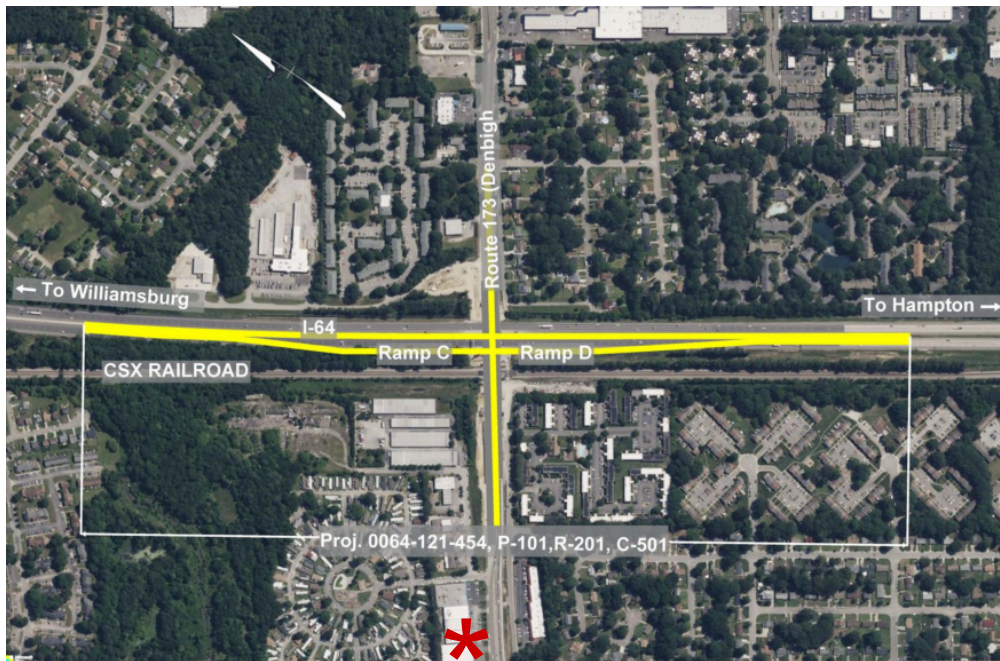


NEWS > TRANSPORTATION

I-64 construction begins later this year. Officials hope it reduces Newport News' traffic.



Overhead shot of Interstate 64 and Denbigh Boulevard in Newport News. (Courtesy of Virginia Department of Transportation.)



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Construction will start later this year on a new Interstate 64 interchange that officials hope will improve traffic flow in northern Newport News.

The I-64 Denbigh Boulevard Interchange Project will add a new diamond interchange between those at the intersections of Fort Eustis Boulevard and Jefferson Avenue. The addition is expected to reduce afternoon traffic congestion in the northbound lanes of Jefferson Avenue (from Brick Kiln to Denbigh), on Bland Boulevard (from Jefferson to Warwick), and in the northbound lanes of Warwick Boulevard (from Bland to Denbigh), according to a spokesperson for Newport News.

The project will be completed in two phases. The first is expected to be completed in mid-2029 and involves constructing the west on- and off-ramps, widening of I-64 and Denbigh Boulevard, and improvements at the Denbigh's intersections with Warwick Boulevard and Jefferson Avenue, according to the Virginia Department of Transportation.

The second phase is slated to begin in mid-2030 and be completed by mid-2034. This will include installation of the east on- and off-ramps on I-64 and widening of the Denbigh Boulevard bridge.

The first phase has a \$93 million price tag, the second comes in at \$188.1 million, according to VDOT. The project won't require any funding from Newport News' Capital Improvement Plan, a city spokesperson confirmed.

The requests for proposals for Phase 1 will go out in late spring or early summer, a VDOT spokesperson said.

"The primary reasons for initiating these projects include ongoing traffic congestion and safety concerns on I-64 and surrounding local roads," the spokesperson said. "Detailed analyses, including an Interchange Justification Report (IJR), were conducted and clearly indicated the need for improvements at Denbigh Boulevard to manage current and future traffic demands and enhance regional connectivity."

The project is expected to support the recently announced relocation of Costco from the northwest corner of the Jefferson Avenue and Oyster Point Road intersection to the southeast corner of the Jefferson Avenue and Bland Boulevard intersection.

The relocation will likely add between 150-200 more vehicles during peak hours to an area that's already congested, but the Denbigh Boulevard Interchange Project is considered the "ultimate answer" to this issue, according to an April 4 memo from Nathan Milaszewski, assistant district traffic engineer for VDOT's Hampton Roads District sent to Lisa Frankenberger, the chief traffic engineer for Newport News.

The new interchange will "reduce the background demand for both Jefferson Avenue generally and (Exit 255B to northbound Jefferson Avenue) in particular," the memo reads.

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