

# THE FUTURE of I-81?



Simulation of I-81 expanded to 8 lanes through New Market, as proposed in VDOT study.

## **SPEAK OUT BEFORE VDOT COMMITS TO MASSIVE TRUCKWAY, BYPASS & TOLLS**



Proposed 20-Lane Highway Interchange from VDOT Draft Environmental Impact Statement, page 5-3, released November, 2005

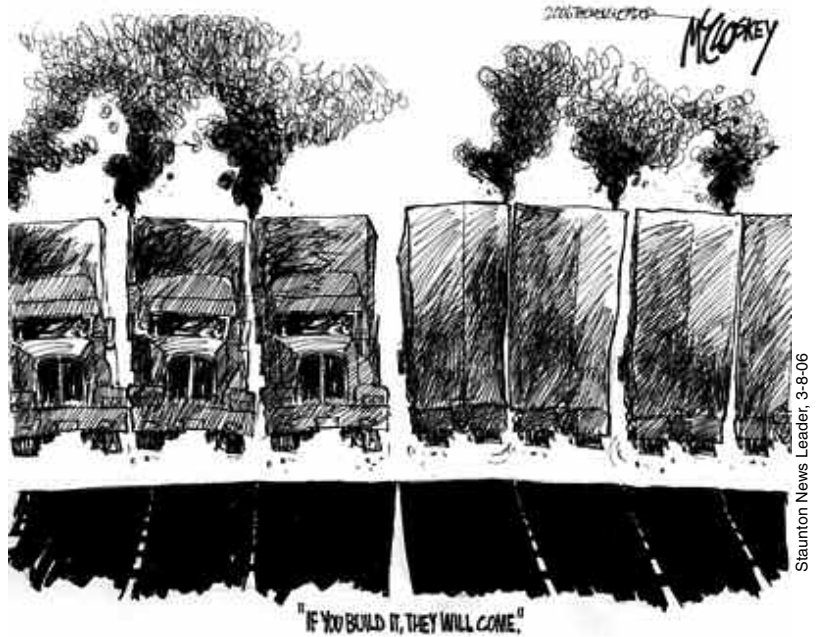
**Did you know that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) plans to:**

- **Build a massive truck highway on I-81, with an average of 8 to 12 lanes and up to 20 lanes at some interchanges?** See VDOT I-81 DEIS study at [www.i-81.org](http://www.i-81.org)
- **Charge tolls on all cars and trucks to pay for the \$13 billion project?** Car tolls range from \$26 to \$45.50 and truck tolls from \$65 to \$113.75, according to VDOT's study.
- **Build a major bypass around Harrisonburg through the prime farmlands and by the historic battlefields of Rockingham County?**
- **Disrupt Shenandoah Valley communities and businesses for at least 15 years to build the truckway?**

Our groups support a different approach – Reasonable Solutions for I-81. We believe that today's safety and congestion problems and tomorrow's highway needs can be met at far less cost and impact through spot improvements within the highway median, such as climbing lanes and redesigned exits, increased law enforcement, significant rail freight upgrades and meaningful transit options.

## Your participation is **CRITICAL.**

The public hearings are part of VDOT's Tier I Draft Environmental Impact Statement, required by federal law. VDOT will make decisions on the future of I-81 at the end of the Tier I process, not long after the hearings. The agency could move forward with no provisions to study lower cost, smaller scale options for the highway. We could be locked into plans for the tolled truckway, unless the Governor and VDOT change direction, NOW. For more information, go to [www.shenandoahvalleynetwork.org](http://www.shenandoahvalleynetwork.org)



Staunton News Leader, 3-8-06

**Attend the VDOT I-81 Meetings.** Bring your family & friends. Sign up to comment at the public hearing portion or give comments privately to the court reporter, not just VDOT staff, so your comments go in the record.

**Write or call Governor Kaine.** Ask him to direct VDOT to eliminate the Harrisonburg bypass from I-81 plans, to work within the existing highway right of way, and to consider lower cost, lower impact alternatives to the bypass and major highway widening. Call 804-786-2211 or go to [www.governor.virginia.gov/AboutTheGovernor/contactGovernor.cfm](http://www.governor.virginia.gov/AboutTheGovernor/contactGovernor.cfm)

**Write to VDOT.** Tell officials you want lower cost, lower impact alternatives to the bypass and major highway widening. Make official comments at [www.virginiadot.org/projects/constAN-I81-public-comment.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/constAN-I81-public-comment.asp) or mail to Christopher Collins, VDOT Environmental Division, 1401 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219.

## Public Hearings on I-81

Registration starts at 4 pm. Public Hearing & Open House 5 to 8 pm.

### Monday, April 17th

Natural Bridge Hotel  
15 Appledore Lane  
**Natural Bridge**

### Tuesday, April 18th

Winchester Travel Lodge  
160 Front Royal Pike  
**Winchester**

### Wednesday, April 19th

Turner Ashby High School  
800 North Main Street  
**Bridgewater**

For details on Reasonable Solutions for the Future of I-81  
go to the websites of the following groups:

