

**Working Group Meeting #23 Minutes**

Thursday, July 9, 2020, 2 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

VDOT Proj No. 0007-029-942 and 0007-029-225, UPC 99478 and 106917

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A Route 7 Working Group meeting was conducted on July 9, 2020 to discuss the Route 7 Corridor Improvements from Reston Avenue to Jarrett Valley Drive, specifically the following items:

**Welcome**

Welcome remarks were provided by Bill Cuttler.

**Washington Gas Project Update**

On behalf of Washington Gas, Jeff Austin provided an overview of the Strip 1 West Improvements work.

**Route 7 Project Update**

Jeff Austin provided an update on the completed and ongoing design phase activities, summary of the design and construction schedules, right of way status, construction activities and the upcoming work.

Specific elements of design and construction covered were:

- Noise barriers
- Additional Towlston Road improvements
- Colvin Run relocation

An overview of the Quality Assurance/Quality Control program was also provided.

Jennifer Thomas provided a brief summary of public outreach activities.

Copies of slides are attached.

**Question and Answer/Discussion Session**

**George Dove**

Question: In February, Wolf Trap Woods HOA requested a 100-foot extension to the noise barrier east of Wolftrap Run Road, and L.J. Muchenje of VDOT agreed to the request. The HOA has not seen anything in writing confirming that the extension will be constructed.

Answer (Steve Kuntz): The noise barrier K4 will be extended approximately 85 to 90 feet. Written confirmation will be in the form of the final noise barrier report, which will be forthcoming.

Question: Wolf Trap Woods HOA would like to see landscaping plans, which were formerly scheduled for completion this spring. When will they be forthcoming?

Answer (Jeff Austin): The landscaping plans have been slightly delayed, but the team will be coming back to the HOA to discuss landscaping.

Question: Wolf Trap Woods HOA has not been contacted by the appraisers and the HOA wanted to remind the team that the stormwater management pond east of the neighborhood straddles property owned by the HOA and McLean Bible Church, and that the church needs to request an additional special exception in order to construct the pond.

Answer (Jeff Austin): The team is in discussion with McLean Bible Church's attorney regarding this matter.

### **Tim Thompson**

Question: Why are lane closures on Route 7 not being picked up by 3 p.m. as stated on the project web site and in the lane closure report that is sent to the Working Group?

Answer (John Alexander): All regularly-scheduled lane closures should have been picked up by 3 p.m. in the past couple of weeks; he is unaware of any routine lane closures that exceeded the 3 p.m. pickup time.

Additional clarification: In the past months, lane closure hours on Route 7 have been varied due to reduced traffic, with allowable times noted in the lane closure report that is sent each week to the Working Group. Occasionally, lane closure times have been extended for public safety to address unexpected incidents such as traffic accidents, and other public safety concerns. For example, during the week of July 6, a lane closure on Route 7 was extended for approximately 30 minutes to repair an attenuator that was damaged by a member of the public.

Route 7 Working Group members with questions about specific days on which extended lane closures are observed are asked to contact the project team at 833-777-7411 or [connectroute7@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:connectroute7@vdot.virginia.gov) for clarification.

Question: Mr. Thompson noted that at a previous Working Group meeting, the group was told that the project would have no lane closures on Presidential election days. In March, he said that he received numerous complaints from people who could not get to Capital Church to vote due to the lane closure in the area and the traffic back-ups. He wanted to make sure that people are not prevented from voting in the upcoming Presidential election on Nov. 3, 2020.

Answer: John Alexander noted in the group chat that the project will have no lane closures in place on Nov. 3, 2020.

Additional clarification: In accordance with the project contract (see wording below) and VDOT policy regarding work restrictions, the project will have no lane closures in place on "Election Day", which is defined by the [Code of Virginia, Chapter 33, Section 2.2-3300. Legal Holidays](#) as the "Tuesday following the first Monday in November."

On all other voting days, lane closures may be implemented along the corridor at the discretion of VDOT and, as noted by Allison Richter in the group chat, VDOT inspectors will monitor traffic to ensure that lane closures do not interfere with citizens' ability to access voting facilities.

# ROUTE 7 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

RESTON AVENUE TO JARRETT VALLEY DRIVE

## WORKING GROUP

Request for Revised Proposals  
Part 2  
Technical Requirements  
Final

Route 7 Corridor Improvements, Fairfax County, Virginia  
Project Nos. 0007-029-942, P101, R201, C501, B610, D606, D608  
and 0007-029-225, P101, R201, C501, B636, D607  
Contract ID # C00099478DB98

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In addition to the work restrictions for Holidays in [Part 5, Section 108.02](#) (Limitation of Operations), the following holidays and events shall be subject to the same lane closure restrictions:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Lee Jackson Day
- Inauguration Day
- Presidents Day
- Columbus Day
- Election Day
- Veterans Day

**Question:** Are Shirley employees and subcontractors required to abide by all local, state, and federal regulations and road signage? He has witnessed project-related drivers violating these regulations and ignoring posted road signs.

**Answer (Jeff Austin):** Yes, all Shirley employees and subcontractors have the responsibility to follow all driving laws. If they are seen violating laws, please provide as much detailed information to the team, including photos and videos, so that we can address the behavior.

**Question:** What is the cost of the new Towlston Road improvements, and where will the funding come from to pay for these improvements?

**Answer (Arif):** The expected costs for the correction of the vertical curve in the road and the extended turn lane is approximately \$400,000 to \$500,000, which is a very rough estimate. Actual costs may vary. VDOT is having discussions with Toll Brothers regarding cost sharing.

**Question:** Will there only be one lane on northbound Towlston Road in the final configuration? Some trucks are not able to make the right-hand turn onto Towlston Road from westbound Route 7 without over-tracking into the southbound lanes on Towlston Road.

**Answer (Jeff Austin and Jerry Mrykalo):** Yes, in the permanent condition, there will be one lane on northbound Towlston Road, which matches the pre-existing condition. Regarding the turn radius, the current temporary turn radius matches or exceeds the pre-existing conditions, which were not designed to accommodate all vehicles. However, the turning radius of the permanent condition is designed to accommodate a WB-40 truck, or an articulated vehicle with a 33-foot trailer, and has been verified by AutoTURN software.

Michael Pruitt noted that a time-lapse camera was installed at this location to study driver behavior. The images revealed that a significant number of motorists on southbound Towlston Road were not stopping at the stop bar and were extending out into the turning radius for vehicles from westbound Route 7 to northbound Towlston Road. As such, inappropriate driver behavior is the overarching issue we found from this study. An upcoming traffic switch will improve the turn radius at this location beyond the pre-existing and current conditions.

**Question:** During the recent closures of Delta Glen Court and Colvin Run Road (west ends), why weren't the intersection improvements completed that will allow drivers from Colvin Run Road to turn left onto eastbound Route 7 or go straight across onto Delta Glen Court?

# ROUTE 7 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

RESTON AVENUE TO JARRETT VALLEY DRIVE

## WORKING GROUP

Answer (Jeff Austin): The work on Colvin Run Road is being performed by Washington Gas as part of Strip 1 West, Phase 3. The temporary closure of Delta Glen Court was for the purpose of completing the reconstruction of the Delta Glen Court pavement across the future EB lanes of Route 7. The reconstruction of the pavement at Colvin Run Road will occur with the construction of the future WB lanes in a future phase. Modification of the signal to allow left turns and through traffic from Colvin Run Road will occur in a future phase.

Question: Has anyone on the call been to Delta Glen Court in a vehicle lately? The stop bar on Delta Glen Court takes traffic approximately 20 to 25 feet further into the Route 7 intersection, and this causes the vehicle traffic on Delta Glen Court to be in conflict with the dump truck traffic trying to get to the access road that's on the old eastbound Route 7 lanes.

Answer: Jeff Austin stated that he has been at this location a couple of times that week, and that we'll have a project team member onsite to monitor the dump truck traffic.

Receiving no further questions, Allison Richter closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation and encouraging citizens to contact the project team at 833-777-7411 or [connectroute7@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:connectroute7@vdot.virginia.gov) if they have any concerns about the ongoing construction activities.

### Attendees

John Alexander, Shirley Contracting Company  
Nick Alexandrow, Fairfax County Department of Transportation  
Jeff Austin, Shirley Contracting Company  
Tom Biesiadny, Fairfax County Department of Transportation  
Kathryn Blackwell, Fairfax County Park Authority, Colvin Run Mill Park  
Christiana Briganti-Dunn, VDOT  
Bill Cuttler, VDOT  
George Dove, Wolf Trap Woods Homeowners Association  
Andy Galusha, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Michael Guarino, Fairfax County Department of Transportation  
Ashu Gupta, Falls Park Estates Homeowners Association  
Richard Gutridge, VDOT  
Shyamali Hauth, Fairfax County Supervisor Walter Alcorn's office  
Tiffany Hudson, VDOT  
Jenny Kaplan, Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust's office  
Steve Kuntz, Dewberry Engineers  
Yan Li, VDOT  
Jenni McCord, VDOT  
Rick Meyer, Shirley Contracting Company  
Jerry Mrykalo, Dewberry Engineers  
Michael Pruitt, VDOT  
Arif Rahman, VDOT  
Allison Richter, VDOT

**ROUTE 7 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**  
RESTON AVENUE TO JARRETT VALLEY DRIVE **WORKING GROUP**

Jim Robertson, McLean Citizens Association  
Jennifer Thomas, Shirley Contracting Company  
Tim Thompson, Colvin's Glen  
Steven Welch, VDOT

**Attachments:**      Presentation slides





# ROUTE 7 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

RESTON AVENUE TO JARRETT VALLEY DRIVE

Route 7 Working Group Meeting No. 23

Route 7 Project Design-Build Team (VDOT/Shirley/Dewberry)

July 9, 2020

# Agenda

- Welcome
- Washington Gas Strip 1 West Update
- Route 7 Project Status Update
  - Design
  - Right-of-way
  - Construction
  - Quality Assurance/Quality Control Overview
  - Communications
- Questions/Discussion



# Strip 1 West System Improvements

## Phase 1 - Bishopsgate Way to Springvale Road

- Completed Fall 2019

## Phase 2 - Dulles Toll Road to Trap Road

- Completed Spring 2020

## Phase 3 - Route 7 - Springvale Road to Faulkner Drive & Route 606 – Leesburg Pike to Hunter Mill Road

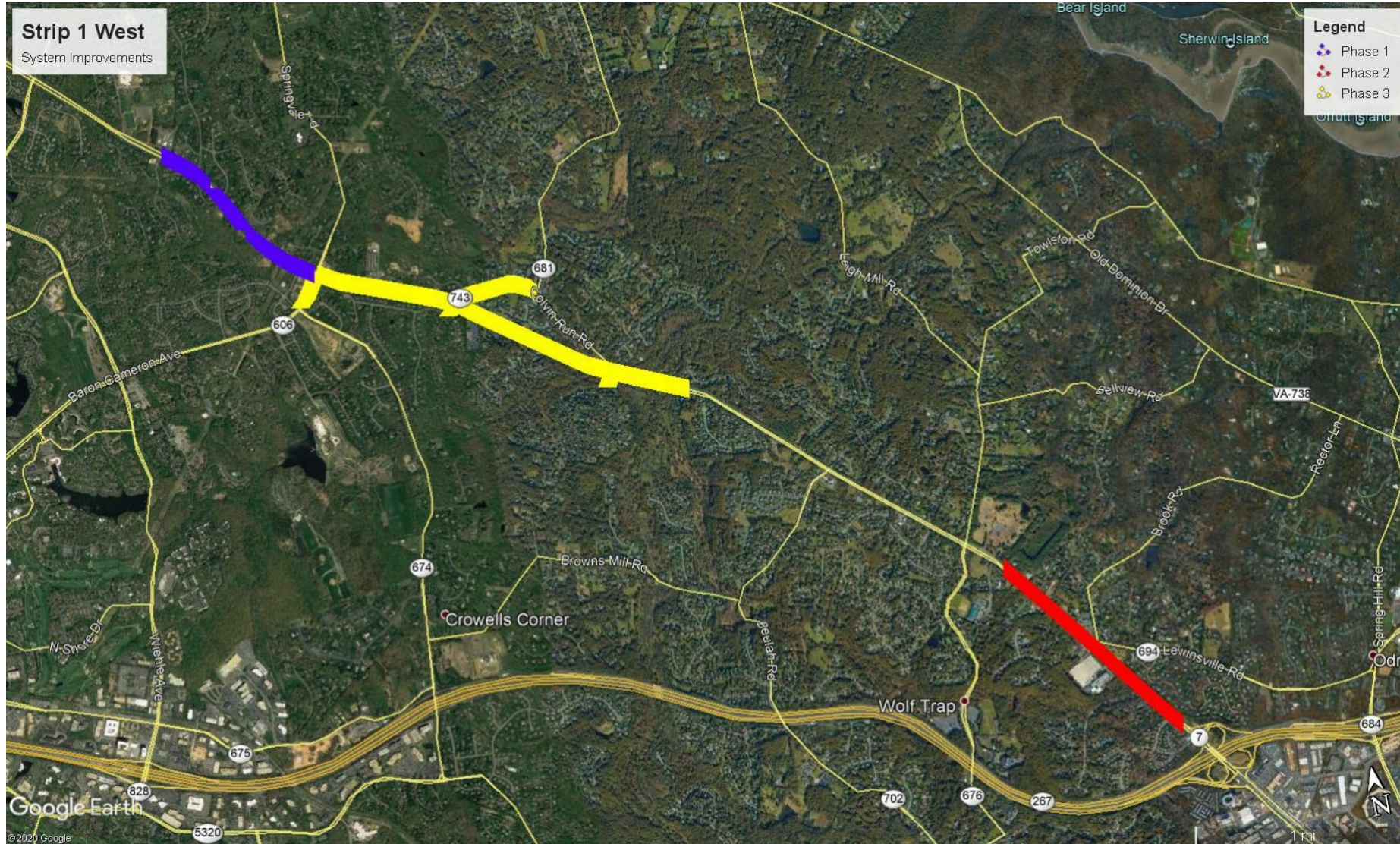
- May 2020 through December 2021

## Phase 4 - Route 7 – Trap Road to Faulkner Drive – In Design

## Phase 5 - Route 7 – Tyco Road to Jarret Valley Drive - In Design

**Contractor – Michels Pipeline Construction**

# Strip 1 West System Improvements Update



# Strip 1 West System Improvements

## Phase 3 – Route 7 - Springvale Road to Faulkner Drive & Route 606 – Leesburg Pike to Hunter Mill Road

- Underground Construction started **May 2020**
- Right of Way Clearing **95% Complete**
- All work will occur within VDOT Right of Way
- Night Work started in this week
- Scheduled to be completed **December 2021**
- Notable Locations:
  - Route 7 Crossing at Baron Cameron Avenue, Delta Glen Court and Carpers Farm Way
  - Difficult Run Stream Crossing
  - Colvin Run Road (west) between Route 7 and Walker Road

# Strip 1 West System Improvements

## Future Phases

- Washington Gas and Shirley Contracting are currently coordinating the design and construction sequencing on future phases.
- All future phases will be constructed within the Route 7 Improvement project timeline.

## Route 7 Project Scope

- Washington Gas currently performing gas main and service relocations directly related to the roadway improvements between Jarrett Valley Road and Reston Parkway

**For more information and project updates:**

**[www.washingtongas.com/strip1west](http://www.washingtongas.com/strip1west)**

# Route 7 Project Update: Design Activities

## Completed Since Last Meeting

- Roadway and Bridge Plans approved
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Plans approved
- Obtained all environmental permits for the project

## Ongoing Design Activities

- Lighting and Electrical Design
- Landscaping



# Route 7 Project Update: Noise Barriers

- Final Design Noise Analysis completed in December 2019
- 13 Barrier Systems - Totaling 7.3 Miles
  - Added Walls A2, B1, G10, H2, K1-K4 since May 2019
- Polled Benefitted Receptors in Spring 2020
- Based on the polling results, all 13 Barrier Systems will be constructed
- Noise Barrier locations are updated on the Interactive Map

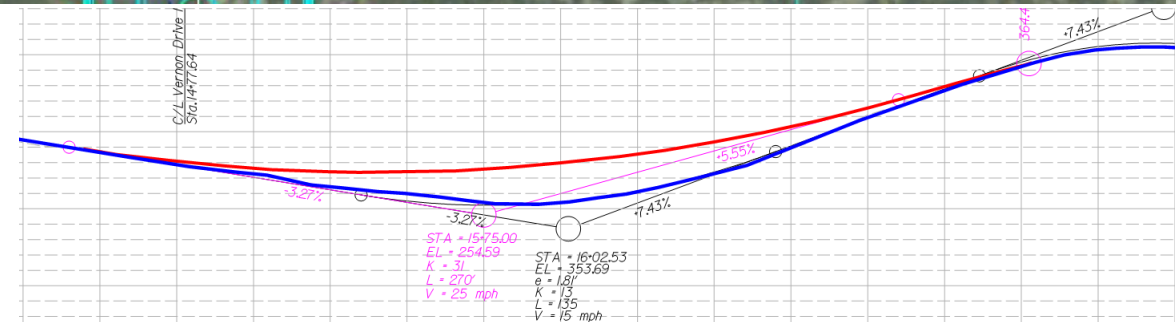


*Roadway Side*

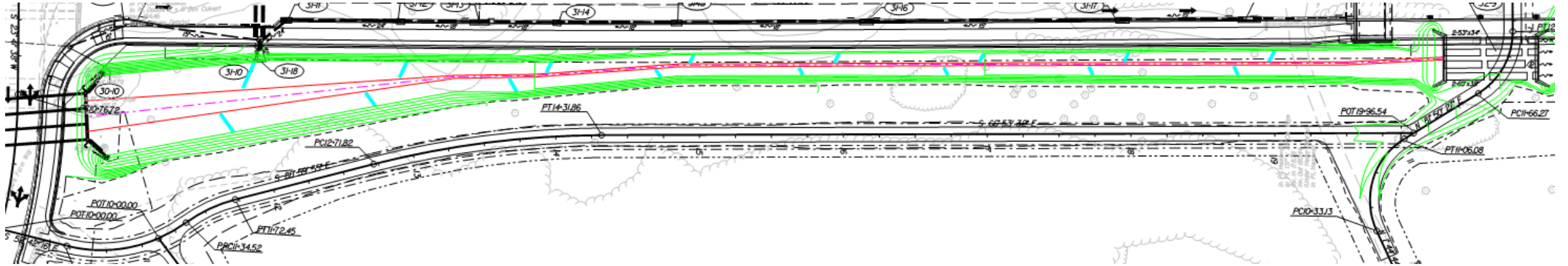
# Additional Towlston Road Improvements at the Request of Elected Officials



- Improving the sag vertical curve north of Vernon Drive
- Improves sight distance for southbound Towlston Road users
- Speed Study between Route 7 and Leigh Mill Road is completed and under consideration by VDOT
- To be delivered by Spring 2024



# Route 7 Project Update: Colvin Run Stream Relocation



## Proposed Enhanced Design Elements

- Introduce Staggered Weirs along the channel alignment
- Weirs will encourage sediment buildup on alternating sides of channel
- Sediment will create a meander in the channel bottom during low flow conditions



# Route 7 Project Update: Right of Way

## Process (Typical Duration)

- Prepare Appraisal (2 Mo)
- Independent Appraisal Review (3 Wk)
- VDOT Appraisal Review (1 Wk)
- Present Offer to Landowner (2 Wk)
- Negotiation Phase (2-4 Mo)
- Signed Agreement / Start Certificate of Take (COT)
- Settlement / File COT (2 Mo)
- Process could take up to one year

## Statistics Through July 8:

- Total Right-of-Way Parcels: 235
- Schedule Summer 2019 to Summer 2021
- 181 Offers Presented (77%)
- Remaining Offers (54) expected to be presented within 2 months
- 97 Parcels Acquired (41%)

# Route 7 Project Update: Construction

Task	Date	2018				2019				2020				2021				2022				2023				2024			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Contract Execution	July 30, 2018		★																										
Design	Summer 2018 to Early 2020																												
Right-of-Way	Summer 2019 to Summer 2021																												
Utility Relocation	Winter 2020 to Spring 2022																												
Construction	Spring 2019 to Summer 2024																												
Project Complete	July 31, 2024																												★
Washington Gas	Fall 2018 to Spring 2024																												

## Interim Milestones

- Open Third WB left Turn lane to Baron Cameron Avenue – Aug. 29, 2019
  - **COMPLETED: Aug. 19, 2019**
- Towlston Road Temporary Improvements – Summer 2020
  - **COMPLETED: Oct. 20, 2019**
- Open Lewinsville Road Intersection and Displaced Left to Traffic – October 25, 2022 ★
- Open Third Lane from Riva Ridge Road to West End of the Project – October 25, 2022 ★

# Route 7 Project Update: Construction

## Summer 2020 – Summer 2021

### Weekday lane closure hours

9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. (2 p.m. on Fridays)

### Nighttime lane closure hours

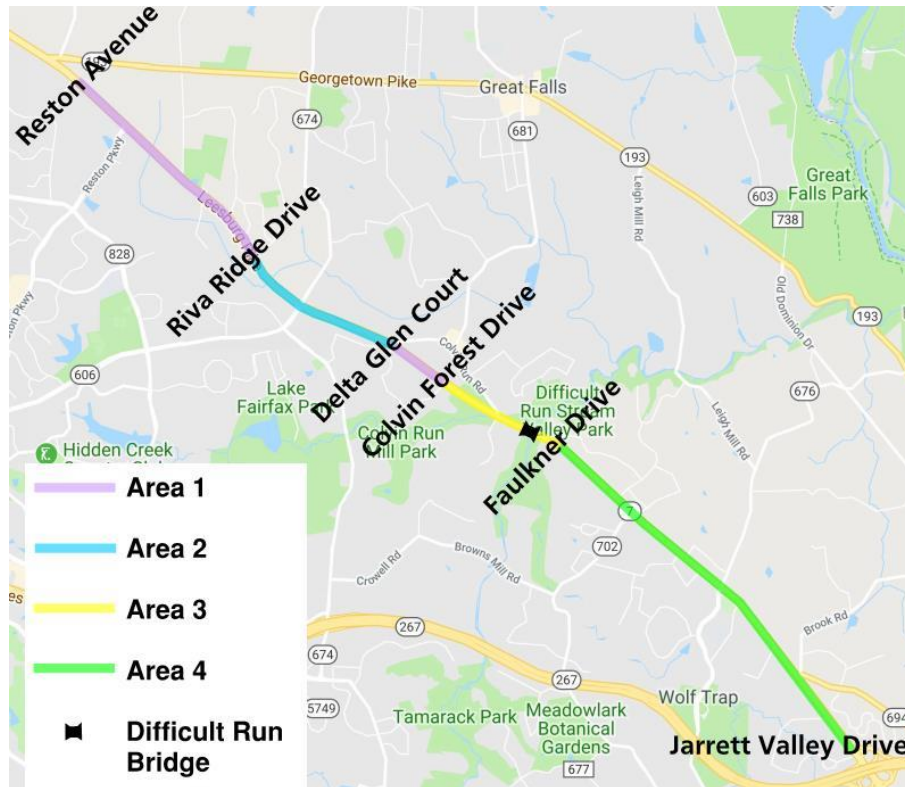
10 p.m. – 5 a.m. Sunday - Thursday nights

10 p.m. – 9 a.m. Friday nights

10 p.m. – 8 a.m. Saturday nights

*Extended lane closure hours may be implemented as traffic conditions permit with approval from VDOT.*

*During COVID, with reduced traffic volumes VDOT permitted extended lane closure hours. This allowed much of the Phase 1 temporary widening to be completed during the day, reducing potential night time noise impacts.*

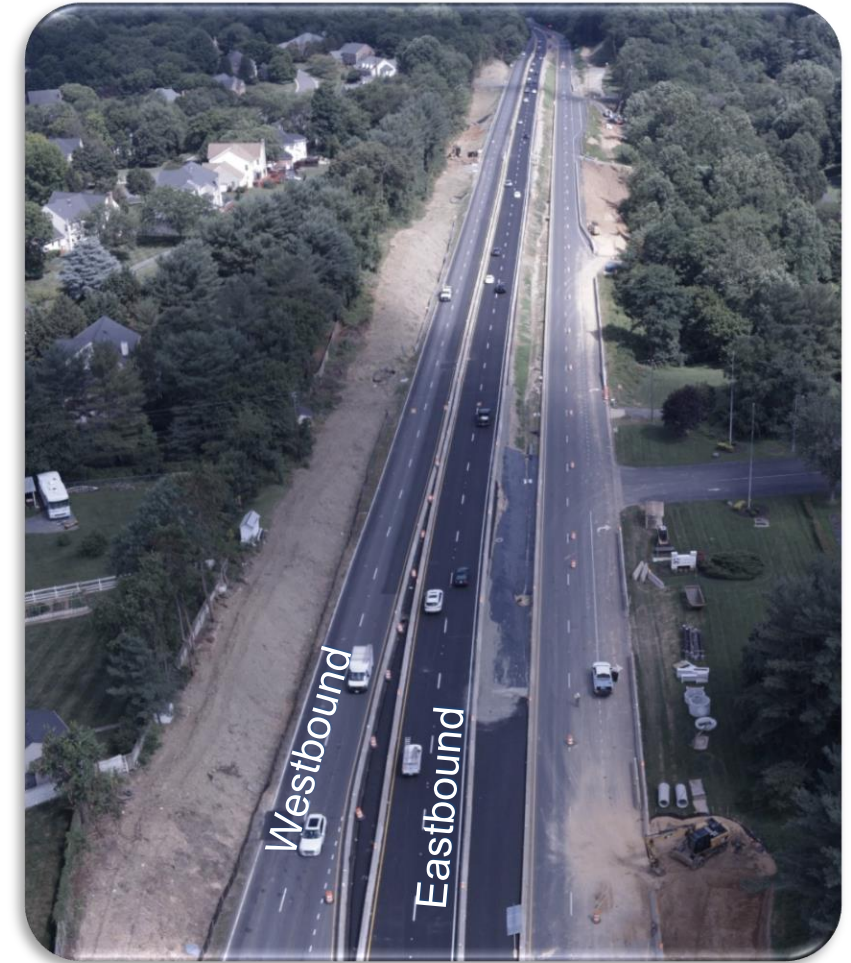


# Route 7 Project Update: Construction

## Construction Activity Summary Since Last WG Meeting

### Area 1 – West of Difficult Run (Excluding Baron Cameron)

- Temporary EB lanes and traffic switch between Reston Avenue and Baron Cameron Avenue
- Temporary EB lanes and traffic switch between Baron Cameron Avenue and Carpers Farm Road
- Pavement demo, storm pipe installation and permanent pavement for future EB Lanes
- Intersection reconstruction at Reston Parkway, Utterback Store Road, Amanda Drive/Markell Court and Delta Glenn Court

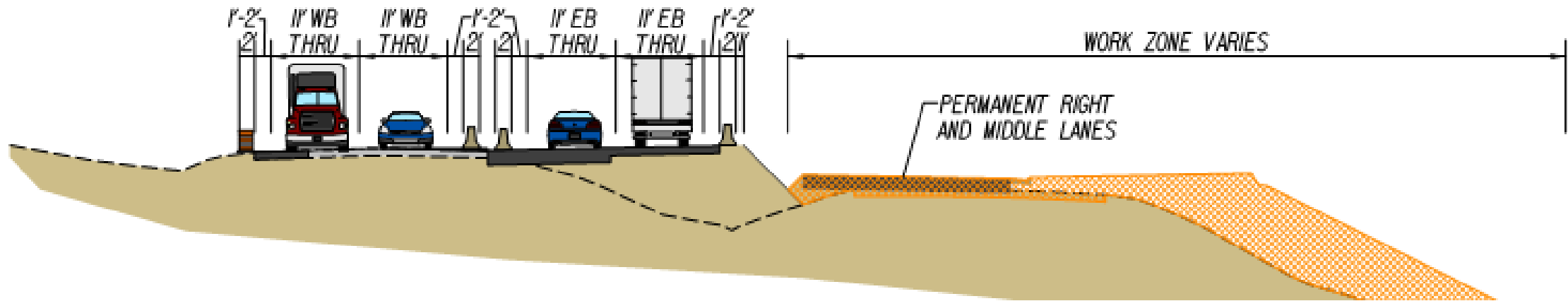


From Delta Glen Court Looking East

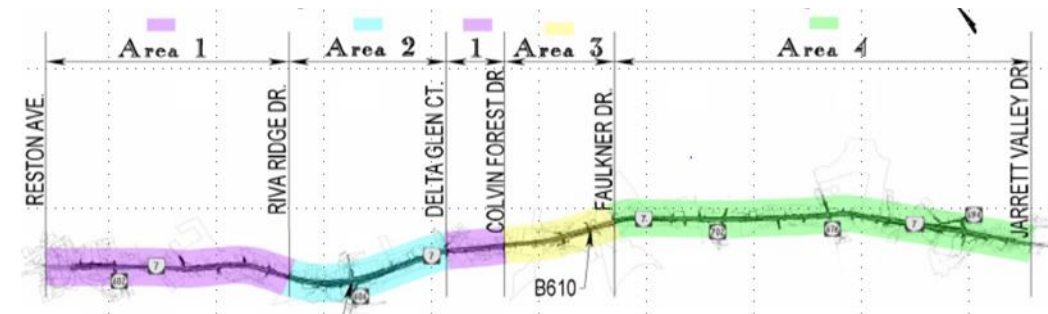
# Route 7 Project Update: Construction Activities

## Area 1 – West of Difficult Run (Excluding Baron Cameron)

### STAGE 2: Construct Permanent EB Lanes



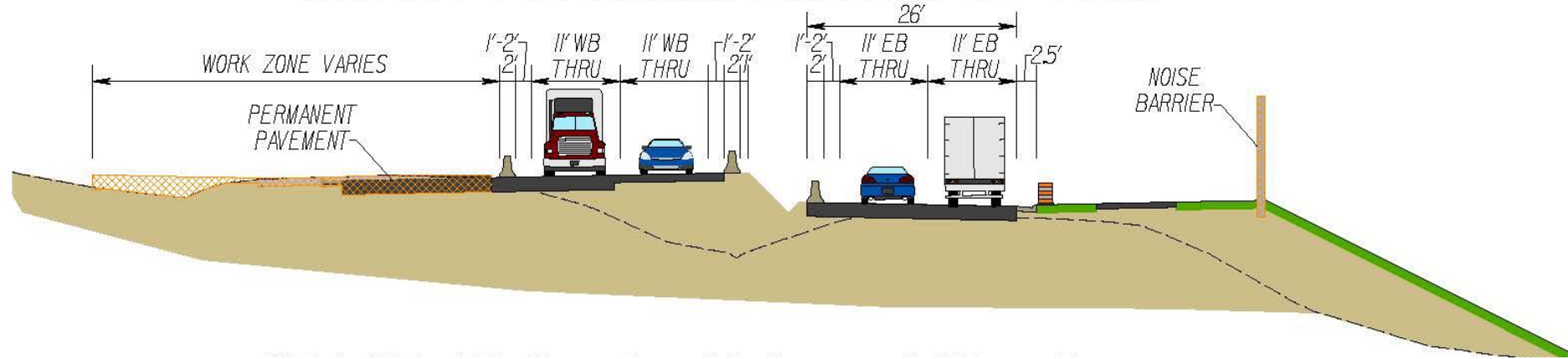
November 2019 to Fall 2020



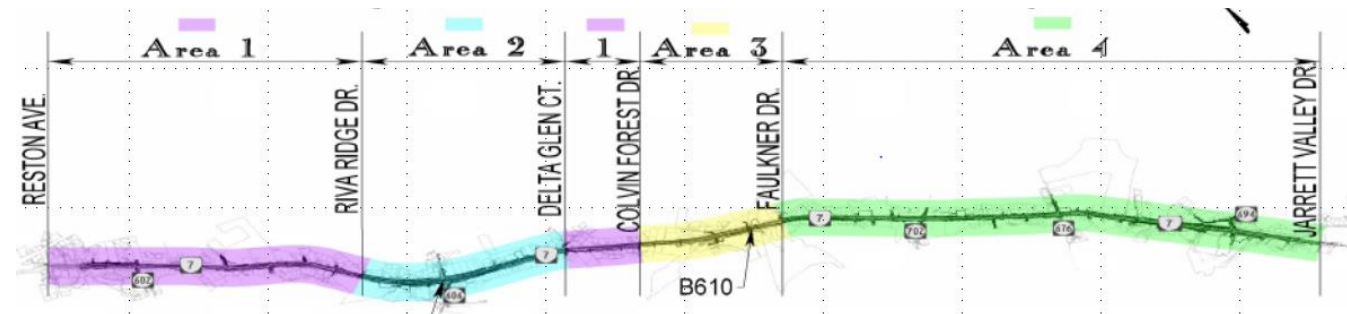
# Sequence of Construction

## Area 1 – West of Difficult Run (Excluding Baron Cameron)

### STAGE 3A: Complete Permanent WB Lanes



Summer 2020 to Spring 2022



# Route 7 Project Update: Construction

## Construction Activity Summary Since Last WG Meeting

### Area 2 – Baron Cameron Area

- Triple Left Turn Lane Opened Summer 2019
- Stage 2 Construction Start was subject to ROW Acquisition
- Will Start Stage 2 in Summer 2020

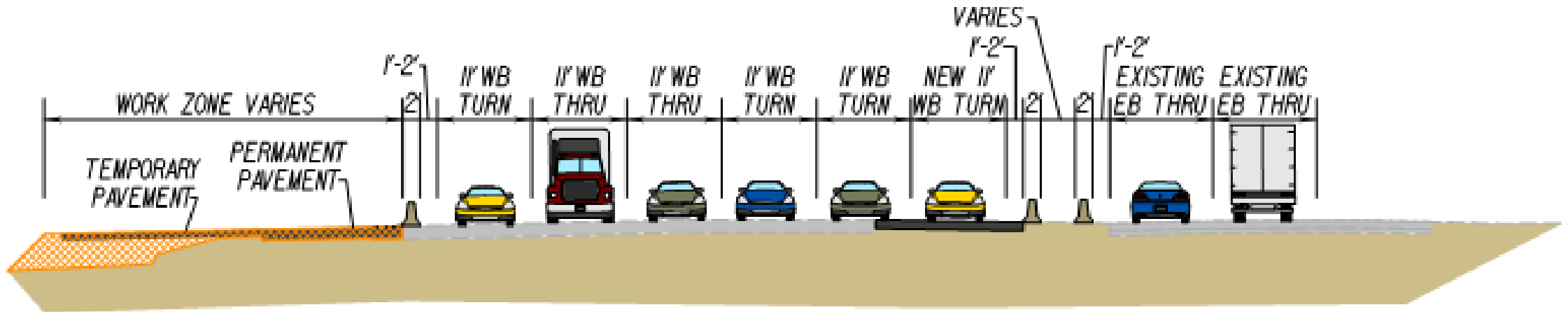


Route 7 Baron/Cameron Avenue Looking East

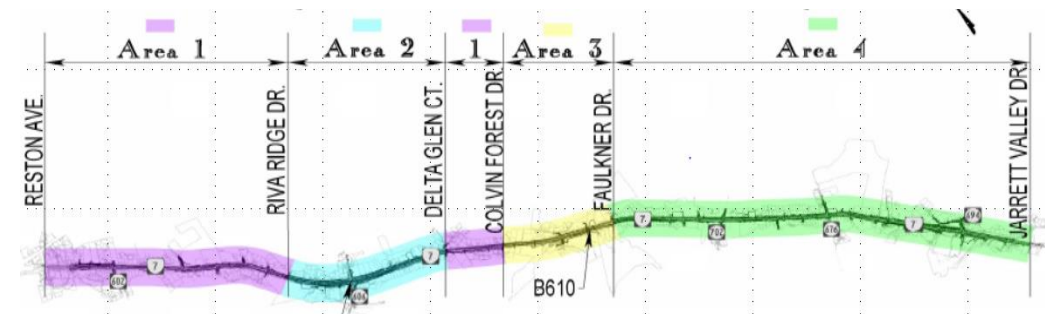
# Sequence of Construction

## Area 2 – Baron Cameron Area

### STAGE 2A: Construct North Portion of Permanent WB Lane & Temporary Pavement



Summer 2020 to Fall 2021





# Route 7 Project Update: Construction Activities

## Construction Activity Summary Since Last WG Meeting

### Area 3 – Difficult Run Area

- Constructed temporary pavement in median
- Removed raised median on Difficult Run bridge
- Shifted traffic to Route 7 median
- Began Communications Utility Relocations



Route 7 Over Difficult Run

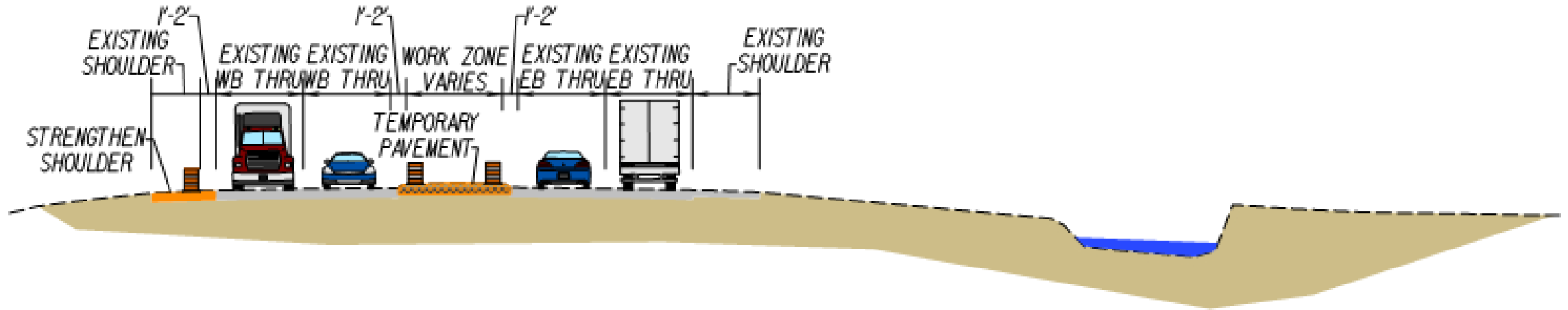


Crew removing Raised Median

# Sequence of Construction

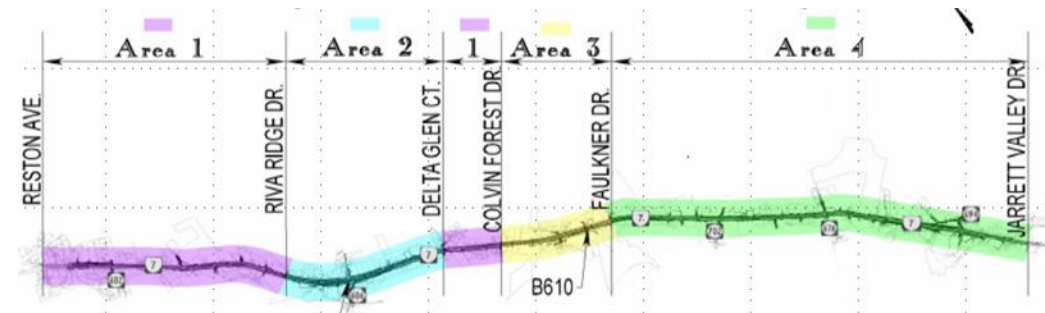
## Area 3 – Difficult Run Area

### STAGE 1A: Strengthen WB Outside Shoulder & Construct Temporary Pavement



Fall 2019 to Summer 2020

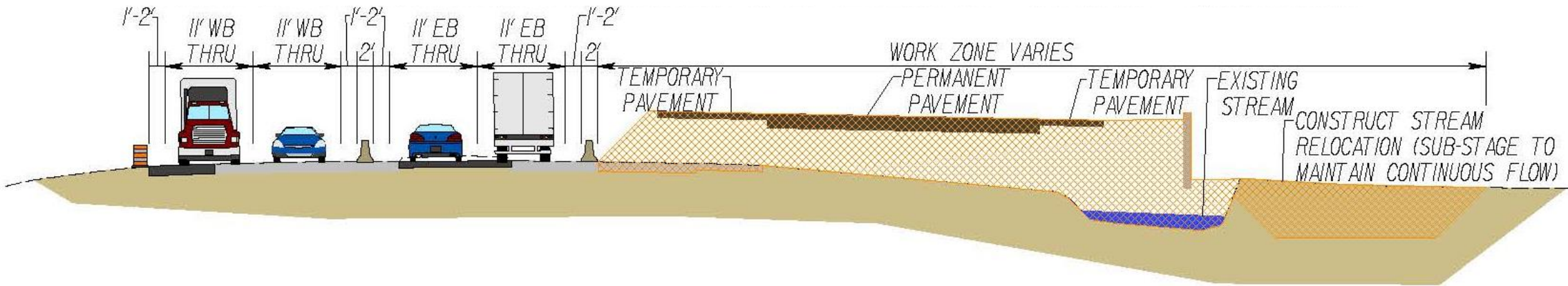
### STAGE 1A: Demolish Existing Median



# Sequence of Construction

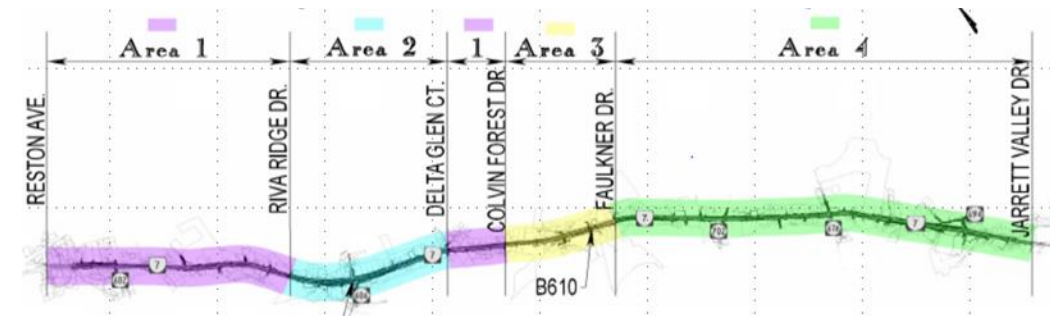
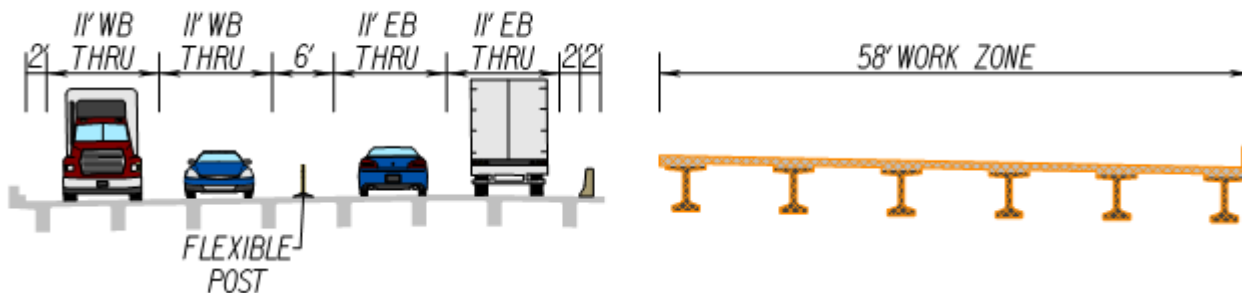
## Area 3 – Difficult Run Area

### STAGE 2: Construct Permanent EB Lanes & Stream Relocation



### Summer 2020 to Summer 2022

#### STAGE 2: Construct Permanent EB Bridge



# Route 7 Project Update: Construction Activities

## Construction Activity Summary Since Last WG Meeting

### Area 4 – East of Difficult Run

- Complete Stage 1 temporary pavement and shifted traffic to the north between Difficult Run and Atwood Road
- Began Stage 1 temporary pavement construction between Atwood Road and Lewinsville Road (Traffic shift planned this month)
- Began construction of SWM Pond 37 at Trotting Horse Lane

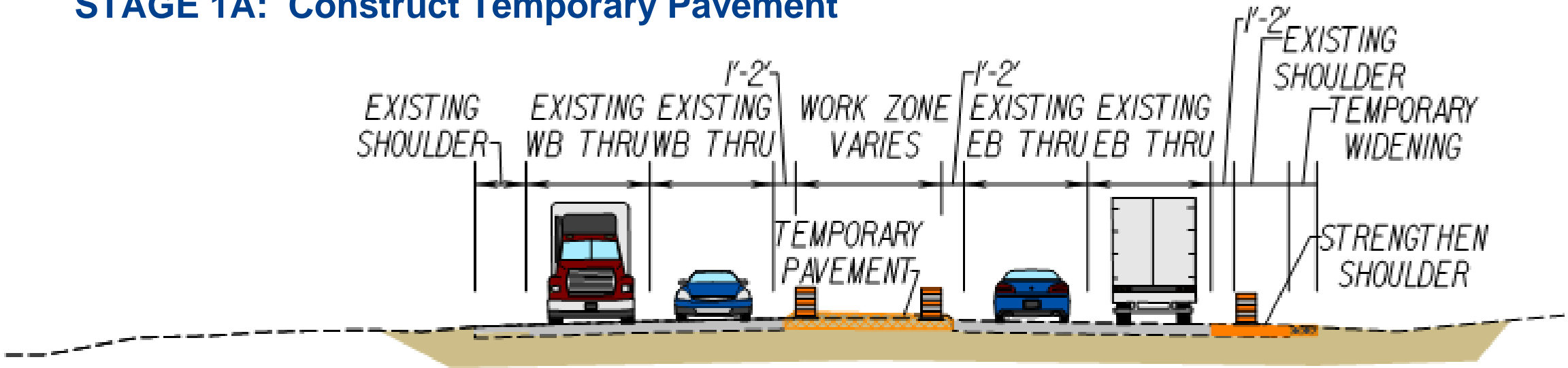


Looking East from Middleton Ridge Road

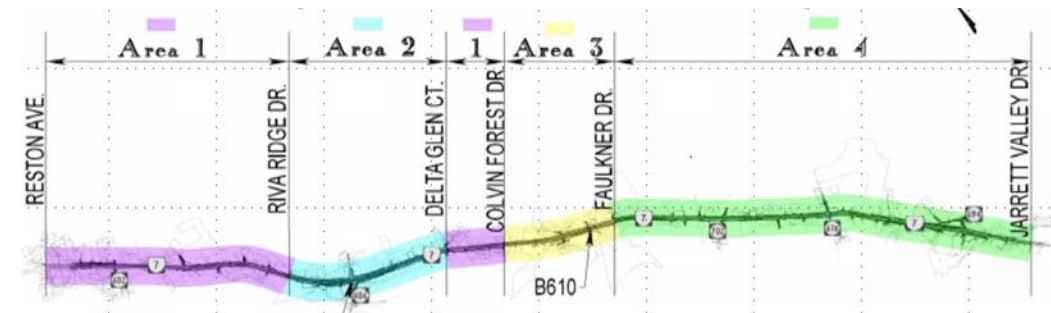
# Sequence of Construction

## Area 4 – East of Difficult Run

### STAGE 1A: Construct Temporary Pavement



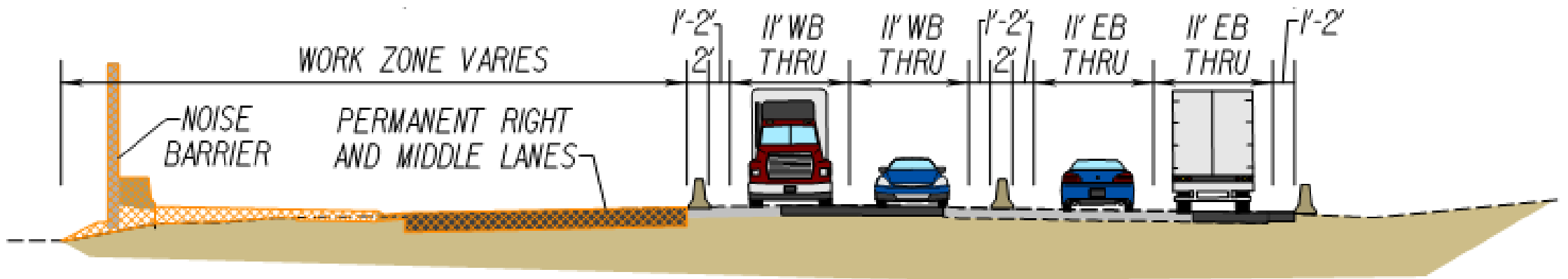
Fall 2019 to Fall 2020



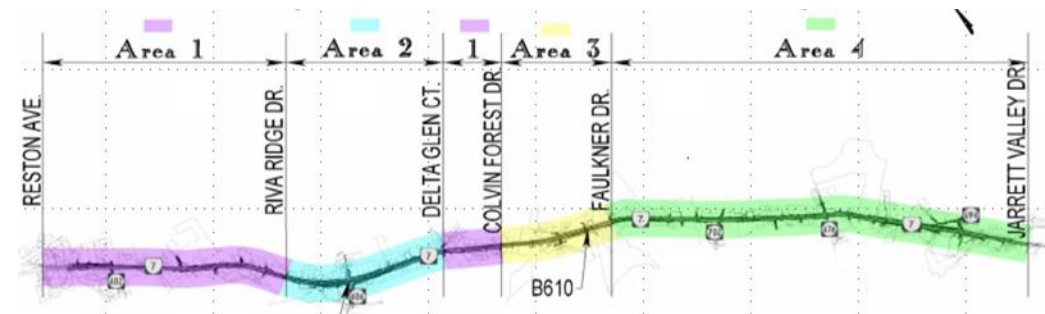
# Sequence of Construction

## Area 4 – East of Difficult Run

### STAGE 2: Construct Permanent WB Lanes



Summer 2020 to Fall 2021



# Construction Quality Management

- Project's QA/QC plan follows VDOT's requirements for quality assurance and quality control on design-build projects manual
- Establishes a multi-tiered inspection and verification process:
  - Quality Control Inspections and Materials Testing
  - Quality Assurance Inspections and Verification, Sampling, & Testing (VST)
  - Owner Independent Assurance and VST
- Construction Quality Improvement Program (CQIP)
  - Periodic statewide audit of active construction projects
  - Detail review of all contract requirements including design and construction
  - Route 7 Audited in Fall 2019 – Scored 97.08 out of 100

# Communications and Outreach Update

## Activities Since Last WG Meeting:

- Ongoing response to questions – 250+
- Site-specific notifications
- Traffic alerts
- Meetings with HOAs & Civic Organizations:
  - Towlston Meadow
  - Wolf Trap Woods/Wolf Den
  - Locust Hill
  - Rotary Club of Great Falls
  - Middleton Ridge
- Monthly newsletters
- Weekly lane closure reports
- Project website

## Upcoming Activities:

- Meeting with Brandermill Estates, Great Falls Crossing



# Open Discussion and Questions

**Thank you for attending!**

**[www.connectroute7.org](http://www.connectroute7.org)**

**[ConnectRoute7@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:ConnectRoute7@vdot.virginia.gov)**

**Hotline (24/7) 833-777-7411**