



## Informational Workshop Public Meeting

➔ The West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH), along with project partners Monongalia County Commission and West Ridge, Inc., recognizes the importance of this project to the local community and understands the varied interests within the corridor. WVDOH procedures for informational workshop public meetings are established to ensure meaningful citizen input in the development for proposed projects, in compliance with all applicable regulations and requirements.

This informational workshop public meeting is intended to be informal to maximize the interaction between citizens and the project team. We encourage attendees to examine the project maps and displays, discuss the project with the members of our project team who are here today, and submit a comment sheet.

There will be **no formal presentation**. 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.



### Registration

Print your name and address on the registration sheet. Additional copies of this handout and the comment sheet are available at the registration table.



### Environmental Studies

Representatives from the WVDOH and Consultant Team are available to discuss the environmental study process and purpose and need. Environmental studies are currently 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.



### Engineering

Representatives from the WVDOH and Consultant Team are available to discuss the conceptual design of the project, how these types of improvements function/operate, and the operational and safety benefits it provides. Maps depicting the project area, existing conditions, and schedule are available for review.



### Right-of-Way

The preliminary right-of-way impacts have been identified based on the conceptual design. In addition, WVDOH's Right-of-Way Division personnel are available to discuss the acquisition process.

# Project Background

➔ 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.



# Purpose and Need

➔ 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 and safety
- Road and bridge deficiencies
- Multimodal opportunities
- System linkage and connectivity

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:



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.



# Proposed Improvements

➔ 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:

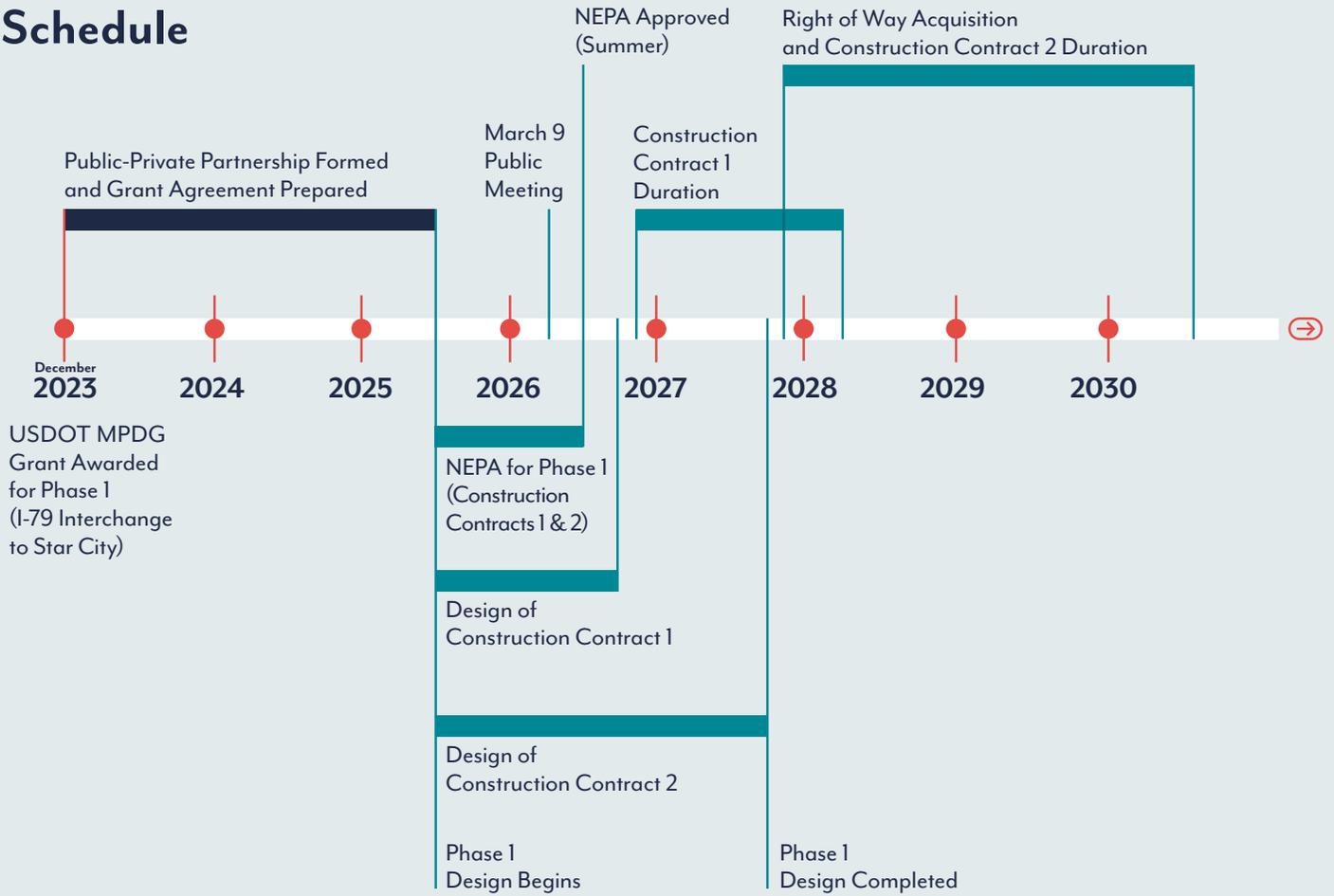
- **Construction Contract 1:**  
Replacement of the I-79 Bridges.
- **Construction Contract 2:**  
Improvements along Chaplin Hill Road, including:
  - Converting the interchange to a diverging diamond type.
  - Construct westbound flyover at Chaplin Hill Road and US 19/WV 7 intersection.
  - Roadway 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.



# Project Partners and Funding

➔ This project is a collaboration of the WVDOH, Monongalia County Commission, and West Ridge, Inc and includes a \$54.3 million grant for Phase 1 from the USDOT Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. These funds, coupled with \$67.2 million from WVDOH and \$10 million from the County and West Ridge, Inc. allow Phase 1 of this project to move forward.

# Schedule



## Comments

➔ Comments are welcome as you visit the displays around the room. Completed comment sheets can be:



**Placed** in the comment box.



**Mailed** to the WVDOH:

**West Virginia Department of Transportation,  
Engineering Division**  
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East Building 5, Room 820  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305



Comments can also be submitted via the WVDOH's website at [go.wv.gov/dotcomment](https://go.wv.gov/dotcomment).



➔ Please submit comments on or before **Thursday, April 9, 2026**.

