



# TRAFFIC ALERT

VirginiaDOT.org

RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

July 31, 2020

CONTACT: Michelle Earl 276-696-3283 (office)\*  
[Michelle.Earl@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Michelle.Earl@VDOT.Virginia.gov)

BR-20040

## **VDOT BRISTOL'S WEEKLY TRAFFIC ALERT: *August 3 - 9, 2020***

**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 - Milling/Paving:** Be alert to paving this week on Interstate 81 northbound between exits 45 and 47 in the Marion area of Smyth County.

**Interstate 81 bridges at Atkins:** A project to replace the Interstate 81 bridges near mile marker 52 in the Atkins area of Smyth County is underway. Be alert to shoulder closures through the work zone and the possibility of lane closures on Route 11 beneath the bridges. The speed limit in the work zone is 60 mph. (Completion: Fall 2022)

**Interstate 81 – bridges over Reed Creek:** Be alert to altered traffic patterns on Interstate 81 at the bridges over Reed Creek in Wythe County due to replacement of the bridges. The bridges are located about one-mile north of the I-77 split at I-81 exit 81. The speed limit through the work zone is 60 mph. Allow extra travel time and watch out for workers. (Completion: Fall 2021)

**Interstate 81 – bridges over Mulberry Lane:** Due to the project to replace the Interstate 81 bridges over Route 686 (Mulberry Lane) in Smyth County near exit 50, be alert to traffic shifts in the work zone. Mulberry Lane is closed underneath the interstate. Pay close attention to detour signs directing traffic around the closed portion of Mulberry Lane. The speed limit through the work zone is 60 mph. Anticipate lane closures on I-81 during the overnight hours during construction. (Completion: Fall 2020)

**\*\*\*Interstates 81 and 77 maintenance activities:** This week, be alert to the closure of the I-81 southbound off ramp at exit 73 in Wythe County August 4 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. due to updates to signage. No lane closures are scheduled for Interstate 77 in Bland and Wythe counties; however, be alert to activities along the shoulder such as debris removal.

***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. Impacts on motorists are minimal because the majority of the work is on a new location; however, the project has created a permanent change for Route 614 (Woods Fork). Poplar Creek Phase A will split a portion of Route 614 and cul-de-sacs will be added on either end of Route 614 where it ends at the new highway, approximately 2.75 miles from Route 609 at Bull Creek and 1.25 miles from Route 604 at Poplar Creek. Access to the north and south ends of Route 614 will be via Routes 609 (Bull Creek Road) and 604 (Poplar Creek Road), respectively, which connect to Route 460 west of Grundy.

***Grayson County***

**Route 21 shoulder widening/rumble strip project:** Be alert to the possibility of lane closures on Route 21 in Wythe County and Grayson County between Wytheville Corporate Limits to Independence Corporate Limits due to shoulder widening, the installation of rumble strips and paving to enhance safety along the highway. (Completion: mid-August 2020)

***Lee County***

**Route 58 improvements:** A project to install rumble strips and widening shoulders along Route 58 in Lee County is underway. The project is located between Route 70 and the intersection of Route 604. Be alert to workers and signs. (Completion: summer 2020)

**Route 58 bridge over the Powell River:** Due to replacement of the Route 58 bridge over the Powell River near Jonesville in Lee County, signals are controlling one-way traffic across the bridge. Use caution in this area and allow for slight travel delays. (Completion: fall 2021)

***Russell County***

**Route 834 – Roadway Improvements:** Anticipate the possibility of delays during daylight hours due to ditching, drainage and pavement improvements along Route 834 in Russell County. (Completion: August 2020)

***Scott County***

**Pedestrian Signals – Gate City:** Be alert to periodic, temporary lane closures at the intersection of Jones Street and Kane Street in Gate City due to the installation of pedestrian signals. Traffic will be controlled by uniformed flaggers during daytime lane closures. (Completion: August 2020)

**Utility Installation:** Be alert to utility installation work along Route 870 (Daniel Boone Road) and connecting secondary highways near Gate City. The project is near the quarry pond and will extend westward to Route 789 (Sarah Circle). (Completion: February 2021)

**Route 600 (Fairview Road):** Be alert to water installation work and lane closures on Route 600 (Fairview Road) and connecting secondary routes in Scott County. (Completion: Fall 2020)

**Utility Projects – various locations:** Anticipate lane closures during daylight hours due to power line installation along U.S. Route 23 between Route 600 (Fairview Road) and Route 625 (Angler's Way). (Completion: Summer 2020)

### *Smyth County*

**Route 660 (Railroad Drive) – pipe replacement:** Be alert to flaggers directing one-lane traffic on Route 660 (Railroad Drive) in the Marion area of Smyth County due to a drainage improvement project located between N. Overlook Drive and Old Ebenezer Road. Portable red lights will be in place during overnight hours. (Completion: August 10)

**Route 16 – shoulder repairs:** This week, be alert to the possibility of lane closures and flaggers along Route 16 between Route 622 (Nicks Creek) to Route 699 (Brushy Mountain Road) in Smyth County due to shoulder repairs. (Completion: June 2020)

### *Tazewell County*

**\*\*\*Route 67 – Pipe Replacement:** Due to a project to replace pipes along Route 67 in the Raven area of Tazewell County, between Coal Creek near the United States Postal Service and the eastern intersection of Route 751, motorists should be alert to the possibility of delays and potential road closures during daylight hours beginning July 27. (Completion: mid-August)

**Route 783 – road improvements:** Be alert to periodic delays on Route 783 in the Raven area of Tazewell County due to ditching, drainage and pavement improvements. (Completion: late August 2020)

**Route 777:** Anticipate periodic delays on Route 777 in the Raven area of Tazewell County due to ditching, drainage and pavement improvements. (Completion: late August 2020)

### *Washington County*

**Route 11 improvements:** A project to install rumble strips and upgrade guardrail along Route 11 in Washington County is underway. The project is located between Route 767 and the intersection of Route 11 and Interstate 81 at exit 32. Be alert to workers and signs. (Completion: summer 2020)

*Wise County*

**\*\*\*Route 23 – median shoulder improvements:** Be alert to lane closures on Route 23 between Norton and Duffield due to a project to improve the median shoulder area. Pay close attention to signs and message boards. (Completion: October 2020)

**Route 68 (Exeter Road):** Delays during daylight hours are possible on Route 68 (Exeter Road) near Appalachia due to a sewer line installation project. (Completion: Summer 2020)

*Wythe County*

**Route 21 shoulder widening/rumble strip project:** Be alert to the possibility of lane closures on Route 21 in Wythe County and Grayson County between Wytheville Corporate Limits to Independence Corporate Limits due to shoulder widening, the installation of rumble strips and paving to enhance safety along the highway. (Completion: mid-August 2020)

**Completed**

**Route 23 – median shoulder improvements:** The project to improve the median and shoulder area of Route 23 between the Food City in Wise and the Virginia/Kentucky state is complete.

**Route 611 (North Fork River Road):** A pipe installation project on Route 611 (North Fork River Road) is complete. (END)