



A Playbook to Set Priorities

The improvements needed on Interstate 81 (I-81) along the 100-mile corridor from the Maryland state line through Lebanon County are complex and vary greatly by location.

Key transportation planning partners in the region have completed Phase 1, Needs Assessment & Prioritization, which included:

- Evaluating safety, mobility, access, and infrastructure condition needs
- Dividing the corridor into Focus Areas that share related needs
- Prioritizing the Focus Areas in each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) region

A detailed map of the Focus Areas and priorities is featured on the following pages.

Phase 2, Concept Development, is currently in progress and includes a more detailed evaluation of the top ranked Focus Areas in each MPO to define candidate projects. This also includes the identification of “Quick Strike” improvement projects that address corridor-wide incident management strategies and traffic operation strategies.

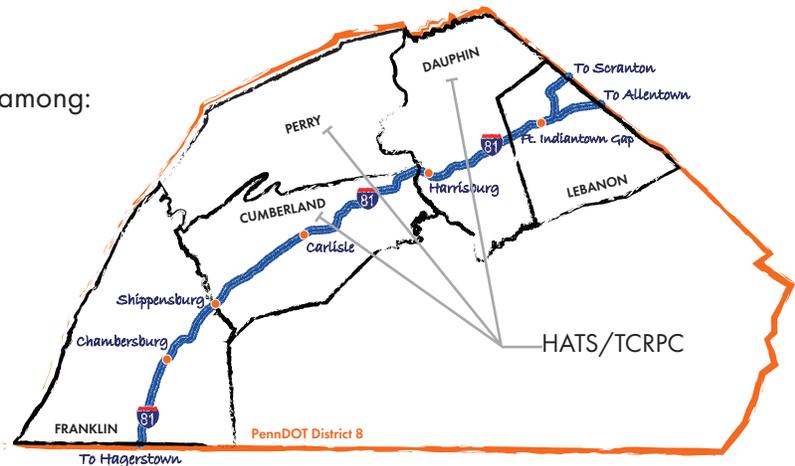
The I-81 Improvement Strategy will serve as a playbook for setting priorities and funding future projects as resources become available through the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).



Planning Partners Work Together

The strategy is being developed as a collaborative effort among:

- Harrisburg Area Transportation Study (HATS) / Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC)
- Franklin County
- Lebanon County
- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation: District 8-0
- Federal Highway Administration



Interstate Funding

Funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) gas tax has remained flat since 1993 and has not kept pace as needs and inflation have grown over time. Due to the current needs and conditions of the Pennsylvania Interstate system, PennDOT had decided to reallocate funding to increase investment on the Interstates.

Funding for the Interstate system increased by \$150 million in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021, with an additional \$50 million redirected to the Interstates each subsequent year until FFY 2028. The I-81 Improvement Strategy will provide a prioritized list of candidate projects from each region for consideration among other Interstate priorities as funding becomes available. Potential improvements, construction cost estimates, and potential impacts will be identified for each project.

WHAT IS A FOCUS AREA?



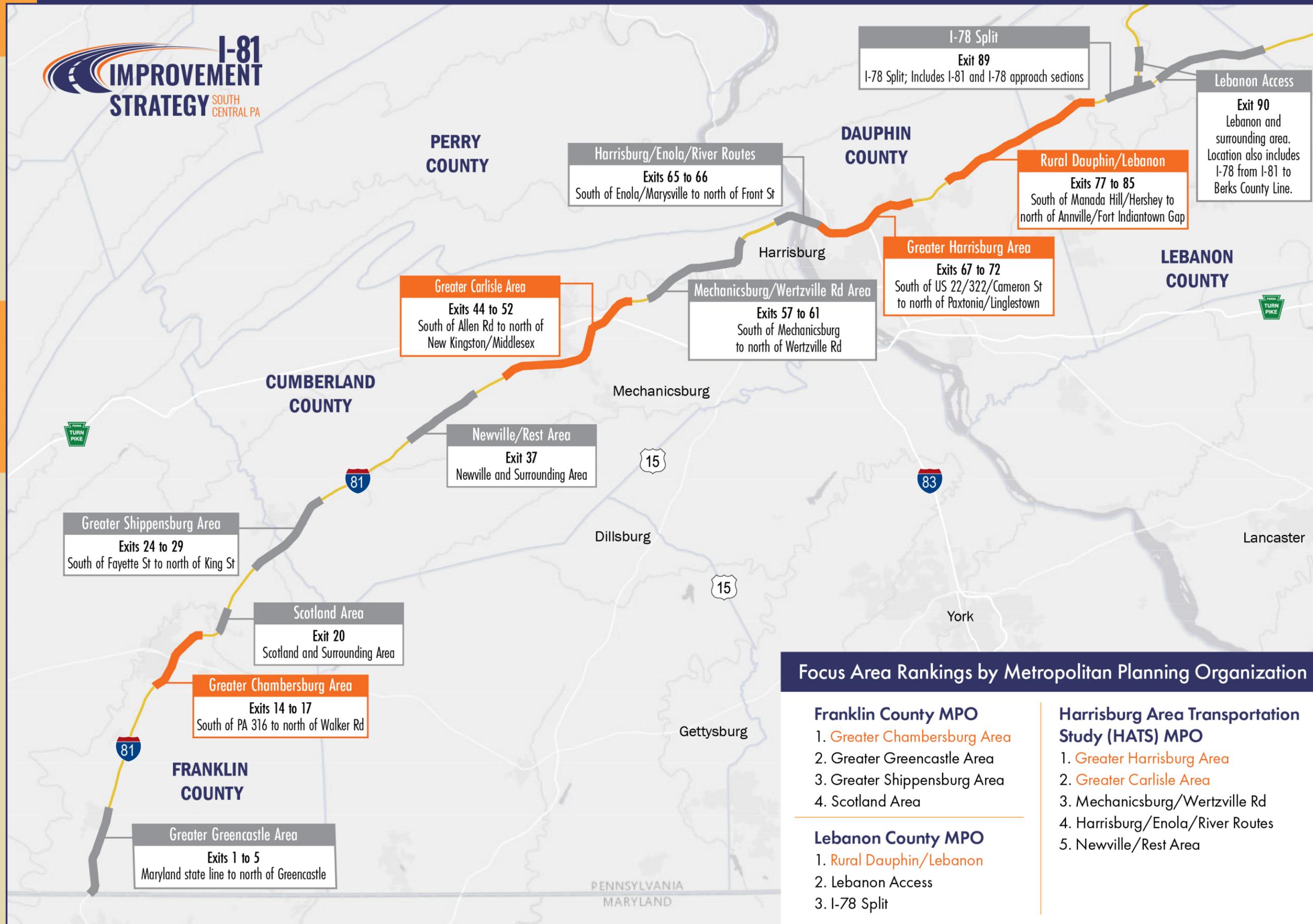
Focus areas are defined as locations with consistent needs that could be addressed by improvement projects or initiatives. Twelve Focus Areas along I-81 were identified during Phase 1.

HOW WERE THE TOP FOCUS AREAS IDENTIFIED?



Each Focus Area was evaluated based on needs in the areas of safety, mobility (congestion), condition of pavement and bridges and access as it relates to existing and planned land use. The technical data was compared to the public feedback collected and then prioritized based on MPO boundaries. The ranked focus areas in each MPO are shown in the call out box on the map. The four focus areas being evaluated are highlighted in orange.

Top Ranked Focus Areas



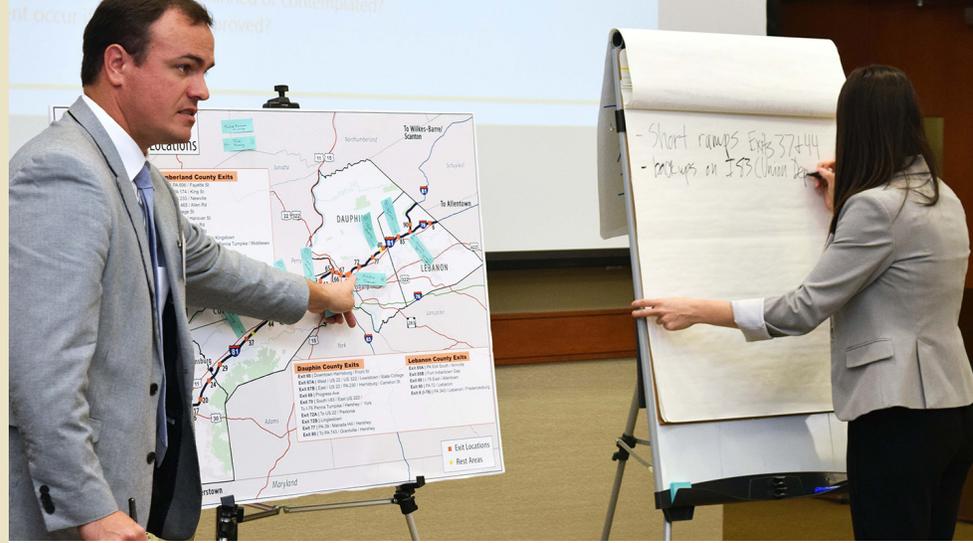


Public & Stakeholder Feedback

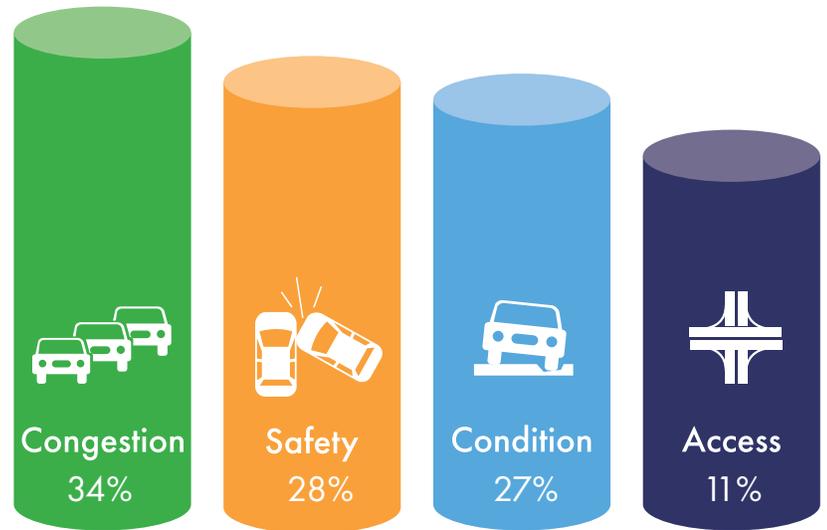
CONGESTION AND SAFETY TOP PRIORITIES FOR MOTORISTS

Public feedback on both the project needs and the prioritization criteria, were collected through various methods. These methods included, legislative briefings, an online public survey shared by news outlets in every county, interviews with municipal officials, workshops with the MPOs, traffic incident management teams, business and industry leaders including major shippers, and a general public meeting. In total more than 2,000 comments were submitted through the project website. A summary of these comments can be found at www.i81southcentralpa.com on the Public Input Summary map.

During Phase 2, public feedback will be collected on the prioritized list of Focus Areas as well as conceptual improvements for the top focus area in each region. Updates and feedback will be shared through the project website.



Public Ranking of I-81 Transportation Concerns During Phase 1



Schedule

PHASE 1: COMPLETE

Needs Assessment & Prioritization



FALL 2019 – SPRING 2020

Initial Planning, Announcements & Data Collection.



Conduct Public Outreach and Needs Analysis.



SUMER 2020

Draft Focus Areas for Feedback. Document Needs.



FALL 2020

Share Assessment. Prioritize Focus Areas.



PHASE 2: IN PROGRESS

Concept Development

SPRING/SUMMER 2021

Identify Focus Area Improvements. Develop Candidate Projects.



FALL 2021

Finalize Playbook for Transportation Improvement Programs

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

Steve Deck, AICP – Executive Director
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

✉ feedback@i81SouthCentralPA.com

www.i81SouthCentralPA.com

#My81 Strategy June 2021