



# Purpose and Need (Phase 1)

➔ The purpose of the project is to enhance safety, improve traffic operations, address outdated roadway and bridge geometry and infrastructure conditions, expand multimodal travel opportunities, and strengthen regional connectivity.

➔ The needs for the project are to address the following:



Traffic  
Congestion



Multimodal  
Opportunities



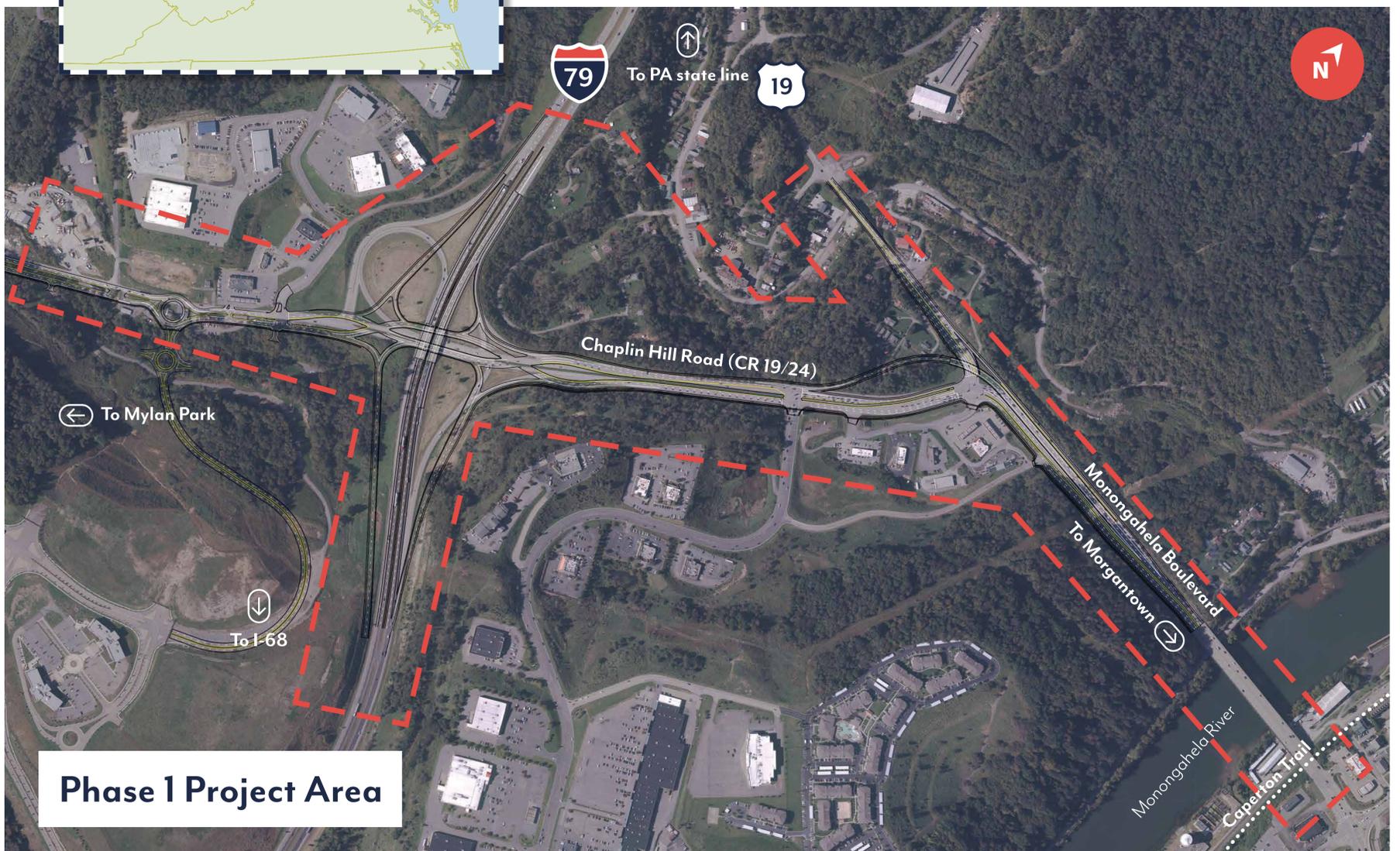
Safety



System Linkage  
and Connectivity



Roadway  
and Bridge  
Deficiencies



Phase 1 Project Area

# Project Background (Phase 1)

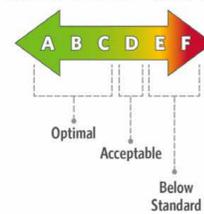
➔ The Star City Interchange Improvement Project represents the first phase of the broader Western Monongalia Gateways initiative. This project is a collaborative effort among the Monongalia County Commission, the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT), and West Ridge Inc.

Their shared objective is to enhance capacity, improve safety, support multi-modal transportation, and foster regional growth in western Monongalia County. The map below illustrates this initiative, along with the division between the two phases. Each phase of the overall initiative has independent utility.



➔ Nearly ten years ago, a collaborative planning effort was started for this corridor. These early studies focused on understanding the barriers to growth and mobility in this area. Key findings from the traffic and safety analysis include:

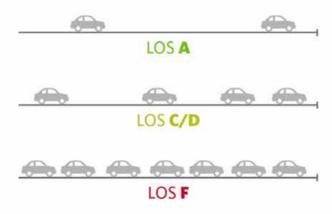
**WHAT IS LEVEL OF SERVICE?**



**Level of Service (LOS)**  
A standard measurement, based on vehicle delay and queues, which reflects the relative ease of traffic flow on a scale of A to F

**LOS A**  
Minor delay at signal, little queuing

**LOS F**  
Highly congested traffic conditions



Chaplin Hill Road has a crash rate 50 percent higher than the statewide average, with crashes clustered at the I-79 on- and off-ramps, east of I-79, and the sharp curve located along the two-lane stretch between I-79 and Mylan Park.



The existing interchange lacks capacity to handle surge events, including those routinely held at Mylan Park, as well as WVU graduations, and sporting and cultural events, often resulting in traffic backups onto the interstate.



The existing I-79 ramp intersections currently operate at Level of Service (LOS) F during the PM and Saturday Peak hours. By 2040, the Chaplin Hill Road with Monongahela Boulevard intersection will operate at LOS D in the AM Peak Hour and LOS F during the PM and Saturday Peak Hours.

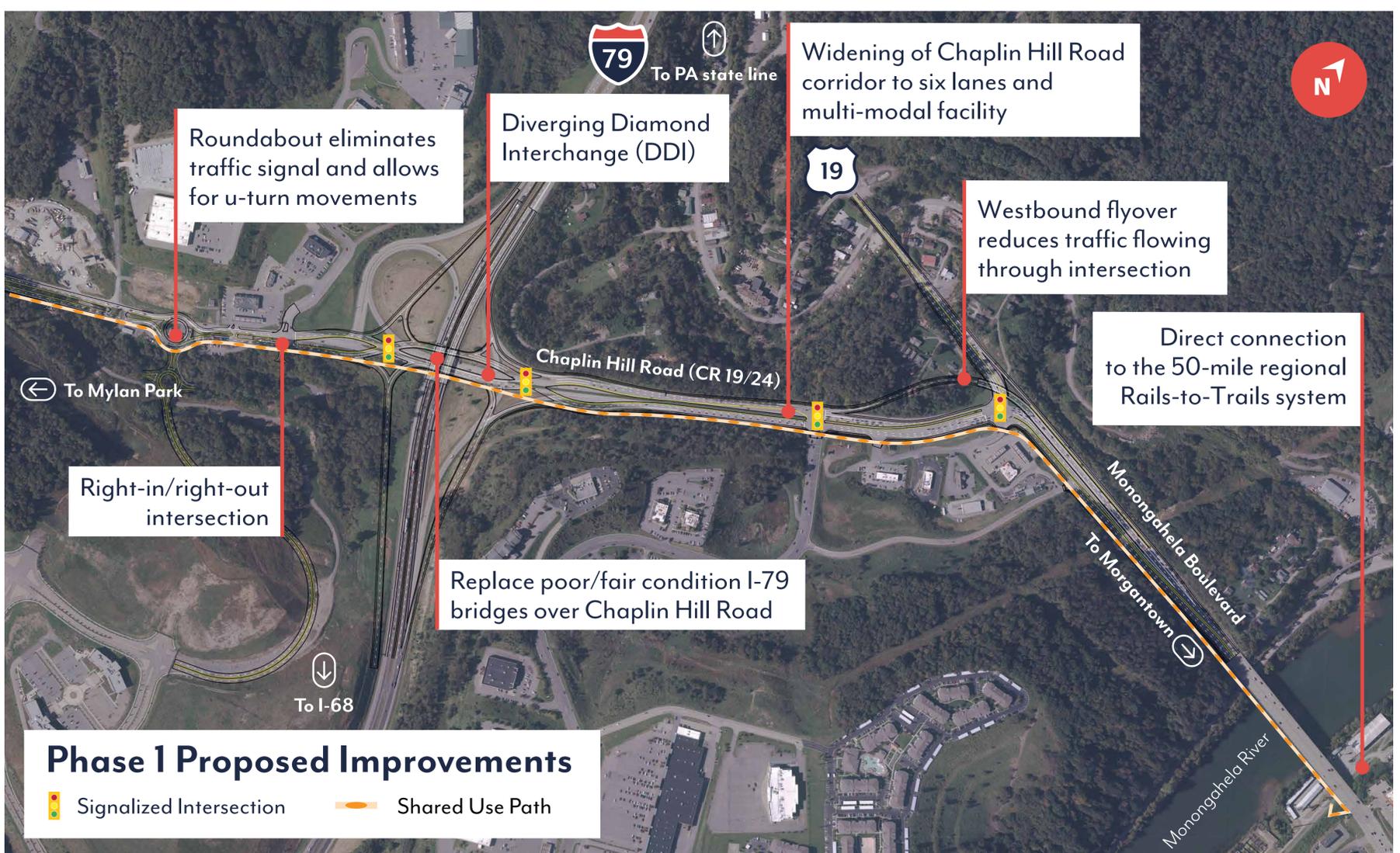
➔ In response, Monongalia County Commission, WVDOT, and West Ridge Inc. worked collaboratively to submit a request for USDOT funding through the competitive Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. In December 2023, the partnership was notified that a \$54.3 million grant was awarded for Phase 1 of this larger initiative. These funds, coupled with \$67.2 million from WVDOT and an additional \$10 million investment from Monongalia County and West Ridge Inc. allow this project to move forward.

# Proposed Improvements (Phase 1)

➔ Based on the early studies, multiple interchange types were studied and it was determined the diverging diamond provided the most efficient and safest traffic operations. This recommendation will be validated through additional traffic studies as part of the ongoing Interchange Access Justification process.

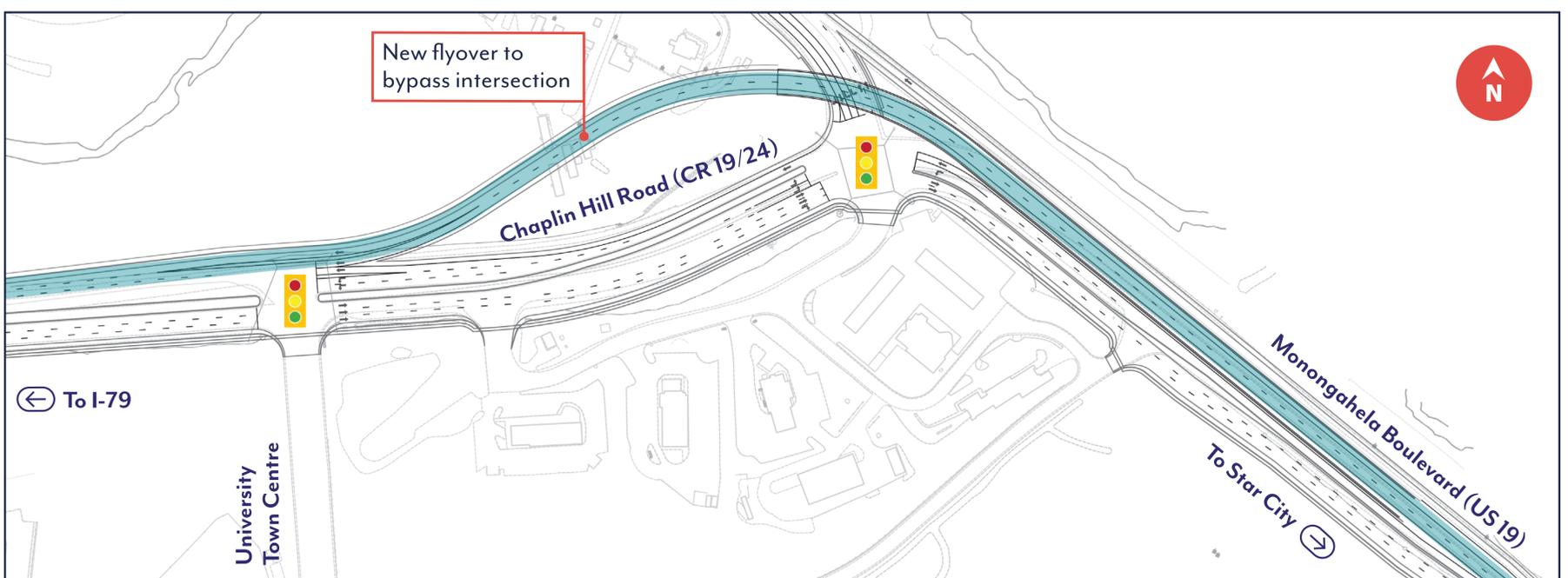
The map below highlights the key improvements in the corridor. These improvements, which are part of the Phase 1 project are planned to be constructed as two separate contracts:

- **Construction Contract 1:**  
Replacement of the I-79 Bridges.
- **Construction Contract 2:**  
Improvements along Chaplin Hill Road, including:
  - Converting the interchange to a diverging diamond type.
  - Construct westbound flyover at Chaplin Hill Road and US 19/WV 7 intersection.
  - Roadway widening and construction of multi-modal facilities.
  - Minor modifications to the existing US 19/WV 7 bridge over Scotts Run and the Star City Bridge.



# Proposed Improvements (Phase 1)

- ➔ In addition to the diverging diamond interchange, another key improvement is the flyover at the Chaplin Hill Road (CR 19/24) and US 19/WV 7 intersection. Traffic heading west from the Star City area will be able to bypass this signalized intersection and the signal at University Town Centre. This improvement will help keep traffic moving through the corridor on a daily basis and particularly during major events, such as football game days.



## National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- ➔ The development of this public involvement plan has been coordinated with the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), as well as with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to meet requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (16 U.S.C. §470f).

This meeting complies with the public involvement requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Preservation Act of 1966.

As part of the project development process, the team is preparing an environmental document in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This effort includes the March 9, 2026 public meeting and a series of environmental studies, including stream and wetland delineations, coordination regarding threatened and endangered species, noise analyses, Section 4(f) evaluation, Section 106 evaluation, and cultural resources surveys. These environmental studies are underway and the anticipated level of documentation is a Categorical Exclusion. As these impacts are finalized, the results will be posted on the project website.



# Project Schedule (Phase 1)

➔ Phase 1 project improvements are planned to be constructed as two separate contracts:

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