

Item #5



I-495 EXPRESS LANES NORTHERN EXTENSION (495 NEXT)

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Commuter Connections Regional TDM Marketing Group

Michelle T. Holland
VDOT Megaprojects Communications Manager

September 19, 2023

Northern Virginia Regional Express Lanes Network

90+ mile Express Lanes network in Northern Virginia

- 94 miles in service
 - I-95, I-395, I-495, I-66 Inside the Beltway, I-66 Outside the Beltway
- 3 miles under construction
 - I-495 Northern Extension (2.5 miles opening in late 2025)
 - I-95 Express Lanes/Opitz Boulevard Ramp (opening in Fall 2024)
- Under study
 - I-495 Southside Express Lanes
 - I-95 Bi-Directional Study
- Three independent operators



495 Express Lanes Northern Extension Project (495 NEXT)

- Approx. \$660 million, 2.5-mile extension of 495 Express Lanes from Dulles Corridor interchange to George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) near the American Legion Bridge
- Public-private partnership project between VDOT and Transurban through 2087



Improve interchanges and replace existing bridges



Add bike and pedestrian trails



Replace existing noise walls and construct new walls where needed

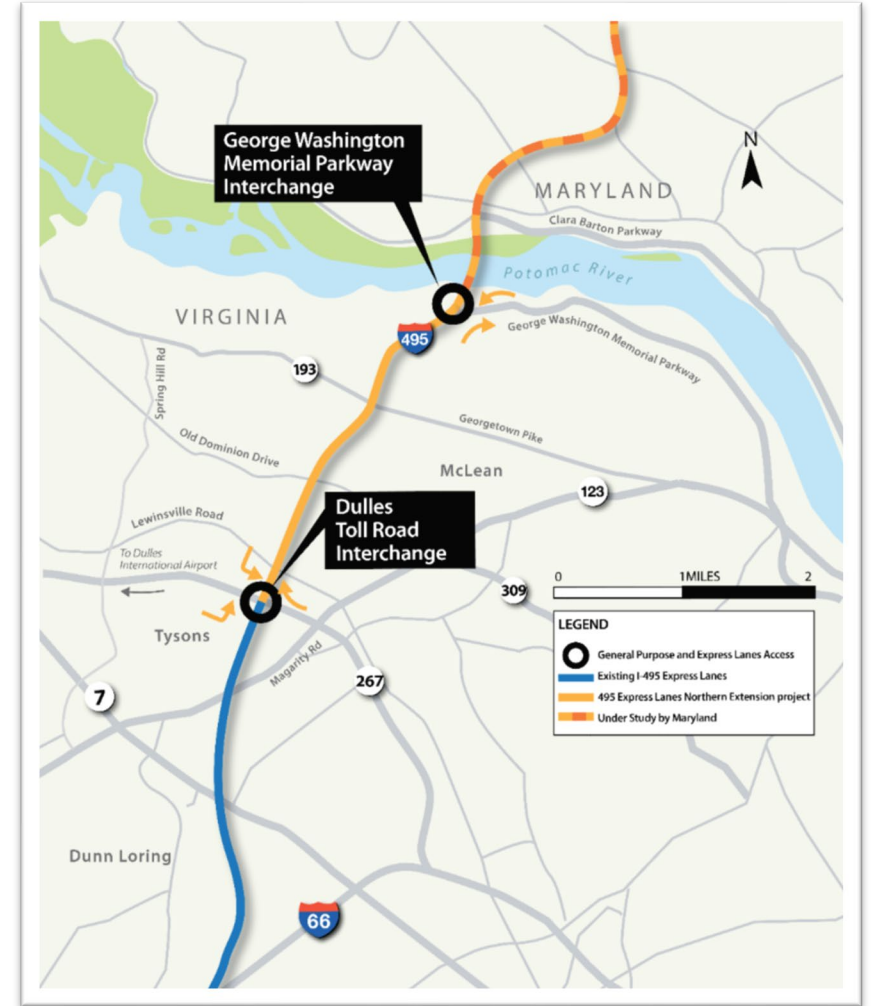


Provide stormwater management facilities



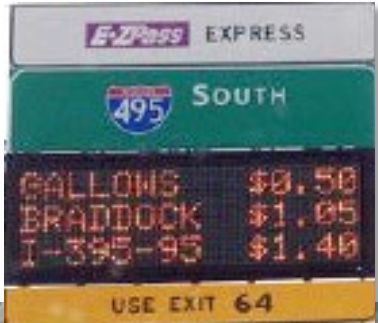
Provide stream restoration and stabilization

Other Project Benefits

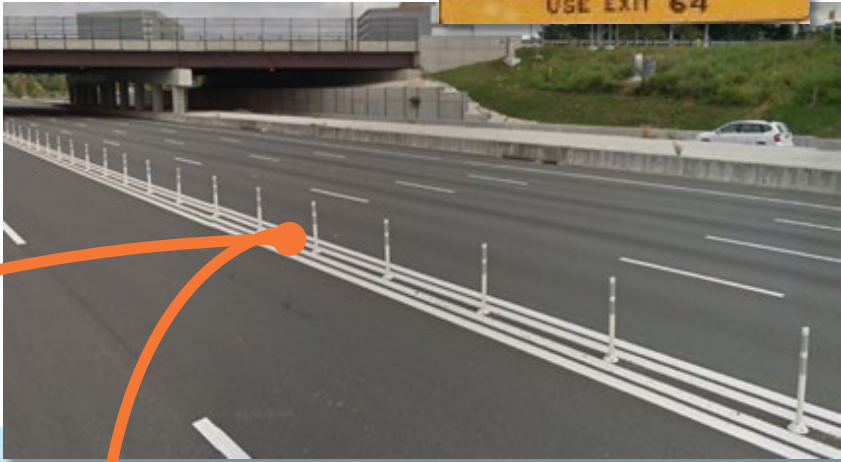
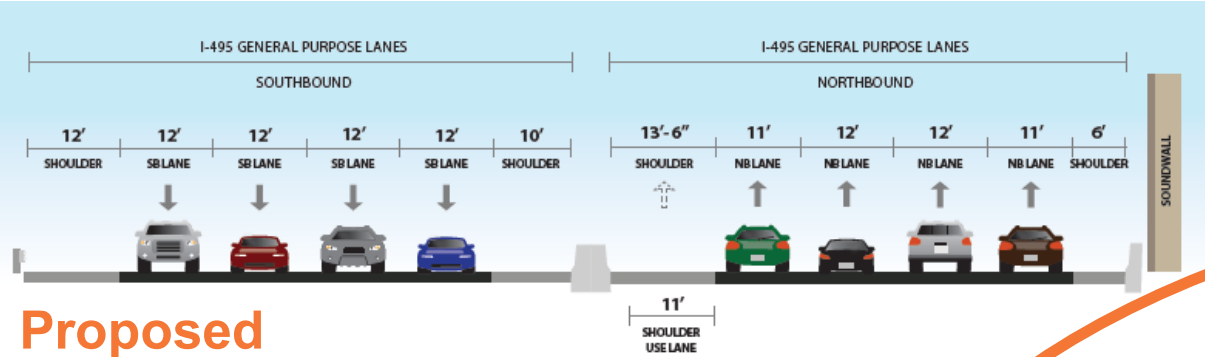


495 NEXT Project Overview

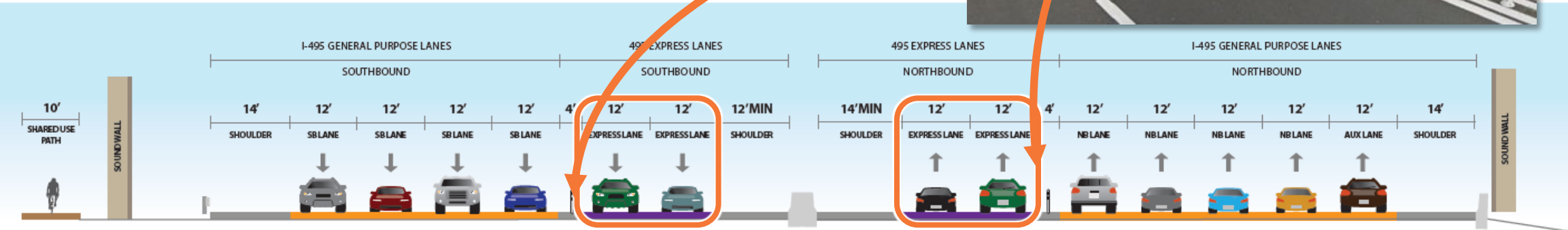
- Two dynamically tolled lanes in each direction on I-495
- Currently, trucks with 3 or more axles not permitted
- Free use for HOV-3+ vehicles and transit vehicles



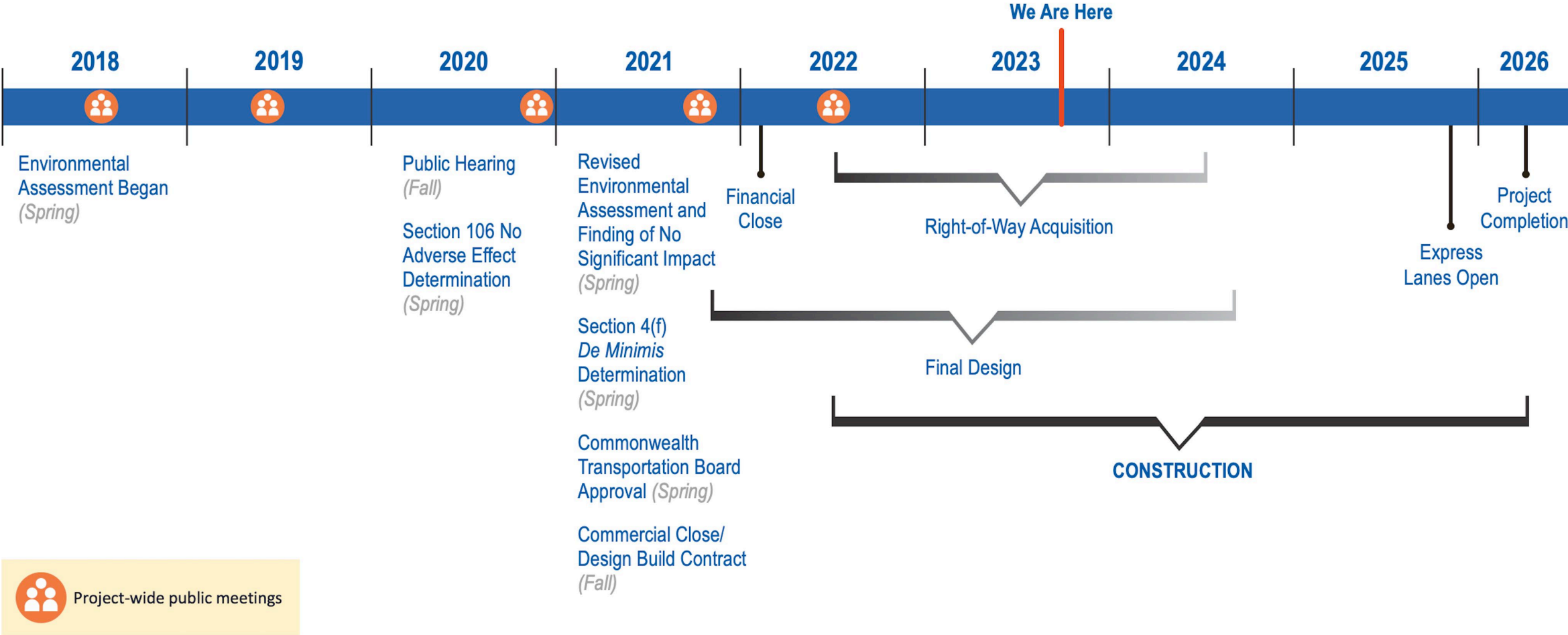
Existing




Proposed



495 Express Lanes Northern Extension Project Timeline



 Project-wide public meetings

Construction Highlights and Sequencing

Work Sequence:

- Construction started: March 2022
- Removed noise walls and cleared trees to widen Beltway: late 2022- mid 2023
- Construct lanes outside current alignment: 2023
- Shift traffic to outside lanes to enable construction of inside lanes: Fall 2024
- Open Express Lanes: late 2025



Overpass Construction

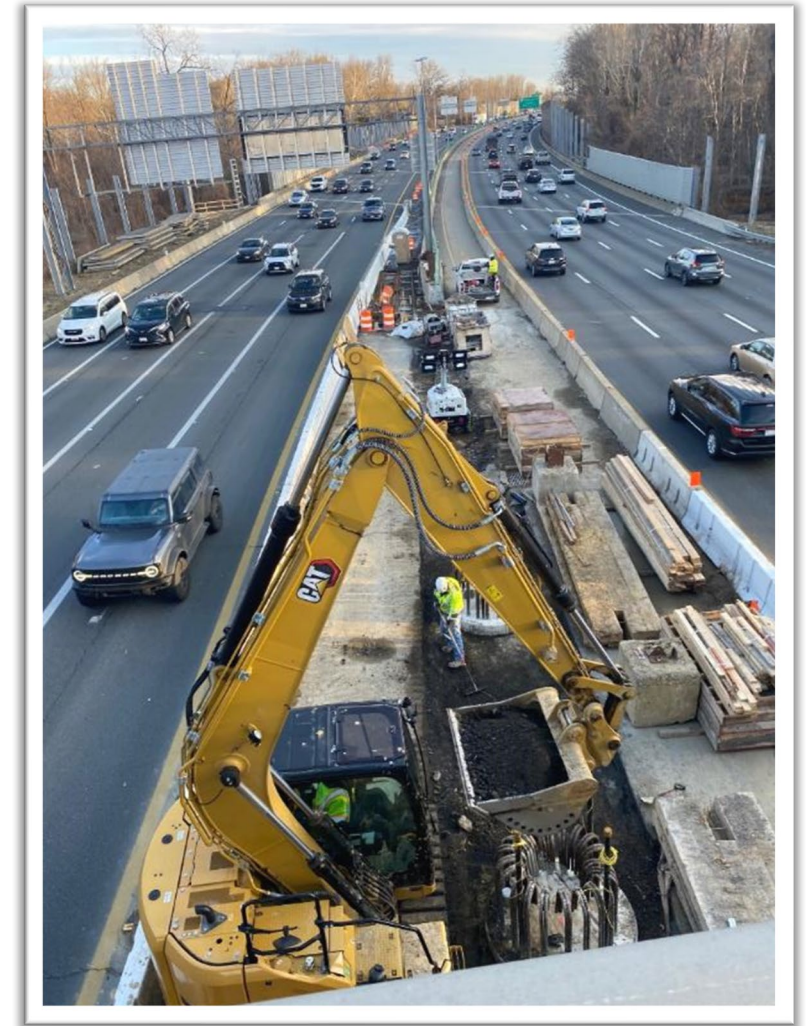
Replace old bridges with upgraded new bridges featuring wider sidewalks and trail connections

- Live Oak Drive
- Georgetown Pike
- Old Dominion Drive

Improve Lewinsville Road overpass

- Replace 5' sidewalk with 10' sidewalk

Complete new bridges and transfer traffic: Summer 2025



495 NEXT Transportation Management Plan (TMP)

Goals

1. Maintain mobility during construction
2. Enhance worker and public safety
3. Provide reliable information about construction zone

Elements

1. Maintenance of Traffic
2. Traffic Operations and Incident Management
3. Local Network Operations and Traffic Analysis
4. Transit and Transportation Demand Management
5. Communications and Outreach

495 NEXT TMP Operations Elements

Traffic Operations and Incident Management

- Supplemental Police Patrols – VA State Police & Fairfax Co. Police
- Supplemental Safety Service Patrols
- Supplemental message boards
- Monitoring of travel times and traffic volumes
- Incident response management

Local Network Operations (as needed)

- Traffic signal optimization
- Temporary traffic calming
- Minor spot improvements



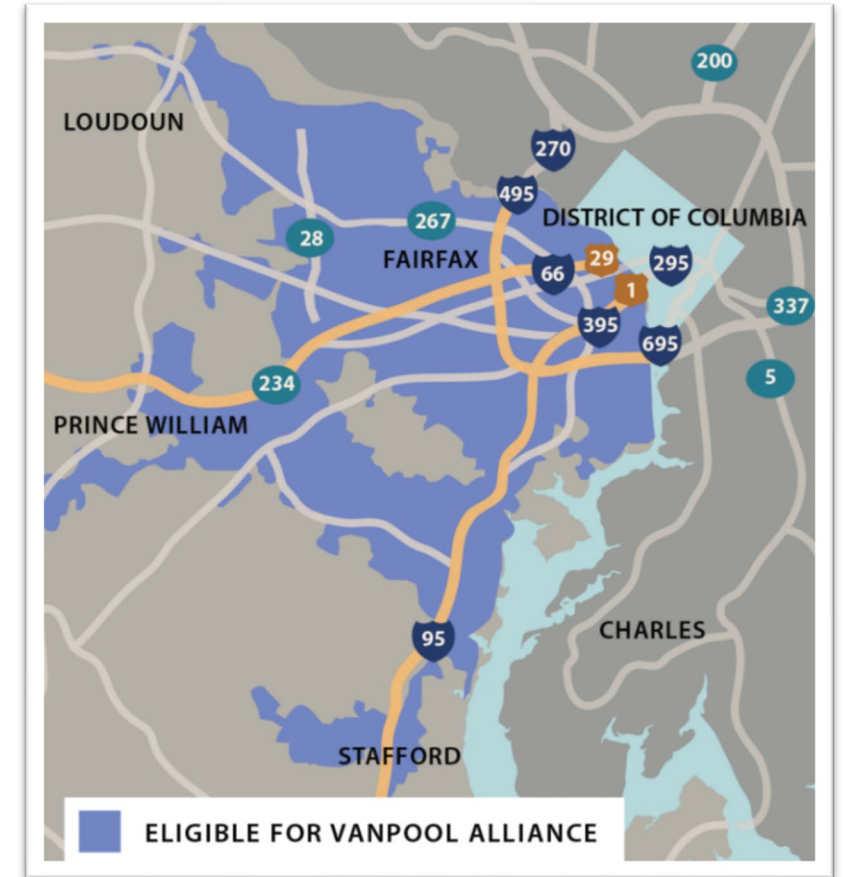
495 NEXT TMP Transportation Demand Management

Vanpool Incentives

- One time support to vanpool providers
- \$200 incentive per month for 6 months for every new rider
- Implemented by Vanpool Alliance

Carpool Incentives

- Support to new HOV-3 participants
- \$100 after 3 months in addition to Commuter Connections Pool Rewards
- Implemented by Commuter Connections



'POOL REWARDS
it pays to rideshare

495 NEXT TMP Transportation Demand Management

Employer Outreach

- Engage and inform employees about the project and travel options / resources
- Promote 495NEXT TMP incentive programs
- Key partners:
 - Fairfax County Commuter Services
 - Tysons Community Alliance
 - Montgomery County and other Maryland Employer Outreach teams
 - Regional TDM groups – MWCOCG and others



Telework Technical Support

- Telework!VA – DRPT program
- Online resources



495 NEXT TMP Transit

- **Pilot Bus Service from Tysons to Montgomery County, Maryland**
- **Based on recommendation in joint I-495 American Legion Bridge Transit / TDM Study – Completed in 2021**
- **Bus Service operation expected to begin in 2024**
- **Implemented by Fairfax County**
- **Virginia Commitment:**
 - \$5.2 M for initial purchase of buses
 - \$2.2 M per year for bus service operation





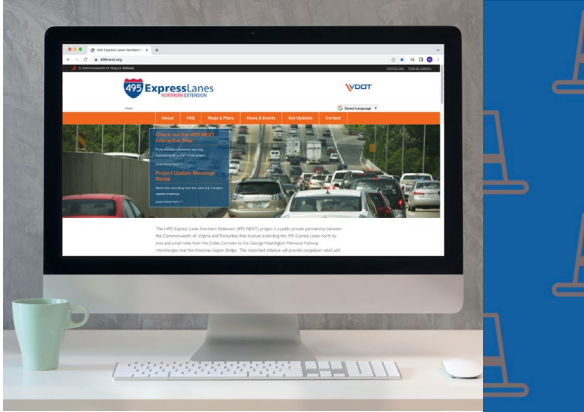
I-495 ALB / Route 798 Update

- Connector Route 798 will traverse ALB using I-495 express lanes, providing service between Tysons and Bethesda
- Coordination between FCDOT, Montgomery Co. DOT, and WMATA still ongoing regarding exact location of terminus in Bethesda. Several options currently exist
- Buses have been ordered, but not yet delivered to FCDOT
- Implementation of Route 798 currently slated for early 2024. Fairfax Co. Board of Supervisors approval anticipated in Winter 2023-2024

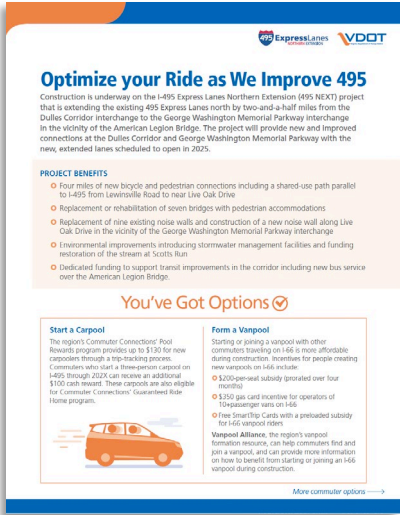


495 NEXT TMP Outreach

- Campaign branding
- Information and links to resources on 495 NEXT project website
- Fact sheets
- Social media content



495 NEXT Project Website



Draft Fact Sheet

Draft Branding Concepts



Optimize your ride as we improve 495.

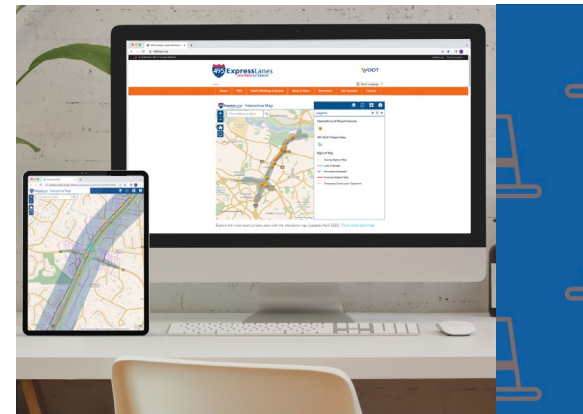


Direct-Impact Community Outreach

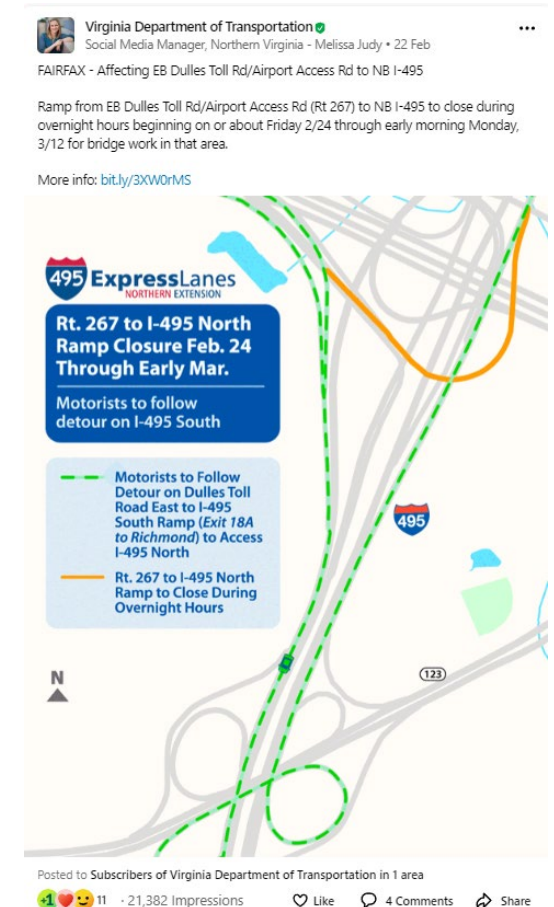
- Newsletters
- Door-to door flyers and interaction with neighbors
- One-on-one meetings with residents
- Community/neighborhood meetings
- Elected officials outreach and coordination
- Targeted social media
- Construction information line
- 495 NEXT project email



Community Meeting



Interactive Map



Sample Nextdoor Post

Traveler Outreach

- Weekly lane closure reports
- Traffic alerts and news releases
- Social media posts to amplify messaging
- Media outreach



Animated Graphic to Explain Closures and Detours

Traffic Alert



TRAFFIC ALERT

495NEXT.org

September 8, 2023

RELEASE: IMMEDIATE
CONTACT: Michelle T. Holland, 703-586-0487
Michelle.Holland@vdot.virginia.gov

OVERNIGHT FULL TRAFFIC STOPS BEGINNING NEXT WEEK AT GEORGETOWN PIKE AND I-495 IN MCLEAN

Stoppages to occur between midnight and 5 a.m. for signal work

FAIRFAX, VA – Two nights of intermittent traffic stoppages are scheduled to occur next week beginning Monday, Sept. 11 on the ramps connecting Georgetown Pike and I-495 South as well as at the intersection of Georgetown Pike and I-495 South for traffic signal work related to the 495 NEXT project. These stoppages, which may be up to 30 minutes each, will occur between the hours of midnight and 5 a.m.

Stoppages are planned on Monday and Tuesday nights (Sept. 11 and 12). If work is delayed due to weather conditions, it would be rescheduled for Wednesday night, Sept. 13.

Following each stoppage, the ramps and intersection will reopen to clear traffic before the next stoppage is implemented. Drivers are urged to slow down and use caution when traveling through the 495 NEXT work zone.

The I-495 Express Lanes Northern Extension (495 NEXT) project is extending the existing 495 Express Lanes from the Dulles Corridor interchange to the George Washington Memorial Parkway near the American Legion Bridge.

Visit 495NEXT.org for the latest construction and lane closure information.

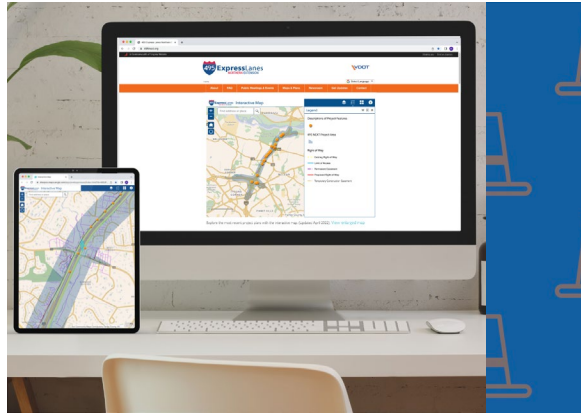
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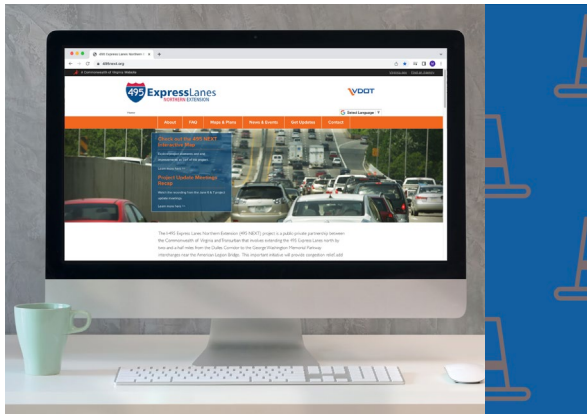
Public Information Tools



Newsletters & Weekly Lane Closure Reports



Interactive Map Showing Project Design



495NEXT.org Project Website



News Releases & Media Outreach

Resources and Contacts:

Email: 495NorthernExtension@VDOT.Virginia.gov

Construction Information Line: 703-592-6430
(monitored daily)

VDOT: Michelle Holland, 703-586-0487

Transurban: Amanda Allen, 571-249-8784

Lane: John Undeland, 703-785-3461



Use QR code to subscribe to project update emails



THANK YOU

