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EDITOR'S PICK

## New plan for I-95 crossing project to be unveiled

By SCOTT SHENK THE FREE LANCE-STAR 9 hrs ago

Details of the redesign for the southbound Rappahannock River crossing project on Interstate 95 will be unveiled Wednesday during a public meeting.

The meeting is set to run from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House & Conference Center in Central Park.

The \$125 million project will add collector-distributor lanes along the interstate between U.S. 17 in Stafford County and State Route 3 in Fredericksburg.

The Virginia Department of Transportation originally planned to add the collector-distributor lanes on the outside of the primary interstate lanes, but the new plan calls for building three new lanes in the median. Those new lanes in the median will serve as the new primary lanes. The existing primary lanes will be converted to carry traffic on the new feeder lanes, with three lanes instead of the two, as the original plan called for.

The new plan also will extend the southernmost merge area about one mile further than originally planned.

VDOT's Fredericksburg District Administrator Marcie Parker showed the new design to the Policy Committee of the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization last month.

She told the committee that public comments on the original plan raised concerns about ramps, merge and sign issues, so VDOT decided to look at alternative schemes.

Parker added that the change will have no impact on the project's cost.

Construction of the massive project is slated to begin later this year and be completed in 2022.

There is a companion crossing project for the northbound side of I-95, but it has not yet been approved for funding. There are no plans to move the northbound collector-distributor lanes to the median.

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