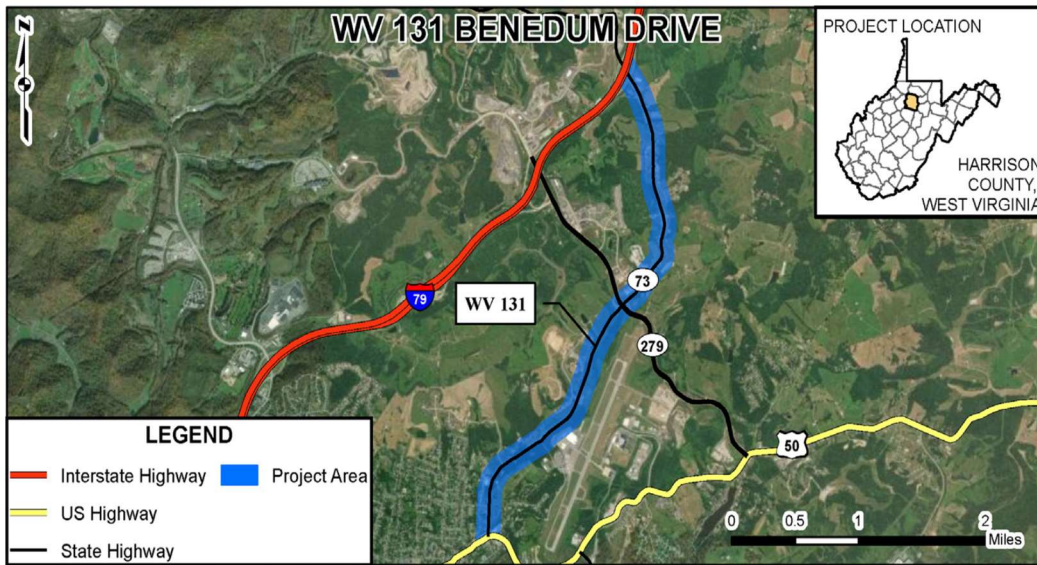


**Informational Workshop Public Meeting**  
**WV 131 Benedum Drive Widening Project**  
**City of Bridgeport**  
**Harrison County, West Virginia**

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**West Virginia Division of Highways in cooperation  
with the Federal Highway Administration and  
City of Bridgeport**

**State Project U217-131-0.00**

**Federal Project #STPG-0131(007)D**



**The Bridge Sports Complex  
Bridgeport, WV**

**Tuesday, February 13, 2024  
4:30 pm to 7:30pm**

**WV 131 Benedum Drive Widening Project  
Replacement Project  
STATE PROJECT #U217-131-0.00  
FEDERAL PROJECT #STPG-0131(007)D**

**WORKSHOP PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Informational Workshop Public Meeting is to provide information on the proposed West Virginia (WV) 131 Benedum Drive Widening Project, Bridgeport, Harrison County. The workshop is intended to be informal to maximize the interaction between citizens and the project team and is an opportunity for you to provide comments.

We encourage you to examine the project maps and displays, discuss the project with the members of our project team who are here today, and complete the enclosed comment sheet.

**WORKSHOP FORMAT**

The WVDOH procedures for public workshops are established to ensure meaningful citizen input in the development for proposed projects, in compliance with all applicable regulations and requirements. This informational workshop public meeting is from 4:30pm to 7:30pm and there will be NO FORMAL PRESENTATION.

**Registration**

If you have not already printed your name and address on the registration sheet, please remember to do so before you leave. Additional copies of this handout and the comment sheet are available at the registration table. The WVDOH welcomes your comments on the project; therefore, please feel free to write comments as you visit other displays around the room. You can drop the completed sheet in the Comment Box; return it to any WVDOH representative at the meeting, or mail it to the WVDOH at the address below or on the WVDOH Website at

<https://transportation.wv.gov/highways/engineering/comment/Pages/WV-131-Benedum-Drive-Widening-Project.aspx>

(Click on the Comment Online Hyperlink).

**Environmental Studies**

Representatives from the WVDOH and engineering/environmental consulting firm GAI Consultants, Inc. are here today to discuss the environmental

study process. Maps depicting the proposed project location are available for viewing. This meeting complies with the public involvement requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and Section 106 of the National Preservation Act of 1966. This project will be processed as a Categorical Exclusion (CE). The Project Summary table at the end of this document compares the environmental impacts of the Project's build and no build alternatives.

## **Engineering**

Representatives from the WVDOH are available to discuss the location and preliminary design of the project area. These representatives also have information regarding the area studied for the project.

## **Right-of-Way**

WVDOH Right-of-Way representatives are available to answer your questions regarding any right-of-way acquisitions.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project consists of widening of WV 131 (Benedum Drive) Bridgeport from its junction with US 50 north to a point approximately 0.3 miles south of its junction with Interstate 79 (I-79). Approximately 3.12 miles of roadway will be widened. Development in the project area has led to an increased need for accommodating traffic. The purpose of this project is to improve traffic flow and enhance safety through operational improvements. The existing roadway has two 10-foot lanes and minimal shoulders. In addition, there are several curves where sight distance is limited. Road widening is needed to improve sight distance and reduce accidents.

The Project includes widening Benedum Drive to two 11-foot lanes and 5-foot paved shoulders. The Project also includes relocation of the CR 50/32 (Crosswind Drive) intersection and realignment of the CR 73/9 (Corbin Branch Road) intersection, culvert and drainage work, and slope stabilization.

During construction, detours will be used for southbound traffic. Northbound traffic will be directed through the construction zone. Approximately 20.9 acres of permanent new right-of-way is required.

**One Build Alternative and the No-Build Option** were studied for the road widening project. See plan sheets for project details.

- **Build Alternative** consists of roadway widening beginning at Station 12+81.81 just north of the WV 131/US 50 intersection and ending at Station 198+91.00, which is approximately 0.3 mile south of I-79. The existing roadway would be widened to two 11-foot lanes and 5-foot paved shoulders. A 5-

foot-wide sidewalk will also be constructed on the west side of WV 131 from the Project start near US 50 to the East Olive Street intersection. The Crosswind Drive, Powerhouse Drive, and Corbin Branch Road intersections will be realigned to improve safety. A retaining wall and guardrail will be placed along the east side of widened roadway from Station 110+94.35 to Station 117+84.29 and from Station 123+14.30 to Station 125+75.00 to prevent disturbance to Ann Run. The existing Corbin Branch Road pavement and structure over Ann Run will be removed as part of this Project.

There are several stretches within the Project where widening will not be done. No widening will be done in the Stonebridge Drive area from Station 36+00 to Station 43+00.10 due to the presence of auxiliary turn lanes. The Forrester Boulevard intersection includes a turning lane and so no widening will be done in this area from Station 74+00.00 to Station 82+66.41. WV 131 will not be widened at the WV 279 interchange due to the presence of the WV 279 overpass bridge. At the northern Project terminus, WV 131 has been previously widened to I-79.

ROW impacts will extend the entire length of the Project. Based on preliminary information, 77 parcels will be permanently impacted with an estimated 20.9 acres of newly acquired ROW. Three residential structures and one non-residential structure will be impacted. Suspended utility lines will need to be relocated along with a water line. The Build Alternative will impact 0.98 acre of wetlands, 0.38 acre of streams, and a 0.01 acre of undeveloped land on The Bridge Sports Complex, a Section 4(f) property. However, this land is located on a hillside slope adjacent to WV 131; impacts are considered to be minimal. **Total Build Alternative cost is approximately \$23,800,000.**

- **No-build Option** was examined as a baseline condition for this Project, but it does not meet the Project's purpose and need of improving safety and providing efficient traffic flow. No improvements other than regular maintenance would be done under the No-Build Alternative, which does not address the safety concerns regarding this roadway. Traffic is expected to increase which will result in travel delays due to inefficient traffic flow. In addition, the existing roadway does not meet current design standards. These conditions cannot be improved without road widening and that is not possible with the No-Build option. This option is not feasible.

## **PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR CONSTRUCTION**

**The Build Alternative has been identified for the Project, however that decision will be made after this Public Workshop and receipt of Public and Agency comments. Your views are important to the Division of Highways.**

The alternatives analysis indicates that the Build Alternative meets the Project's purpose and need. Environmental evaluations are primarily confined to minor natural resources impacts including soil erosion and vegetation disturbance (wetlands and streams). Although there are ROW, utility, Section 4(f), structure,

stream, and wetland impacts, these impacts have been minimized by using the existing highway alignment. This alternative is recommended as the **Preferred Alternative**.

<b>CURRENT PROJECT SCHEDULE</b>
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**Public Information Workshop.....February 13, 2024**

**Public Meeting Comments Due By.....March 14, 2024**

**\*Current Environmental Clearance/FHWA NEPA Document**

**Approval.....Fall 2024**

**Right of Way.....Winter 2024**

**\*Expected Construction Start Date.....Spring 2025**

**\*Dates are subject to change**

**Summary of Key Project Impacts**

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	BUILD ALTERNATIVE	NO-BUILD ALTERNATIVE
	Meets Project Needs?	Yes	No
<b>GEOMETRIC FEATURES</b>	Road Widening Length (ft)	16,488 ft	N/A
	Design Speed	35, 45 MPH	35, 45 MPH
	Minimum Horizontal Radius (ft)	314, 587	N/A
	Maximum Vertical Grade	10%	N/A
	Design Exceptions Required?	No	No
<b>RIGHT-OF-WAY IMPACTS</b>	Structures Impacted (Residential)	3	N/A
	Structures Impacted (Non-Residential)	1	N/A
	Permanent Right-of-Way Takes	77	N/A
	Permanent Right-of-Way Impacts (Acres)	20.93	N/A
	Permanent Easements	2	N/A
	Permanent Easements (Acres)	0.02	N/A
	Permanent Drainage Easements	17	N/A
	Permanent Drainage Easements (Acres)	0.68	N/A
	Temporary Construction Easements	26	N/A
	Temporary Construction Easements (Acres)	1.50	N/A
	Temporary Easements	2	N/A
	Temporary Easements (Acres)	0.16	N/A
<b>LOCAL ROAD IMPACTS</b>	Driveways Impacted	42	N/A
	Permanent - Number	12	N/A
	Permanent - Length	1,825.15	N/A
	Temporary - Number	0	N/A
<b>POTENTIAL UTILITY IMPACTS</b>	Temporary - Length	0	N/A
	Utility Pole Relocations	80	N/A
	Water Meter / Valves affected	17	N/A
	Sanitary Sewer Manholes affected	0	N/A
	Waterline Relocations (ft)	8,500	N/A
<b>PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE</b>	Sanitary Sewer Line Relocations (ft)	0	N/A
	Construction Cost	\$23,795,726	N/A
	Utilities	\$13,356.00	N/A
	Right-of-Way Cost	\$4,850.00	N/A
	<b>Total Cost (with Utilities and R/W)</b>	<b>\$23,813,932</b>	<b>N/A</b>

## COMMENTS

Please send written comments on or before Thursday, March 14, 2024 to:

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

**Project Information and Comment Sheets can be found online at our web page:**  
<https://transportation.wv.gov/highways/engineering/comment/Pages/WV-131-Benedum-Drive-Widening-Project.aspx>

(Click on the Comment Online Hyperlink)

DATE:

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

**DATE: Tuesday, February 13, 2024**  
**LOCATION: The Bridge Sports Complex**  
**SUBJECT: INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP PUBLIC MEETING**  
**PROJECT: WV 131 Benedum Drive Widening Project**  
**U217-131-0.00**  
**STPG-0131(007)D**  
**Bridgeport, Harrison County**

**COMMENTS DUE BY Thursday, March 14, 2024**

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 Informational Workshop Public Meeting?

Project Information and Comment Sheets  
Can be found online at our WVDOH Website at  
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