Each day, around 150,000 vehicles travel on Interstate 95 in the greater Fredericksburg region, resulting in periods of intense traffic congestion and gridlock. The Virginia Department of Transportation is undertaking Improve 95: Building a Better Ride—a series of large-scale road construction projects that, when completed, will improve driving conditions in this area.

More than $1 billion in state, federal and private investment are being spent on improvements to sections of I-95 between Exit 148 at Quantico Marine Corps Base and Exit 130 at Route 3. Due to the overlapping timetables of the construction projects within this massive interstate improvement initiative, a 16-mile stretch of I-95 will be under construction in various phases through 2024.
**PROJECT BENEFITS:**
- Relieve congestion in the Fredericksburg region, especially during peak travel times
- Enhance driver safety on I-95
- Improve traffic flow near key I-95 interchanges
- Added capacity with more lanes
- Additional travel route options with Express Lanes

**PROJECT SAFETY:** VDOT, the City of Fredericksburg, Stafford County and Spotsylvania County are committed to work zone safety. Paying close attention to the road and avoiding distractions are key to preventing a crash. Virginia law states it is unlawful to drive a moving motor vehicle in a highway work zone while holding a handheld communications device.

The following tips will help you safely navigate the project areas on I-95:
- Follow the posted speed limit
- Pay attention and minimize distractions
- Obey signs and traffic control devices
- Don’t tailgate: Unexpected stops may occur in a construction area
- Know before you go: Stay updated on I-95 lane closures by calling 511, visiting 511virginia.org, or downloading Virginia’s free 511 mobile app. Learn more about project activities at [Improve95.org](http://Improve95.org).

**I-95 CONSTRUCTION**

**TRAFFIC IMPACTS:** Every effort will be made to minimize impacts to motorists during the Improve 95 construction projects. However, it will be necessary to close travel lanes at various times and locations to complete the project work safely.
- Most lane closures will be scheduled when traffic volumes are lower to reduce impact to motorists; I-95 travel lanes will remain open during peak travel times
- Project work will be suspended during significant holidays
- Travelers can expect to encounter temporary traffic shifts and pavement markings
- Concrete barriers will be installed along the I-95 northbound and southbound shoulders in the work zone
- Slow-moving construction traffic will be entering and exiting I-95 travel lanes at designated work zone entrances
Below is an overview of four construction projects included in Improve 95. For complete details about all of the construction projects and their schedules, meeting dates and related materials, visit Improve95.org.

**I-95 Express Lanes Fredericksburg Extension**
Route 610 (Garrisonville Road) in Stafford County to the vicinity of Route 17 (Exit 133). 10 miles in length.

**Exit 140 Diverging Diamond Interchange (Courthouse Road)**
New overpasses will carry traffic over I-95. Courthouse Road will be widened to four lanes between Route 1 and I-95.

**I-95 Southbound Rappahannock River Crossing**
I-95 southbound capacity from three lanes to six lanes between Route 17 & Route 3. An additional bridge over the Rappahannock River & new interstate overpasses over Route 17 are being built as well.

**I-95 Northbound Rappahannock River Crossing**
Additional travel lanes for local and through traffic between Exit 130 (Route 3) interchange in Fredericksburg and the Exit 133 (Route 17) interchange.

**I-95 General Purpose Lanes**
Existing roadway for I-95 northbound & I-95 southbound lanes.
Once construction is complete, southbound I-95 travelers approaching the Route 17 interchange from the General Purpose Lanes will have the following choices:

- Exit to the Route 17 interchange
- Enter the I-95 southbound lanes for local traffic, which will allow travelers to access the Route 3 interchange and the Safety Rest Area and Welcome Center
- Enter the I-95 southbound lanes for through traffic in the median, bypassing the Route 17 and Route 3 interchanges, and the Safety Rest Area and Welcome Center

Southbound Express Lanes traffic approaching the Express Lanes southern terminus near Route 17 will have the following Decision Point choices:

- Exit Express Lanes directly to the Route 17 interchange
- Exit Express Lanes to enter the I-95 southbound lanes for local traffic, and travel south to access the Safety Rest Area and Welcome Center or Route 3 interchange
- Proceed straight to enter the I-95 southbound lanes for general purpose traffic, which will continue past the Route 3 interchange, where all I-95 lanes merge together again

Once construction is complete, northbound I-95 travelers in the General Purpose Lanes approaching Route 3 will have the following choices:

- Exit to the Route 3 interchange
- Remain in the I-95 northbound lanes for through traffic and bypass the Route 17 interchange
- Enter the I-95 northbound lanes for local traffic north of the Fall Hill Avenue overpass, which will allow travelers to access the Route 17 interchange
- North of the Rappahannock River, travelers can enter Express Lanes near the Route 17 interchange when Express Lanes are operating in a northbound direction
**I-95 Express Lanes Fredericksburg Extension**

**PROJECT TIMELINE:** Construction began in spring 2019 | Targeted completion in late 2022

**PROJECT SUMMARY:** This project will extend I-95 Express Lanes approximately 10 miles south of Route 610 (Garrisonville Road) to the vicinity of Route 17 (Exit 133) in Stafford County. Two reversible high-occupancy toll lanes will be built in the existing median of I-95. Reversible lanes flow one way during peak congestion periods. New access to the Express Lanes will be available near the I-95 interchanges at Quantico Marine Corps Base, Courthouse Road, and Route 17.

Travelers will use an E-ZPass or E-ZPass Flex to travel in the Express Lanes. Vehicles carrying one or two people will pay to use the lanes with an E-ZPass or E-ZPass Flex set to non-HOV mode. Buses, vans and passenger vehicles with three or more people, and an E-ZPass Flex set to HOV mode, will travel for free. Motorcycles can travel toll-free without an E-ZPass.

**Exit 140 Diverging Diamond Interchange**

**PROJECT TIMELINE:** Construction began in summer 2017 | Targeted completion in summer 2020

**PROJECT SUMMARY:** This project will rebuild the I-95 interchange at Exit 140 (Courthouse Road) in Stafford as a Diverging Diamond Interchange, or DDI. A DDI is an interchange in which both directions of traffic on the non-interstate road temporarily cross to the opposite side for a designated distance and then re-cross to the usual, “correct” side of traffic. Crossover areas are well-marked with traffic signals, signage and pavement markings.

New overpasses will carry Courthouse Road traffic over I-95. Also, Courthouse Road will be widened to four lanes between Route 1 and I-95 and just west of Ramoth Church Road and Winding Creek Road. Commuter parking expands to two VDOT Park & Ride lots with a combined 1,100 spaces. These lots will have a direct access to the extended 95 Express Lanes when they open in 2022.

**I-95 Southbound Rappahannock River Crossing**

**PROJECT TIMELINE:** Construction began in summer 2018 | Targeted completion in spring 2022

**PROJECT SUMMARY:** This project will double I-95 southbound capacity from three lanes to six lanes between Route 17 and Route 3. It will provide local traffic with an additional route to travel without merging into I-95’s general purpose lanes. The three existing I-95 southbound lanes between these interchanges will be converted to three southbound lanes for local traffic serving the Route 17 and Route 3 interchanges and the Safety Rest Area and Welcome Center.

Three new I-95 southbound lanes will be built in the current I-95 median to carry through traffic. Southbound traffic can enter these lanes before the Route 17 interchange. The median lanes will merge together with the local traffic lanes south of the Route 3 interchange.

The project will build an additional bridge over the Rappahannock River to carry the new lanes in the median. The northbound and southbound overpasses over Route 17 are being replaced to raise their vertical height and install improved structures. All lanes of I-95 built through the I-95 Southbound Rappahannock River Crossing project will be untolled and open to all traffic.

**I-95 Northbound Rappahannock River Crossing**

**PROJECT TIMELINE:** Construction begins late 2020-early 2021 | Targeted completion in 2024

**PROJECT SUMMARY:** This project seeks to reduce northbound I-95 congestion between the Exit 130 interchange in the City Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County and the Exit 133 interchange in Stafford by building additional travel lanes for local and through traffic. Although this project is still under design, most of the project’s features are anticipated to be built between Exit 130 and Exit 133.