

RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

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I-66 STUDIES, PLANS AND PROJECTS AIM TO MANAGE CONGESTION

FAIRFAX—Congested Interstate 66 is getting some much needed attention. From reconstructing deteriorated pavement to planning how the 35-mile corridor from Washington to Haymarket should operate in the coming decades, the Virginia Department of Transportation has a host of studies and projects aimed at easing delays now and in the future.

Here is a rundown of I-66 projects under construction, in design or being studied.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- **I-66 Spot Improvement** – The westbound acceleration and deceleration lane between Fairfax Drive and Sycamore Street is being lengthened to form a continuous auxiliary lane between the two ramps. A new 12-foot-wide shoulder is being constructed with full-strength pavement capable of carrying traffic during emergencies. (This is the first of three spot improvements planned). When completed this December, the two-mile project will ease congestion and increase safety.
- **I-66 Pavement Rehabilitation** – A \$48 million project is under way to repair and resurface six and a half miles of badly deteriorated pavement between the Capital Beltway and Route 50 in Fairfax County. To minimize impacts to motorists, all lane closures are at night—between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m., Sunday through Thursday nights. The project will be complete in the fall of 2012.
- **I-66 Ramps at I-495 (Capital Beltway)** – Two new ramps connecting I-66 with the beltway will mean that motorists will no longer merge into the left lanes of the Beltway. Motorists traveling from eastbound I-66 to northbound I-495 or from westbound I-66 to southbound I-495 will merge into the right lanes of the Beltway. The new ramps are part of the Beltway HOT lanes project which will open to traffic at the end of 2012.

COMING SOON

- **I-66 Active Traffic Management** – This is the next generation of managing congestion through technology. The initial focus will be on the most congested section of I-66, between I-495 and Route 50. Gantries with electronic lane control signs will be installed every half mile giving motorists advance notice of lanes closed ahead so drivers can begin to merge well before the actual closure. Speed limits and travel times will be displayed on the sign gantries as well. Work begins summer 2012 and continues through fall 2013.

IN DESIGN

- **I-66 Widening from Gainesville to Haymarket** – Widening to eight lanes (two new lanes in each direction, including one HOV lane) from Route 29 in Gainesville to Route 15 in Haymarket, including improvements to the I-66/Route 15 interchange. A public hearing will be held later this summer.
- **I-66 Vienna Metro Access Ramp** – A bus-only ramp will be constructed from the east and westbound HOV lanes of I-66 to Vaden Street near the Vienna Metro Station. A community meeting will be held later this year.
- **I-66 Spot Improvement 2** – Construction of a westbound acceleration-deceleration lane between Haycock Road and Westmoreland Street. No right-of-way is required. A public hearing was held in October 2008. Design will continue after the I-66 Multi-Modal Study is completed.
- **I-66 Spot Improvement 3** – Construction of a westbound acceleration-deceleration lane from Glebe Road to Lee Highway. No right-of-way is required. A public hearing was held October 2008. Design will continue after the I-66 Multi-Modal Study is completed.

STUDIES

- **I-66 Multi-Modal Study (Inside Beltway)** – This study begins in June 2011 to identify and evaluate transit, bike, pedestrian, operational and highway options for near and long term. The one-year study will include citizen meetings and be completed in May 2012.
- **I-66 Environmental Impact Study (Outside Beltway)** – This study will identify current and future transportation needs and their environmental impacts on the 25-mile corridor from I-495 to Haymarket. A draft EIS is expected by June 2012 for public review and final EIS anticipated by June 2013. Citizens can find out more about the study and provide their input at upcoming information meetings:
 - Wednesday, June 8, between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., Four Points by Sheraton, 10800 Vandor Lane, Manassas, VA 20109.

- Thursday, June 9, between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Virginia Department of Transportation, Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030