



Summer 2022

## Construction of Project's Two Bridges over Route 143 and Skiffes Creek Nearly Complete

This spring and summer, VDOT's contractor crews have been focused on the construction of the two bridge crossings that are part of the new Skiffes Creek Connector roadway, between Route 60 (Pocahontas Trail) and Route 143 (Merrimac Trail) in James City County. During the remaining summer months, crews will finalize the bridge decking and railing, fencing and complete remaining elements on the 2-lane bridge over Skiffes Creek (photo) and a second crossing spanning Route 143 and its adjacent CSX railroad tracks.



At other sections of the project site, teams are finalizing the relocation of power and telecommunication utilities along the Connector path, maintaining stormwater basins and critical environmental facilities, and installing traffic signals at Route 60 and Route 143 intersections. Crews continue work on Route 143 northbound to widen the road to accommodate new turn lanes to interface with the upcoming signalized intersection. Final grading and earthwork activities allow for upcoming construction of the final roadway surface and permanent drainage systems installed along the Connector path.

The Skiffes Creek Connector is estimated to open to motorists as early as late 2022. All work is weather- and schedule-dependent and subject to change.



*Photo: Aerial view of bridge progress over Route 143 and CSX rail.*



*Photo: Cranes hold steel bridge beams over Route 143 while crews in bucket lifts secure the beams in place.*



*Photo: Concrete railings are constructed on the bridge over Route 143 and CSX rail as part of the final elements of the bridge construction.*



*Photo: The first of the horizontal steel beams is delivered and placed on the Skiffes Creek Bridge.*



*Photo: Crews work on the concrete curb and gutter for the approach roadway to Skiffes Creek Bridge.*



*Photo: Crews grade slopes and place topsoil to accommodate the new roadway approaching the bridges.*

The **Skiffes Creek Connector** project includes the construction of the following:

- New roadway connection between Route 143 and Route 60
- Intersection improvements at Route 60
- Bridge over Skiffes Creek
- Bridge over Route 143 and CSX rail
- Intersection improvements at Route 143
- Stormwater management and drainage systems
- Multi-use path along Route 60

Additional details on the project can be found at VDOT's project website located at [www.virginiadot.org/SkiffesCreek](http://www.virginiadot.org/SkiffesCreek).

## Travel Impacts

### Lane Shifts on Route 143 (Merrimac Trail)

Motorists traveling along Route 143 will encounter a temporary traffic shift in all travel lanes in both directions. This shift allow crews and equipment to safely access the roadway shoulders to complete installation of traffic signals, permanent drainage systems and intersection pavement. All lanes remain open in both directions.

## Upcoming Construction Activities

The following activities are expected within the project limits in the coming months:

- Final construction activities of the two bridges and approach roadway along the Connector route.
- Final placement of ground support materials along the Connector path in advance of pavement surfacing and curb and gutter installation.

- Final preparations for traffic signals at intersections of Route 60 and Route 143, including conduit, junction boxes and operational cabinets.
- Installation of permanent storm water facilities and underdrains along the Connector path.
- Preparation for and installation of final landscaping along path and intersections.

All work is weather- and schedule-dependent and subject to change.

## Work Zone Safety is Important to All



### REMINDER: WORK ZONE SAFETY

Please be mindful of crews working alongside the road as large work vehicles may be turning into and out of construction entrances.

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