

# NEWS OCTOBER 2018

The Martinsville Southern Connector Study is a first step toward identifying future improvements to the U.S. Route 220 corridor. This is a separate study from the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that was prepared for the overall Interstate 73 (I-73) corridor that included portions of Henry County. The Martinsville Southern Connector Study will focus specifically on identifying and addressing transportation needs within the U.S. Route 220 study area.

Should any future transportation improvements from the Martinsville Southern Connector Study be implemented along the U.S. Route 220 corridor, they could be considered for incorporation into the overall I-73 corridor. However, this would require a separate evaluation and analysis of I-73.



**B**etween September 10 and October 10, 2018, VDOT conducted an online survey to gather input for the Martinsville Southern Connector Study. The goal of the survey was to collect public input to inform the Purpose and Need for the study. The Purpose and Need is the first chapter of the Environmental Impact Statement, which sets the goals for the study, and serves as the primary criteria for the alternatives development process.

At the end of the survey period there were 773 participants and hundreds of comments on transportation issues regarding the U.S. Route 220 corridor. The survey asked participants questions about

how and why they use the U.S. Route 220 corridor, including **“Which portion of the corridor do you typically travel?”**, and **“What are your primary reasons for traveling on the U.S. Route 220 corridor?”**. The survey also asked participants to give feedback on how to improve travel on the U.S. Route 220 corridor.

VDOT would like to thank those who participated in this survey. Public participation is a crucial element of the study and this survey allowed the public to give valuable feedback and input on what they feel are the most significant transportation issues within the U.S. Route 220 corridor.

## Stay Involved

To stay informed about the upcoming meeting and for more information on the Martinsville Southern Connector Study, sign up for a monthly newsletter on the study web site: [www.virginiadot.org/martinsvilleconnector](http://www.virginiadot.org/martinsvilleconnector).

As we move forward, the Purpose and Need and conceptual alternatives for the study will continue to be developed and presented to the public at a citizen information meeting in early 2019, along with the results of the survey.