

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

- ❖ **Will the location of Corridor H between the towns of Thomas and Davis cut off the connections between the 2 towns?** No. Several interchange options are being evaluated east of WV 32 near the current terminus of the 4-lane roadway with a service road following existing WV 93 accessing Davis and Thomas. The corridor will pass under WV 32 to “tuck” the new 4-lane away from view and reduce noise. As part of the project, a shared use trail will be constructed to connect the Twin towns, and access will be provided from WV 32 to the rail grade that travels east towards Beaver Creek and west toward Pendleton Creek.
- ❖ **What effect will the new corridor have on tourism?** A positive one! Once constructed, Corridor H will become the shortest route while traveling from the west to the Baltimore-Washington area. We anticipate a large increase in visitors passing through our Mountain towns, which will increase revenue for the City of Thomas and Town of Davis.
- ❖ **Will the location of Corridor H negatively impact parks and trails in the area?** No, the opposite. The Preferred Alternative is not in the viewshed of Blackwater Falls State Park. The crossing of the North Fork Blackwater River is over one mile north of the Town of Douglas and will not be visible from Lindy Point or Pase Point Overlooks. In addition, the current design includes natural landscaping techniques that employ earthen berms to reduce the possibility of noise pollution in the area around Blackwater Falls State Park. The design is also taking into account the future plans of Friends of Blackwater to connect the Allegheny Highlands Trail to the Pase Point Trail via a suspension bridge at Douglas Falls, as well as the future plans of the Highlands Trail Foundation to connect the Allegheny Highlands Trail in Thomas to WV 32 via the Dobbin Road Grade.
- ❖ **Will the Project’s Preferred Alternative cross the Blackwater Canyon?** No. The alignment crosses the North Fork Blackwater River two miles north of its confluence with the Blackwater River. All the alternatives for the project, including the northern alignments, cross the North Fork Blackwater River.
- ❖ **What effect will the new corridor have on noise and light pollution?** No substantial effects are anticipated. Although the analysis is currently being updated, previous noise studies found that impacts were not greater than those with the No Build condition which will have increases in traffic on local roadways. Specifically in Thomas, truck traffic from US 219 will be relocated to the corridor or the truck route. No more through traffic of trucks on Front Street! There are several natural barriers that aid in reducing noise from the new alignment for sound, and any lighting would be at the interchange east of WV 32.
- ❖ **How will the construction of US 48 impact the traveling public between Thomas and Davis?** We are currently designing the Thomas/Davis interchange to be located east of WV 32 based on public opinion. Regardless of the location of the interchange, US 48 will cross under WV 32. All forms of traffic will be considered throughout the design process, and impacts to the traveling public will be reduced to the extent possible.
- ❖ **When will the project construction begin?** With the ROPA alignment, construction is scheduled to begin Fall 2024. Any new alignments will add three to four years to NEPA approvals. This schedule would miss the Infrastructure bill as it has an expiration of September 2026.
- ❖ **Will US 48 be visible from Lindy Point in Blackwater State Park?** No. The bridge over Coketon is the most likely point where the corridor might be seen. The WVDOH conducted viewshed modeling, including a drone flown at night from Lindy Point, where it was determined there would be 144 feet of obstruction between the bridge deck and line of sight.
- ❖ **Will the Coketon Colored school site be impacted?** No, the former site is a quarter mile from the corridor but the WVDOH plans to erect a monument at the Coketon bridge to tell the story of J.R. Clifford and Carrie Williams for visitors to the area to learn of their story.
- ❖ **Is the truck bypass part of the Parsons to Davis project?** Yes. The new truck route will become relocated WV 32 and the old 32 route through Thomas will become WV 32 Business Route.

