

COALFIELDS EXPRESSWAY PINEVILLE TO MULLENS

PUBLIC MEETING: AUGUST 23, 2022
State Project No. T690-CFX/CM-18.00
Federal Project No. NHPP-012(131)D



PURPOSE AND NEED

Project Description

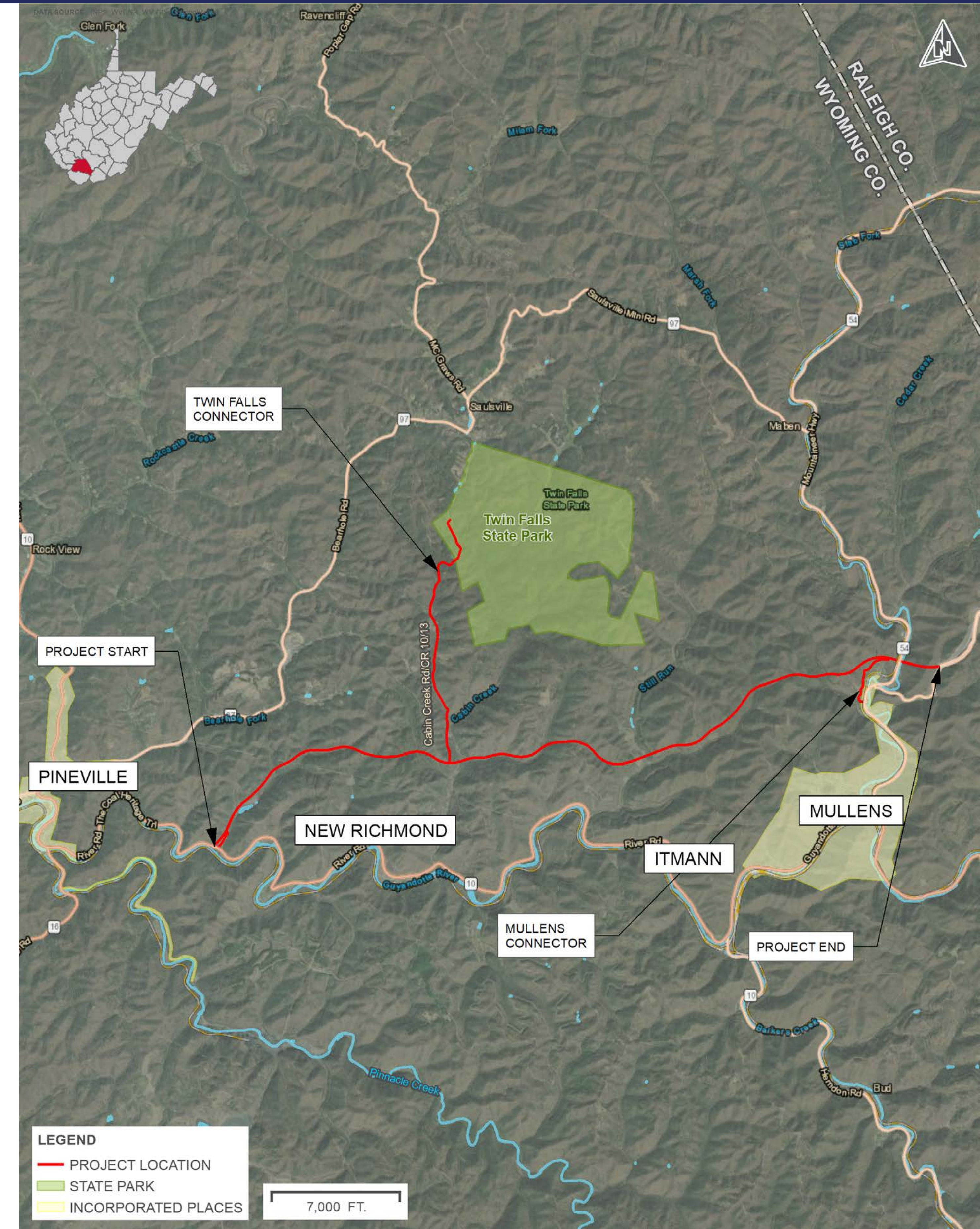
The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration is proposing to construct a section of the approximately 63-mile Coalfields Expressway that extends from Slate, Virginia to Beckley, West Virginia. The section of Coalfields being studied for this project extends from Mullens, West Virginia to Pineville, West Virginia and includes the Mullens Connector and Twin Falls Access Road. The project is approximately 8 miles in length. The Mullens Connector is an additional 1-mile of improvements and the Twin Falls State Park Access Road is an additional 2.8 miles of improvements. The Coalfields Expressway will be a four-lane divided highway with partially controlled access. The Mullens Connector is two lanes connecting the Mullens to the mainline. The Twin Falls Connector Road will remain a two-lane roadway with improved geometry and roadway conditions between Cabin Creek Road (CR 10/13) and Twin Falls State Park.

Purpose

The purpose of the project is to improve roadway deficiencies and safety, improve capacity and regional system linkages, as well as enhance residents' quality of life and economic growth.

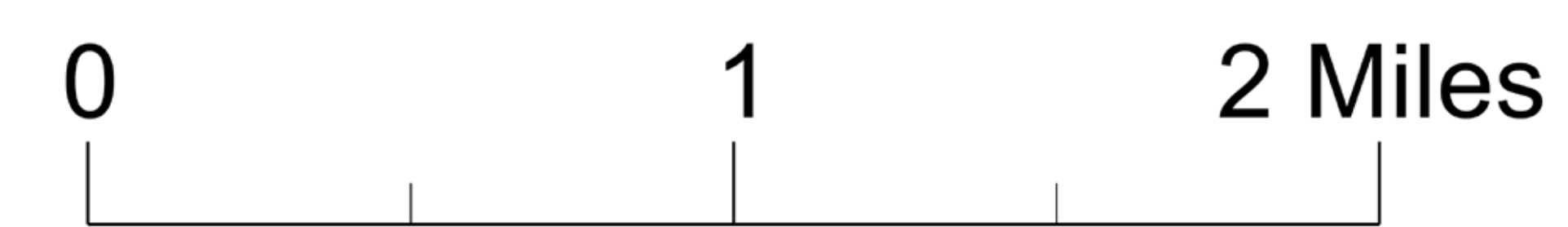
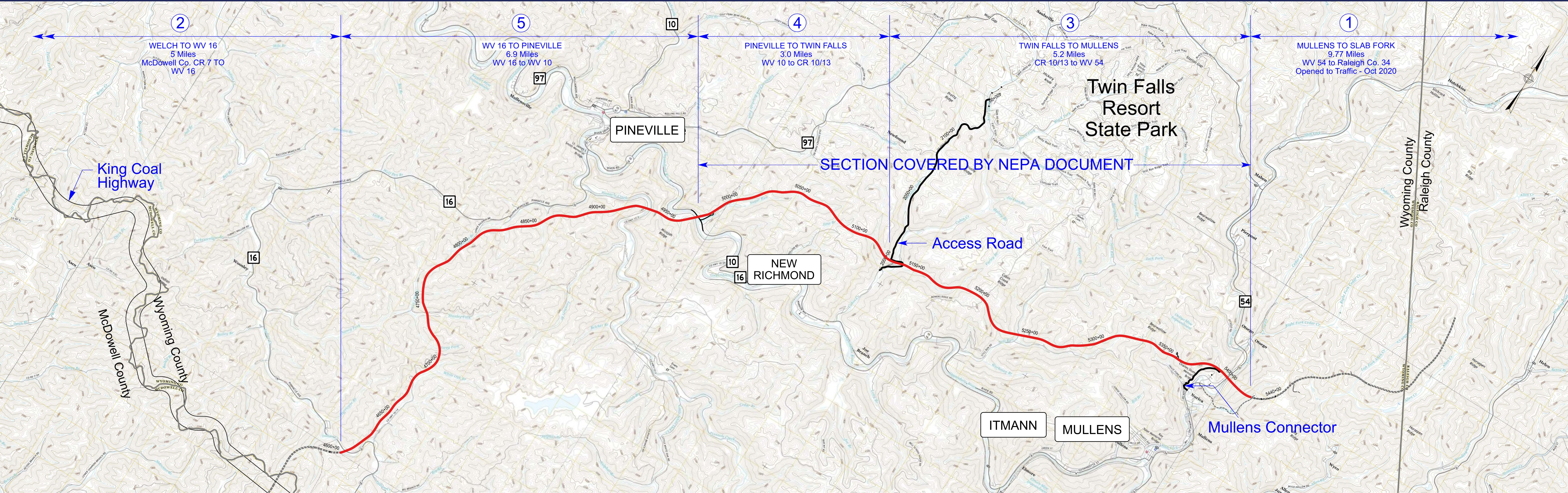
Need

The needs for the project include safety, capacity, regional and local system linkages, and better access for socioeconomic purposes. The existing roadway has substandard curves and steep grades, as well as a higher than statewide average accident rate. Additionally, the overall Coalfields Corridor is operating at or below level of service (LOS) D, which means that movements are more restricted and there is a decline in travel speeds. There is also a need to enhance both regional and local system linkages; to provide connections between communities in the study area; to improve emergency response; and to increase access to services, employment, and other community facilities. Overall these improvements will help support socioeconomic growth in the region.



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PROPOSED COALFIELDS EXPRESSWAY SECTIONS
7/27/2022

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Section 4(f)

Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 requires transportation projects take into consideration public park and recreational lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and publicly or privately owned historic sites that are eligible for listing or listed on the National Register of Historic Places in transportation project development.

Coordination with Twin Falls State Park is ongoing to address impacts to the park and appropriate mitigation. Impacts and mitigation are the same as those for 6(f) and are described below.

One Section 4(f) Resource was identified in the Priority Section: Twin Falls State Park



Section 6(f)

Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act applies to the conversion of public outdoor recreation sites and facilities from recreation to non-recreational uses. LWCF is a funding source provided by the National Park Service to all states to provide money to either purchase land for public recreation or to make improvements to existing parks (trails, swimming pools, camp sites, etc.).

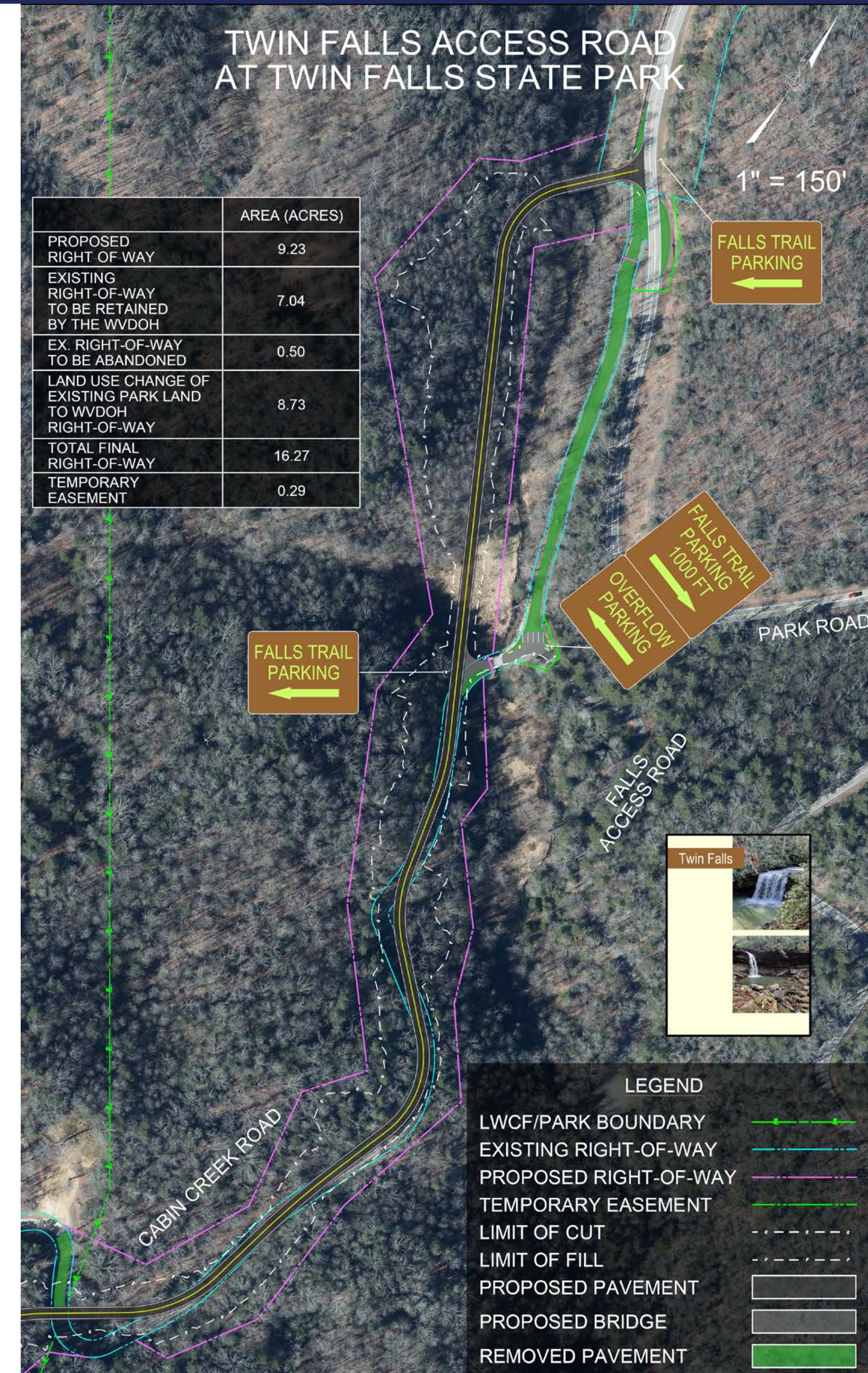
Coordination and meetings with Twin Falls State Park, the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, and National Park Service has been ongoing. Coordination has included addressing impacts and determining appropriate mitigation measures. Impacts and mitigation are described below.

One Section 6(f) Resource was identified: Twin Falls State Park



Impacts to Section 4(f) and Section 6(f)

Impacts will occur to both 4(f) and 6(f) resources as a result of improved access (safer turning movements into and out of the park) to Twin Falls State Park and access to the Twin Falls Trailhead Parking lot. Under 4(f) and 6(f), improvements will result in the conversion of approximately 7 acres of parkland to a transportation use. Mitigation will include reclamation of the portion of the existing Cabin Creek Road that will be abandoned. Reclamation activities will include removing the existing asphalt and creating a walking trail. Additionally, the new access to the Twin Falls Trailhead Parking lot will include additional parking spaces as well as new signage to the park entrance and Twin Falls Trailhead Parking. These improvements are considered to be a net 6(f) state sponsored improvement benefit to the park under Section 4(f). According to Section 6(f) there will be a conversion of property from a recreational use to a transportation use; however, there will also be a conversion of the existing transportation use to a recreational use.





Environmental Studies

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways is currently preparing a reevaluation of the 1999 Environmental Impact Statement and 2000 Record of Decision for the Coalfields Expressway. The purpose of a reevaluation is to determine if the original NEPA document is still valid, or if a new NEPA document will need to be prepared. A reevaluation is necessary when a significant amount of time has passed since the original NEPA document was signed; there are changes to project design; new information has become available; and/or new regulations, laws, or policies have changed. The reevaluation will determine if any significant changes in impacts to resources have occurred from the time the original NEPA document was signed. As part of the reevaluation, numerous studies have been conducted to provide the information necessary to assess impacts based on the current design. The following are studies that have been conducted for the Coalfields Expressway Reevaluation:

-  **Wetland and Stream Delineation**
-  **Noise**
-  **Socioeconomic**
-  **Environmental Justice**
-  **4(f)**
-  **6(f)**
-  **Cultural Resources-archaeology and Historic Properties**
-  **Threatened and Endangered Species**

Environmental Impact Matrix

RESOURCE	IN PROJECT AREA	IMPACTS
WETLANDS*	YES	3.10 Acres
STREAMS*	YES	41,752.52 Linear Feet
ARCHAEOLOGY	NO	NO
HISTORIC PROPERTIES	YES	NO
SECTION 4(F)/SECTION 6(F)	YES	8.75 Acres
SOCIOECONOMIC	YES	BENEFICIAL
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE	YES	NO
THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES	YES	TBD

*Detailed mapping depicting wetland and stream impacts is available at our scroll plot station.