

# WELCOME

## Public Informational Workshop



**Appalachian Corridor H**  
**WARDENSVILLE TO VIRGINIA STATE LINE PROJECT**  
*State Project X316-H-125.16*  
*Federal Project NHPP(0484)118*  
*Hardy County, WV*

**Thursday, September 21, 2023**  
**190 Main Street, War Memorial Building**  
**Wardensville, WV**  
**5:00-8:00 PM**  
**Presentation at 6:00 PM**



**Hosted by the**  
**West Virginia Department of**  
**Transportation, Division of Highways**  
**& Federal Highway Administration**



## Overview:

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways (WVDOH) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are pleased to host this informational workshop to provide updates and answer questions on the Wardensville to Virginia State Line Project. A formal presentation will be held at 6:00 pm. Detailed mapping, projected schedule, and other materials are available to review in person as well as online at the link provided at the bottom of this page. This meeting complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requirements.

The project is an approximately 6.8-mile, four-lane divided highway, with partial control of access. The project is part of Corridor H of the Appalachian Development Highway System. It begins at the end of an existing portion of Corridor H (US 48) to the west of Wardensville in Hardy County, WV and ends along WV 55 near the Virginia state line in Hardy County, WV. The highway will help fulfill the goals of improving east-west travel and promoting economic development in the region. An Amended Record of Decision (AROD) for this project was approved by FHWA in 2003. WVDOH is now updating environmental studies, coordinating with resource agencies, and advancing the design.

## Project History:

- 1990-1996: Environmental and engineering studies for Corridor H between Elkins, WV and the Virginia State Line were completed, and an alignment was approved.
- 1996-2000: Legal challenges resulted in a court settlement which divided the over 100-mile alignment into nine operationally independent projects that could be constructed separately as funding became available; this project is one of two that are not complete or under construction.
- 2003: An *Amended Record of Decision* ("AROD") was approved for the Wardensville to Virginia State Line Project. A Settlement Agreement in 2000 required that certain conditions be met prior to final design; those conditions, which were outside the control of WVDOH, were not met until 2020. Field studies and agency coordination have been ongoing to advance preliminary engineering.
- 2001-2008: WVDOH provided \$1 million to Town of Wardensville as mitigation for proposed impacts
- 2018: A Public Informational Workshop was held in May.
- 2022: A Public Informational Workshop was held in August.

## Recent Developments and Future Schedule:

- Re-evaluation will be in the form of an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will conclude with either a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or a shift to preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)
- Since the 2022 Public Workshop, the connector from US 48 to WV 55 near the eastern terminus has been eliminated
- Engineers have reduced the impact to the Capon Valley Charolais Farms to approximately one acre, and FHWA and WVDOH are continuing to coordinate with stakeholders for the conservation easement property
- Core boring activities have begun to help inform final design
- 2023: Public comment period between Thursday, September 21st and Monday, October 23rd
- 2023: Ongoing core boring activities, final design, Right-of-Way activities (appraisals and purchases using State funds), and preparation of EA
- 2024 (*Early*): Public Meeting to present the EA findings (estimated)
- 2024 (*Mid*): Completion of NEPA requirements and Clean Water Act Permitting (estimated)
- 2024 (*Late*): Construction begins (estimated)
- 2031: Opening for traffic (estimated)

**Additional information** is available online at the WVDOH's Public Meeting website: <https://transportation.wv.gov/highways/engineering/comment/CorridorH-WardensvilletoVaLine/> (linked through code at right).

**Comments** are due Monday, October 23, 2023 and may be submitted using the comment form provided at the meeting or printed from the website. Additionally, comments may be submitted digitally through the website.



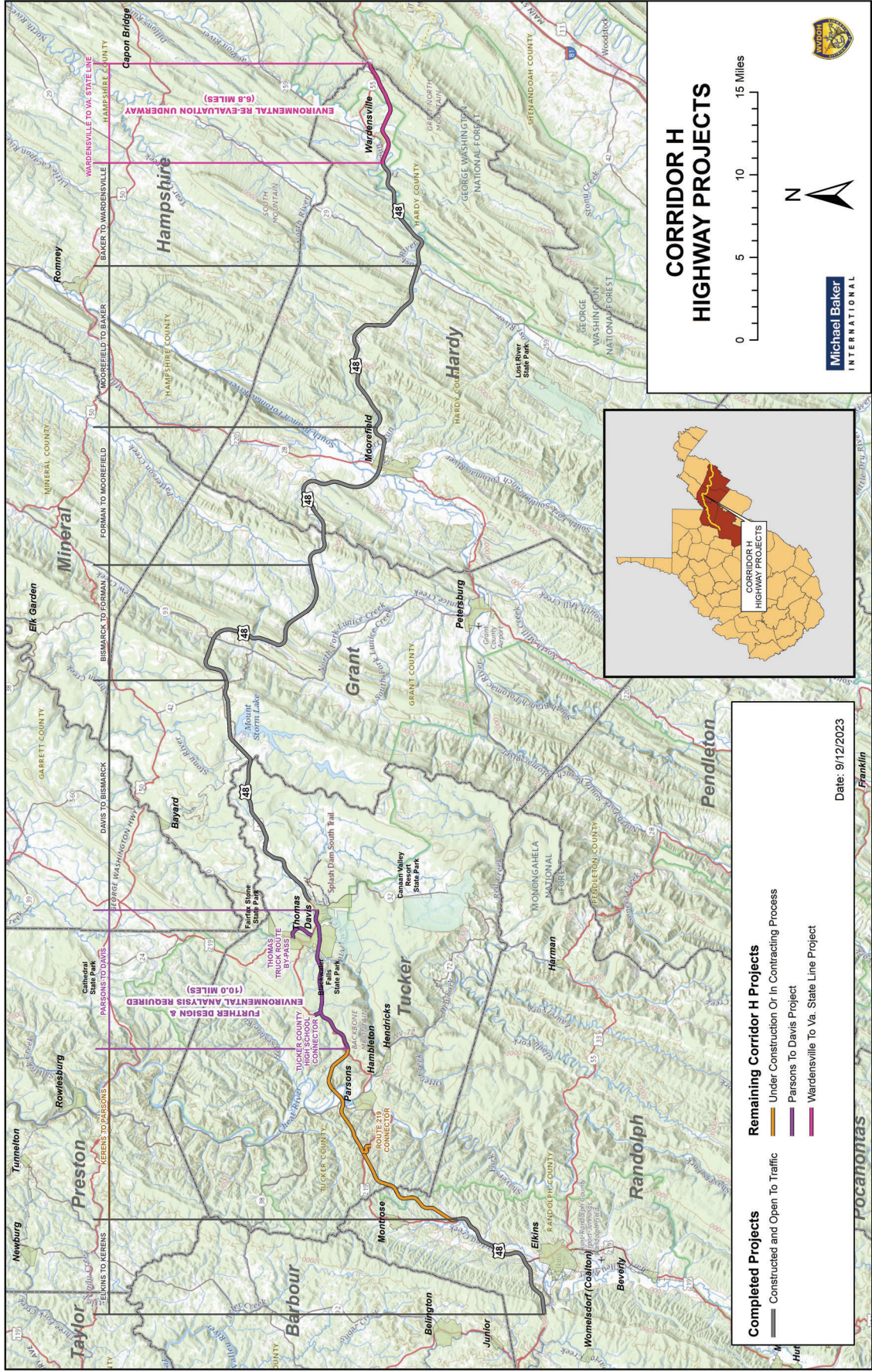
Thank you for attending tonight's meeting!



# CORRIDOR H OVERVIEW

*Purpose and Need for Appalachian Corridor H: To improve east-west transportation, to promote economic development in the region, and to preserve or improve the quality of life in the region.*

- Timeline:**
- 1990-1996: Environmental & engineering studies for Corridor H between Elkins, WV & Virginia were completed, & an alignment was approved.
  - 1996-2000: Legal challenges resulted in a court settlement which divided the alignment into nine operationally independent projects that could be constructed separately as funding became available.
  - 2003: An Amended Record of Decision ("AROD") was approved for the Wardsville to Virginia State Line Project.\*
  - 2007-2008: Distribution of \$1 million to Town of Wardsville as mitigation for proposed impacts
  - 2018-Present: Public Meetings were held in 2018 and 2022. Field work & agency coordination ongoing





# WARDENSVILLE TO VIRGINIA STATE LINE PROJECT UPDATES

This meeting is being held as part the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the Wardensville to Virginia State Line Project. Please see the **Corridor H Overview display** for early history of the project. With the passage of time since the 2003 Amended Record of Decision for the project, FHWA and WVDOH are conducting a Re-evaluation to assess changes to the project, its surroundings, its associated impacts, and mitigation planned for those impacts.

In addition to allowing another opportunity for questions and comments, this meeting is being held to present four specific updates:

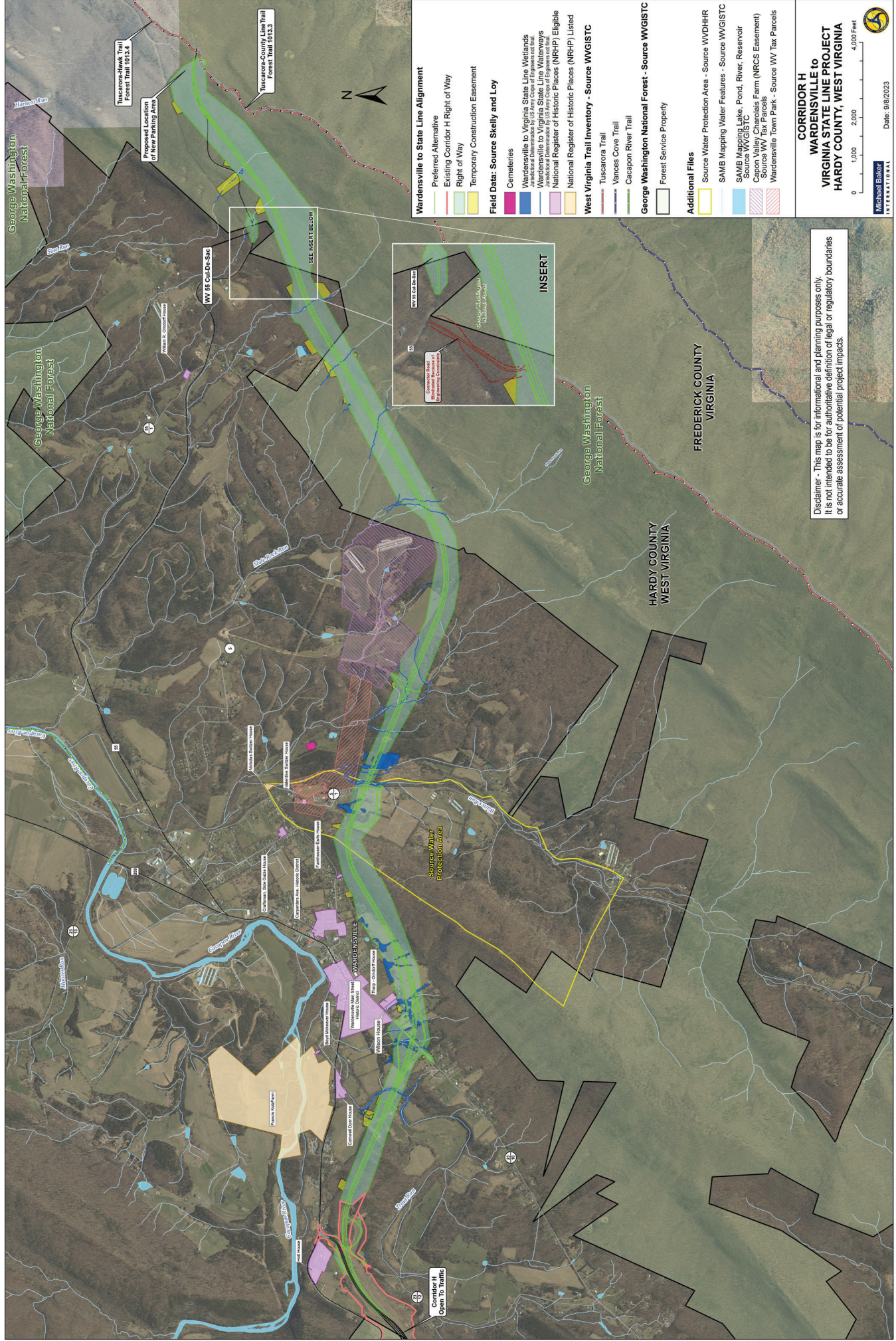
1. FHWA and WVDOH have decided to present the Re-evaluation in the form of an Environmental Assessment document. Once completed, that document will be circulated for comment before a decision is made whether to a) issue a Finding of No Significant Impact, or b) prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.
2. Core boring activities have begun. See mapping on display at this meeting.
3. The Preliminary design for the 2003 Selected Alternative has progressed over the past year, and, after detailed examination, one connector road has been eliminated from the design because of engineering constraints. Please see the **Preliminary Alignment display** for a call-out box that shows where the easternmost connector to WV 55 has been removed.
4. Prior to completing the Environmental Assessment process, WVDOH plans to purchase right-of-way with State funds from an area within the Capon Valley Charolais Farm Easement-Farm & Ranch Lands Protection Program Conservation Easement. This easement was established in 2012. The proposed land purchase is 1.06 acres in size, representing 0.7% of the 159.7-acre easement property. The 1.06 acres is entirely forested and not part of the working farm.

Refinement of the 2003 Selected Alternative will be discussed in the Environmental Assessment, along with changes to impacts and mitigation measures. Please see the **Timeline and Commenting display** for ways to submit your comments on these or any other project elements.





# PRELIMINARY ALIGNMENT





# TIMELINE & COMMENTING

- 2000 (February):** Corridor H Settlement Agreement established the Wardensville to Virginia State Line Project
- 2003 (May):** NEPA process completed for the Wardensville to Virginia State Line Project with an Amended Record of Decision (AROD)
- 2018, 2022, 2023:** Three public workshops and commenting periods held to keep stakeholders informed and to receive comments
- 2023 (mid-late) (estimated):** Right-of-way purchases within certain strategic parcels using State funds only (no Federal Funds)
- Circulation of the Environmental Assessment (EA) to present the re-evaluation of the project
- 2024 (early) (estimated):** Public Meeting to be held for presentation of the EA findings
- 2024 (mid) (estimated):** Conclusion of the EA, in the form of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or decision to produce a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)

*WVDOH is anticipating that the Re-evaluation can be completed by the end of 2024 and that construction can begin at that time.*

***PLEASE SHARE YOUR COMMENTS!***  
**THE COMMENT PERIOD ENDS:**  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023**

Mail comments to:  
Mr. Travis Long,  
Director Technical Support Division  
West Virginia Division of Highways  
1334 Smith Street  
Charleston, West Virginia 25301



Comments may also be submitted using the form included with tonight's handout or online at the WVDOH website link below and through QR code:

<https://transportation.wv.gov/highways/engineering/comment/CorridorH-WardensvilletoVaLine>

DATE:

Mr. Travis Long, Director  
Technical Support Division  
West Virginia Division of Highways  
1334 Smith Street  
Charleston, West Virginia 25301

**MEETING DATE:** Thursday, September 21, 2023  
**LOCATION:** 190 Main Street, War Memorial Building, Wardensville, WV  
**SUBJECT:** PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP  
**PROJECT:** Corridor H – Wardensville to VA Line  
X316-H-125.16  
NHPP(0484)118  
Hardy County

**COMMENTS DUE BY:** Monday, October 23, 2023

Please consider the following comments:

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(Please print the following information)

NAME:

ADDRESS:

ORGANIZATION (IF ANY):

How did you hear about the Public Informational Workshop?

Project Information and Comment Sheets  
can be found online at our WVDOH Website at <https://transportation.wv.gov/comments>.  
Under Engineering Projects, Open, and then click Corridor H -Wardensville to VA Line.