from the on ramp to the rest area at Groseclose. The project will extend the acceleration lane to tie in with the rest area deceleration lane. (Completion: Nov. 2022)

Interstate 77 – Exit 64: Motorists should be alert to work underway to improve Interstate 77 at exit 64 in Bland County. The project includes maintenance repairs to

the I-77 bridges over Route 61 and Clear Fork Creek and improvements to the exit 64 northbound and southbound ramps. (Completion: May 2023)

I-77 bridges over Cove Creek: Be alert to a project to replace the Interstate 77 bridges over Cove Creek in Wythe County, located about two miles north of Interstate 81 between mile markers 44 and 42. Motorists can expect an altered traffic pattern on southbound I-77 and periodic nighttime lane closures while work is underway. (Completion: early 2023)

*****Interstates 81 and 77 maintenance activities:** This week, be alert to the following lane closures due to maintenance activities:

Interstate 81

- Nighttime utility work southbound near exit 54 in Smyth County.
- Nighttime work southbound near mile marker 81 in Wythe County.
- Daytime and nighttime lane closures northbound between mile markers 66 and 69 due to bridge painting. Be alert to a width restriction of 14-feet in the work zone.
- Daytime and nighttime lane closures southbound between mile markers 36 and 39 in Smyth County due to bridge repairs. Be alert to a width restriction of 14-feet in the work zone.

Interstate 77

- Nighttime lane closures north and southbound at Big Walker Mountain Tunnel and northbound at East River Mountain Tunnel due to tunnel maintenance. When a lane closure is in place at either tunnel, all wide loads over 12-feet-wide must stop before entering the tunnel.

PRIMARY HIGHWAYS AND HIGH TRAFFIC SECONDARY ROADS:

Buchanan County

Route 460/121 Poplar Creek Phase A: Construction of Route 460/121 Poplar Creek Phase A is underway in Buchanan County. Route 604 (Poplar Creek Road) is on a temporary alignment. The Poplar Creek Phase A project created a permanent change for Route 614 (Woods Fork). Access to the north and south ends of Route 614 is via Routes 609 (Bulls Creek Road) and Route 604 (Poplar Creek Road), respectively, which connect to Route 460 west of Grundy.

Dickenson County

*****Route 671 – slope repairs:** A portion of Route 671 in Dickenson County is closed through October 28 for fill slope repairs. The closure is located near Nancy Hollow. (Completion: October 28)

Route 80 bridge over Russell Fork River: Due to a project to rehabilitate the Route 80 (Sandlick Road) bridge over Russell Fork River in Dickenson County, motorists can expect temporary traffic signals controlling one-way traffic across the bridge. The bridge is located near the intersection of Route 605 (Russell Fork River Road). Use caution in this area and pay close attention to signs and message boards. (Completion: late 2022/early 2023)

Russell County

Route 615 bridge deck replacement: Due to replacement of the Route 615 bridge deck over Norfolk Southern Railroad near Lake Bonaventure in Russell County, the bridge is restricted to one 10-foot-wide lane and controlled by traffic signals. The bridge is located .17-mile from the intersection of Route 616. (Completion: Fall 2022)

Scott County

Route 23 bridge over Speers Ferry: Due to work to rehabilitate the Route 23 bridge over Speers Ferry in Scott County, traffic has been shifted and crews are now working on the southbound bridge. Traffic is restricted to one, 11-foot-wide lane in each direction across the northbound bridge. Motorists are advised to use caution in this area, slow down and allow extra travel time. (Completion: July 2023)

Tazewell County

Second Street (Route 67) Bridge over Clinch River in Richlands: Due to a bridge rehabilitation and repair project on Second Street (Route 67) in Richlands, the bridge over the Clinch River is restricted to one lane. The bridge is located west of the intersection of Allegheny Street. (Completion: Nov. 2022)

Route 19: Be alert to daily delays on Route 19 near the Russell/Tazewell County line due to rolling roadblocks associated with blasting work. The work is due to establishing the intersection for Pure Salmon. (Completion: Fall 2022)

Washington County

Route 58 widening near Damascus: Due to Route 58 construction activities near Damascus, be alert to periodic delays. Virginia Creeper Trail users should be alert to the possibility of flaggers directing trail traffic. Trail users may experience periodic delays of 15-30 minutes near the bridge. (Completion: May 2024)

Wise County

Alternate Route 58 bridge rehabilitation: A project to rehabilitate the Alternate Route 58 bridge over the Guest River and Norfolk Southern Railroad in the City of Norton is underway. Use caution in this area and be alert to lane closures. (Completion: July 2023)

Business Route 23 in Wise: A project to widen a portion of Business Route 23 in the Town of Wise between Route 23 at McDonald's and Cherry Street is underway. Pay close attention to flaggers and allow extra travel time. (Completion: early Nov. 2023)

Alternate Route 58 bridge repairs: Bridge repairs are underway on eastbound Route 58 in Wise County at the bridge over Bear Creek in the Norton area. Pay close attention to signs and watch out for workers. (Completion: Oct. 2022)

Wythe County

Route 619 (Gleaves Road) - bridge closure: Due to a recent bridge inspection, the Route 619 truss bridge over Cripple Creek in Wythe County is currently closed. No timeframe for reopening the bridge has been established to date. Pay close attention to signs and message boards in the area.

Route 619 bridge: Due to replacement of the Route 619 bridge over Interstate 81 exit 84 in Wythe County, motorists should be alert to one-lane traffic controlled by temporary traffic signals across the Route 619 bridge. Be alert to the possibility of slight delays on I-81 due to the bridge work above the interstate. (Completion: Dec. 2023)

Completed

*****Route 600 (Saint Luke's Road):** A pipe replacement project on Route 600 (Saint Luke's Road) in Wythe County is complete.

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