**ATTACHMENT A**

**INTERIM REPORT: LISTING OF I-81 CORRIDOR PROJECTS ADDRESSING SAFETY AND CONGESTION**

**Pursuant to:**

**Item 427 L of Chapter 2, 2014 Acts of the Assembly (Special Session I)**

**Commonwealth Transportation Board**

**and**

**Virginia Department of Transportation**

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# Executive Summary

Pursuant to Item 427 L 1 and 2 (Item 427 L) of the 2014 Appropriation Act, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) is required to direct the Virginia Department of Transportation’s (VDOT) Bristol, Salem and Staunton districts to identify projects along the I-81 corridor of Virginia that address safety and congestion concerns as part of the statewide prioritization process pursuant to § 33.1-23.5:5[[1]](#footnote-1). (See Appendix A) Item 427 L further requires the CTB to solicit input from local elected officials, state legislators, and other affected stakeholders in the identification of potential candidate projects for evaluation. Further, the CTB is to give priority to projects that minimize the impacts on adjacent communities, including historic battlefields, and to projects that can be implemented within the existing right-of-way or with minimal additional right-of-way.

An interim report, including a list of the identified projects and estimated costs is to be completed by November 1, 2014 and this document serves to satisfy the interim reporting requirement. Additionally, by January 1, 2016, a final listing of projects developed pursuant to the provisions of House Bill 2, 2014 Session of the General Assembly, (HB2) must list the prioritized candidate projects identified for potential inclusion in the Six Year Improvement Program to be adopted by the CTB in June 2016.

In order to meet the due date of November 1, 2014 for this interim report and the requisite project list, a list of projects along the I-81 corridor which address safety and congestion was derived from the current Fiscal Year 2015-2020 (FY15-20) Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP), approved by the CTB in June 2014. These projects have been subjected to the public comment process and their associated costs have been included in the listing provided in this report. The final report that is due January 1, 2016 will include a prioritized list of projects developed pursuant to the provisions of HB2 along with planning level cost estimates. Therefore, the project list included in this interim report may change as the final report is developed.

Findings

The FY15-20 SYIP, which the CTB approved in June 2014, includes 19 projects along the 325 miles of Interstate 81 in Virginia that address safety and congestion concerns. The costs for these projects total approximately $372 million. A breakdown by construction district is:

* Bristol District – 3 projects, Total ~ $78 million
* Salem District – 11 projects, Total ~ $218 million
* Staunton District – 5 projects, Total ~ $76 million

# Introduction

The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) is required by Item 427 L of the 2014 Appropriation Act to direct VDOT’s Salem, Bristol and Staunton district staff to develop a prioritized list of congestion relief and safety improvement projects along the I-81 corridor as part of the statewide prioritization process pursuant to § 33.1-23.5:5 of the *Code of Virginia*[[2]](#footnote-2) (HB 2 – 2014). Item 427 L further requires the CTB to solicit input from local elected officials, state legislators, and other affected stakeholders in the identification of potential candidate projects for evaluation. Further, the CTB is to give priority to projects that minimize the impacts on adjacent communities, including historic battlefields, and to projects that can be implemented within the existing right-of-way or with minimal additional right-of-way.

Pursuant to Item 427 L, an interim report, including a listing of the identified projects and estimated costs, is to be completed by November 1, 2014. This report constitutes the interim report and provides a list of projects, derived from the Fiscal Year 2015-2020 (FY15-20) Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP) (approved June 2014), along the I-81 Corridor in VDOT’s Bristol, Salem and Staunton districts that will address congestion and safety issues. The FY 15-20 SYIP received public comments during nine spring hearings that were held during April and May 2014 across the Commonwealth. By the time this report is issued, the CTB will have held nine Fall Transportation Meetings throughout the Commonwealth to receive input from citizens and local elected officials on both recommended improvements to the transportation system and the HB2 prioritization process. Input from these meetings and other sources will be considered and evaluated in the HB 2 prioritization process which is currently in the development stage.

Additionally, Item 427 L requires that, by January 1, 2016, a final list of projects must be developed pursuant to the provisions of House Bill 2, 2014 Session of the General Assembly, (HB2) and must list the prioritized candidate projects identified for potential inclusion in the SYIP to be adopted by the CTB in June 2016. The results of the HB2 analysis and prioritization will be considered for purposes of the final list of projects that must be developed pursuant to Item 427 L.

# Study Area

The study area includes 325 miles of Interstate 81, beginning at the Tennessee / Virginia State Line and continuing to the West Virginia / Virginia state line. Within the study area are 90 interchanges including connections with I-66, I-64, I-581, I-77 and I-381. Overall corridor traffic averages 48,000 vehicles per day (vpd), with almost 60,000 vpd near Roanoke and Winchester. Originally, I-81 was designed for 15% truck traffic. Data shows the roadway currently carries an average of 26% trucks, and up to 35% on some sections. In Virginia, I-81 traverses rolling and mountainous topography. The up-and-down terrain complicates traffic flow. Maintaining consistent speeds is challenging because of the topography and the high volume of heavy vehicles such as trucks, RVs and horse trailers. People using I-81 in Virginia include commercial drivers, commuters, tourists, through travelers, and many college students. Twenty-nine colleges and universities are located along the I-81 corridor.

# Process for Developing Project Lists

 In order to meet the due date of November 1, 2014 for this interim report and the requisite project list, a list of projects along the I-81 corridor which address safety and congestion was developed from the current Fiscal Year 2015-2020 (FY15-20) Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP), approved by the CTB in June 2014. (See Appendix B and Appendix C) These projects were reviewed by stakeholders prior to the adoption of the FY15-20 SYIP by means of nine Spring Transportation Hearings held during April and May 2014. In addition, by the time that this report is issued, these projects will have been reviewed by stakeholders in nine Fall Transportation Meetings held during September and October 2014 conducted throughout the Commonwealth for purposes of HB2 and preparing an interim SYIP. Because the HB 2 prioritization process is currently being developed, other/additional projects may be considered once that process has been implemented, and thus, the final listing due by January 1, 2016 may include projects different from or in addition to the projects listed in this report.

This interim report and the list of projects contained herein have been approved by the CTB for submission (See Appendix D).

# Appendix A – Budget Amendment Item 427 L

Secretary of Transportation (186)

Item 427.

Authority: Title 2.2, Chapter 2, Article 10, §2.2-201, and Titles 33, 46, and 58, Code of Virginia.

L. l. The Commonwealth Transportation Board shall direct the staff of the Virginia Department of Transportation's Bristol, Salem and Staunton districts to develop a list of potential improvements to address congestion and safety concerns along the Interstate 81 corridor as a part of the statewide prioritization process enacted by the 2014 General Assembly pursuant to § 33.1-23.5:5, Code of Virginia.

2. In the identification of potential candidate projects for evaluation, the Board shall solicit input from local elected officials, state legislators, and other affected stakeholders. Further, the Board shall give priority to projects that minimize the impacts on adjacent communities, including historic battlefields, and to projects that can be implemented within the existing right-of-way or with minimal additional right-of-way. An interim report, including a listing of the identified projects and estimated costs shall be completed by November 1, 2014. By January 1, 2016, a final listing, developed pursuant to the provisions of House Bill 2, 2014 Session of the General Assembly, will list the prioritized candidate projects identified for potential inclusion in the Six Year Program adopted by the Commonwealth Transportation Board in June 2016.

# Appendix B – Item 427 Interim Project List

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| **I-81 Bristol, Salem and Staunton Districts – FY15-20 SYIP** |
| **Total Line Item Estimate: $371,665 (K)** |
| **UPC** | **Description** | **Route** | **District** | **Road System** | **Jurisdiction** | Estimate | Previous | FY15 | FY16-20 | Balance |
| (Values in Thousands of Dollars) |
| 97555 | I-81 NBL BRIDGE PROJECT AT ROUTE 11 STR #17478 | 81 | Bristol | Interstate | Smyth County | $13,320  | $0  | $375  | $12,945  | $0  |
| 97856 | INTERSTATE 81 AT EXIT 14 RAMP MODIFICATIONS | 81 | Bristol | Interstate | Washington County | $44,360  | $5,267  | $3,248  | $35,845  | $0  |
| 104936 | I-81 STRUCTURES 19596 & 19597 OVER REED CREEK IN WYTHE CO | 81 | Bristol | Interstate | Wythe County | $20,000  | $0  | $0  | $2,000  | $18,000  |
| 56899 | INTERSTATE 81 NB BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AND ROUTE 232 BRIDGE | 81 | Salem | Interstate | Montgomery County | $78,110  | $7,500  | $705  | $53,931  | $15,974  |
| 56900 | I-81 SOUTHBOUND BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER THE NEW RIVER | 81 | Salem | Interstate | Pulaski County | $47,502  | $2,000  | $0  | $0  | $45,502  |
| 75910 | ROUTE 11,220,220A ACCESS MANAGEMENT PROJECT AT I-81 EXIT 150 | 81 | Salem | Interstate | Botetourt County | $46,791  | $26,615  | $0  | $20,176  | $0  |
| 93074 | RTE. 81 - APPROACHES AND BRIDGES OVER ROUTE 8 | 81 | Salem | Interstate | Christiansburg | $10,918  | $1,976  | $0  | $3,192  | $5,750  |
| 93075 | RTE. 81 - MONT. CO. APPROACHES TO I-81 BRIDGES OVER ROUTE 8 | 81 | Salem | Interstate | Montgomery County | $5,249  | $1,300  | $0  | $2,949  | $1,000  |
| 97560 | RTE I-81 NBL BRIDGE REPLACE. OVER RTE 581 SW & NW RAMPS | 81 | Salem | Interstate | Roanoke County | c | $1,050  | $7  | $0  | $9,441  |
| 97576 | RTE 81 SBL - BRIDGE REPLACE OVER RTE. 112 WILDWOOD STR#14865 | 81 | Salem | Interstate | Roanoke County | $6,256  | $892  | $7  | $0  | $5,357  |
| 97577 | RTE 81 - NBL BRIDGE REPLACE OVER RTE 11 STR #3212 | 81 | Salem | Interstate | Botetourt County | $4,623  | $462  | $6  | $0  | $4,154  |
| 97578 | RTE 81 NBL - BRIDGE REPLACE OVER RTE 642 ALLEGHANY STR#14867 | 81 | Salem | Interstate | Roanoke County | $3,505  | $350  | $6  | $0  | $3,148  |
| 99542 | RTE. 81 - EXIT 140 PARK 'N RIDE FACILITY EXPANSION | 81 | Salem | Interstate | Roanoke County | $1,608  | $1,608  | $0  | $0  | $0  |
| 104130 | I-81 MM 166.7 TO MM 169.7 IMPROVEMENTS - PARTIAL PE ONLY | 81 | Salem | Interstate | Botetourt County | $3,000  | $3,000  | $0  | $0  | $0  |
| 75881 | RTE 81 - INTERCHANGE MODIFICATION, EXIT 310 | 81 | Staunton | Interstate | Frederick County | $49,121  | $37,614  | $3,121  | $8,386  | $0  |
| 79923 | RTE 81 - SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS, EXIT 213 | 81 | Staunton | Interstate | Augusta County | $5,152  | $478  | $0  | $0  | $4,674  |
| 88659 | PE FOR I-81 EXIT 307 INTER RELOCATION\IMPROVEMENT | 81 | Staunton | Interstate | Frederick County | $1,300  | $1,300  | $0  | $0  | $0  |
| 88820 | I-81 INTERCHANGE STUDY FOR EXIT 313 | 81 | Staunton | Interstate | Frederick County | $9,000  | $2,028  | $1,357  | $5,614  | $0  |
| 97636 | I-81 SHEN/WARREN CO BRIDGE OVER CEDAR CREEK STR #18746 | 81 | Staunton | Interstate | Shenandoah County | $11,352  | $476  | $0  | $0  | $10,876  |

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| **I-81 Bristol District FY15-20 SYIP** |
| **Total Line Item Estimate: $77,680 (K)** |
| **UPC** | **Description** | **Route** | **District** | **Road System** | **Jurisdiction** | Estimate | Previous | FY15 | FY16-20 | Balance |
| (Values in Thousands of Dollars) |
| 97555 | I-81 NBL BRIDGE PROJECT AT ROUTE 11 STR #17478 | 81 | Bristol | Interstate | Smyth County | $13,320  | $0  | $375  | $12,945  | $0  |
| 97856 | INTERSTATE 81 AT EXIT 14 RAMP MODIFICATIONS | 81 | Bristol | Interstate | Washington County | $44,360  | $5,267  | $3,248  | $35,845  | $0  |
| 104936 | I-81 STRUCTURES 19596 & 19597 OVER REED CREEK IN WYTHE CO | 81 | Bristol | Interstate | Wythe County | $20,000  | $0  | $0  | $2,000  | $18,000  |

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| **I-81Salem District FY15-20 SYIP** |
| **Total Line Item Estimate: $218,060 (K)** |
| **UPC** | **Description** | **Route** | **District** | **Road System** | **Jurisdiction** | Estimate | Previous | FY15 | FY16-20 | Balance |
| (Values in Thousands of Dollars) |
| 56899 | INTERSTATE 81 NB BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AND ROUTE 232 BRIDGE | 81 | Salem | Interstate | Montgomery County | $78,110  | $7,500  | $705  | $53,931  | $15,974  |
| 56900 | I-81 SOUTHBOUND BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER THE NEW RIVER | 81 | Salem | Interstate | Pulaski County | $47,502  | $2,000  | $0  | $0  | $45,502  |
| 75910 | ROUTE 11,220,220A ACCESS MANAGEMENT PROJECT AT I-81 EXIT 150 | 81 | Salem | Interstate | Botetourt County | $46,791  | $26,615  | $0  | $20,176  | $0  |
| 93074 | RTE. 81 - APPROACHES AND BRIDGES OVER ROUTE 8 | 81 | Salem | Interstate | Christiansburg | $10,918  | $1,976  | $0  | $3,192  | $5,750  |
| 93075 | RTE. 81 - MONT. CO. APPROACHES TO I-81 BRIDGES OVER ROUTE 8 | 81 | Salem | Interstate | Montgomery County | $5,249  | $1,300  | $0  | $2,949  | $1,000  |
| 97560 | RTE I-81 NBL BRIDGE REPLACE. OVER RTE 581 SW & NW RAMPS | 81 | Salem | Interstate | Roanoke County | $10,498  | $1,050  | $7  | $0  | $9,441  |
| 97576 | RTE 81 SBL - BRIDGE REPLACE OVER RTE. 112 WILDWOOD STR#14865 | 81 | Salem | Interstate | Roanoke County | $6,256  | $892  | $7  | $0  | $5,357  |
| 97577 | RTE 81 - NBL BRIDGE REPLACE OVER RTE 11 STR #3212 | 81 | Salem | Interstate | Botetourt County | $4,623  | $462  | $6  | $0  | $4,154  |
| 97578 | RTE 81 NBL - BRIDGE REPLACE OVER RTE 642 ALLEGHANY STR#14867 | 81 | Salem | Interstate | Roanoke County | $3,505  | $350  | $6  | $0  | $3,148  |
| 99542 | RTE. 81 - EXIT 140 PARK 'N RIDE FACILITY EXPANSION | 81 | Salem | Interstate | Roanoke County | $1,608  | $1,608  | $0  | $0  | $0  |
| 104130 | I-81 MM 166.7 TO MM 169.7 IMPROVEMENTS - PARTIAL PE ONLY | 81 | Salem | Interstate | Botetourt County | $3,000  | $3,000  | $0  | $0  | $0  |

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| **I-81 Staunton District FY15-20 SYIP** |
| **Total Line Item Estimate: $75,925 (K)** |
| **UPC** | **Description** | **Route** | **District** | **Road System** | **Jurisdiction** | Estimate | Previous | FY15 | FY16-20 | Balance |
| (Values in Thousands of Dollars) |
| 75881 | RTE 81 - INTERCHANGE MODIFICATION, EXIT 310 | 81 | Staunton | Interstate | Frederick County | $49,121  | $37,614  | $3,121  | $8,386  | $0  |
| 79923 | RTE 81 - SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS, EXIT 213 | 81 | Staunton | Interstate | Augusta County | $5,152  | $478  | $0  | $0  | $4,674  |
| 88659 | PE FOR I-81 EXIT 307 INTER RELOCATION\IMPROVEMENT | 81 | Staunton | Interstate | Frederick County | $1,300  | $1,300  | $0  | $0  | $0  |
| 88820 | I-81 INTERCHANGE STUDY FOR EXIT 313 | 81 | Staunton | Interstate | Frederick County | $9,000  | $2,028  | $1,357  | $5,614  | $0  |
| 97636 | I-81 SHEN/WARREN CO BRIDGE OVER CEDAR CREEK STR #18746 | 81 | Staunton | Interstate | Shenandoah County | $11,352  | $476  | $0  | $0  | $10,876  |

# Appendix C - CTB Resolution of the Fiscal Years 2015 – 2020 SYIP

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**Appendix D - CTB Resolution Approving Interim Report and List of Projects Required by Item 427 L of 2014 Appropriation Act**

## Agenda item #

**RESOLUTION**

**OF THE**

**COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**MOTION**

**Made By:**       **Seconded By:**

**Action:**

**Title: Approval of I-81 Interim Report Required by Item 427 L 1 and 2 of the 2014 Appropriation Act**

 **WHEREAS,** Item 427 L 1 and 2 of the 2014 Appropriation Act requires the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to direct the staff of the Bristol, Salem and Staunton districts of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to develop a list of potential improvements to address congestion and safety concerns along the Interstate 81 corridor as a part of the statewide prioritization process enacted by the 2014 General Assembly pursuant to § 33.1-23.5:5 (§ 33.2-214, effective October 1, 2014) of the *Code of Virginia*; and

 **WHEREAS,** Item 427 L 1 and 2 also requires that, in the identification of potential candidate projects for evaluation, the CTB shall (i) solicit input from local elected officials, state legislators, and other affected stakeholders, and (ii) shall give priority to projects that minimize the impacts on adjacent communities, including historic battlefields, and to projects that can be implemented within the existing right-of-way or with minimal additional right-of-way; and

 **WHEREAS,** Item 427 L 1 and 2 further requires that an interim report, including a listing of the identified projects and estimated costs, shall be completed by November 1, 2014 (“Interim Report”), and that by January 1, 2016, a final listing, developed pursuant to the provisions of House Bill 2 of the 2014 Acts of Assembly, be prepared, bearing the "prioritized candidate projects identified for potential inclusion in the Six Year Program" to be adopted by the CTB in June 2016; and

 **WHEREAS,** the CTB approved allocations for the Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) for Fiscal Years 2015-2020 at its June 18, 2014 meeting, and the projects listed in that SYIP have been subject to public comment prior to approval by the CTB; and

 **WHEREAS,** given the November 1, 2014 due date,it has been necessary to develop the list of projects for the Interim Report based on those projects included in the SYIP for Fiscal Years 2015-2020 that address congestion and safety concerns along the Interstate 81 corridor, and said list has been incorporated in the Interim Report attached hereto as Attachment A.

 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the CTB hereby approves the Interim Report, which includes the list of projects included in the SYIP for Fiscal Years 2015-2020 that address congestion and safety concerns along the Interstate 81 corridor, and is attached hereto as Attachment A; and

 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the CTB hereby authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to make such modifications to the Interim Report as he deems appropriate, albeit leaving the list of projects set forth in Attachment A intact, and to take all actions necessary to present the report to the General Assembly on or before November 1, 2014; and

 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that VDOT is directed to take, on behalf of the CTB, those measures deemed necessary to present to the CTB, no later than its November, 2015 meeting and prior to submission to the General Assembly, the finalized list of "prioritized candidate projects identified for potential inclusion in the Six Year Program" to be adopted by the CTB in June 2016, that has been developed in accord with the conditions set forth in Item 427 L 1 and 2.

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1. Section 33.1-23.5:5 was enacted into law pursuant to HB 2 of the 2014 General Assembly. As a result of legislation recodifying, among others, Title 33.1, §33.1-23.5:5 was recodified as §33.2-214, effective October 1, 2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)