

I-81 Corridor Coalition Stakeholders,

I'm writing to update you on our activities. I provided the last update at the end of 2017 and I can't believe it's May already. I'd hoped to provide you with monthly updates but I tend to place a higher priority on action rather than reporting. Of course I realize the importance of both and promise to find a better balance.

As usual, included below my signature is a partial list of specific activities that we've undertaken on behalf of the Coalition. If you see anything listed that piques your interest please let's discuss further.

In general, most of our efforts lately have been focused in these primary areas:

1. Education and outreach – I've done a lot of travel and presentations on I-81 CC issues lately. There's a lot of interest/concern about the impacts of automated vehicles and the impacts of E-Commerce and distribution/production facilities on the corridor
2. Highway road weather – Projects, completed and proposed, with a focus on the weather issues that cause crashes and delays
3. Implementation of freight info systems – we are working on multiple related proposals for federal and other sources of funding
4. Incident management - use of new technologies (drones) and facilitation of cross-border communication
5. Drones – the application of drones to improve highway safety and reliability. We recently completed a project where a tethered drone was paired with a VDOT Safety Service Patrol vehicle to provide persistent overhead surveillance at incident sites. We've also long advocated for use of drones for highway crash site reconstruction and are supporting related ongoing efforts in VA. This will provide the major benefit of quicker incident clearance and reduced secondary incidents.

We've also been working with our Steering Committee Chair, Ken King, and others to restructure the Coalition to increase our effectiveness and funding resiliency. To this end we've been discussing the securing of recurrent annual funding from both public and private sponsors and the expansion of the Coalition footprint to include relevant highway connectors in the Appalachian region. More to come.

As always, please feel free to contact us with suggestions and comments or if you'd like more information about anything mentioned here.

Also, please follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to see more about what we're up to. Our Twitter feed is particularly relevant (and current) and a good source of current Corridor issues.

As always, thanks for your support!

~Andy

Andrew (Andy) Alden, MS, PE
Executive Director – Interstate 81 Corridor Coalition
Group Leader – Eco-Transportation and Alternative Technologies
Virginia Tech Transportation Institute
www.i-81coalition.org [LinkedIn](#) [Twitter](#)
www.vtti.vt.edu/research/etat
540-231-1526 (o) 540-553-5264 (m)

RECENT AND ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- ARC Possible collaboration between ARC grantee and VTTI around UAV and autonomous vehicles, (12/21/17)
- Transportation Research Board, Washington, DC (01/07-09/18)
- Ridge & Valley AUVSI Chapter meeting, (01/16/18)
- NSF Smart and Connected Communities (S&CC) program, (01/19/18)
- Corridor coalition chat - Sittig, Paul, MNDOT (01/19/18)
- GoRail Meeting, (01/22/18)
- VAMPO Board of Directors Meeting, GoToMeeting, (01/23/18)
- Berkeley County Council I-81 Budget Presentation, Martinsburg, WV (01/25/18)
- I-81 Corridor Coalition Private Donor Discussion, Ken King, (01/29/18)
- I-81 Steering Committee Conference Call, (01/29/18)
- ITSVA Legislative Reception, Richmond, VA (01/31/18)
- I-81 Corridor Coalition ATCMTD Discussion, call, (02/05/18)
- Met with Cody Davis on I-81 issues, (02/06/18)
- Virginia Safe Wildlife Corridors Collaborative, Staunton, VA, (02/22/18)
- AUSVI Ridge and Valley Chapter meeting, (02/28/18)
- NEXT Generation of Transportation introductory meeting (03/02/18)
- Meeting with NEXCO-West, (03/15/18)
- I-81 Corridor Coalition ATCMTD proposal discussion Winchester, VA (03/16/18)
- Town Hall Meeting – met with Senators Warner, Edwards and Delegate Hurst (03/27/18)
- Economic Impact Study – Potential Amtrak Extension to Bristol, Roanoke, VA (04/04/18)
- Pennsylvania Automated Vehicle Summit, Panel Presentation (04/09-10/18)
- VDOT Outreach presentation on I-81 and HAVs. Blue Ridge Community College (04/12/18)
- Truck Brake Audit TRB IDEA proposal, (04/16/18)
- WVLTAP/WVAMPO Conference Presentation, Morgantown, WV, (04/18/18)
- Ridge & Valley AUVSI Board Meeting, Christiansburg, VA, (04/20/18)
- American Metrological Society Weather and HAVs Presentation, Washington, DC, (04/25/18)
- Carlisle Chamber Presentation, Carlisle, PA, (04/26/18)
- APICS DC Metro Chapter Presentation, Greencastle, PA, (04/26/18)

- Blacksburg Transit Presentation and Tour, Blacksburg, VA, (04/27/18)
- Visit with VA Delegate Chris Hurst on I-81 issues (04/30/18)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Intelligent Transportation Systems – Virginia (ITVSA) Conference, Richmond, VA, (05/17-18/18)
- VA DEQ Salt Management Strategy Development (SaMS) Training Presentation, Washington, DC, (05/23/18)