



Introduction

In the Fall of 2020, the I-81 Improvement Strategy Team hosted an Online Public Meeting to provide the general public with the opportunity to review and provide feedback on 12 identified focus areas, associated needs and the criteria that was used during the prioritization of the focus areas.

There was strong participation from I-81 commuters across all four counties. About 78 percent of respondents were from the general public while the others identified as government/elected official, Metropolitan Planning Organization, business and industry or other. All areas along the corridor gave feedback including responses from as far away as Albany County, NY and Cobb County, GA.

Date

Sept 15 - Oct 5, 2020

Attendees

700

Comments Submitted

247

Comments by Focus Area

As a result of data collection, analyses and public feedback, a series of 12 focus areas was identified. These focus areas are defined as locations with consistent needs that could be addressed by improvement projects or initiatives. Many comments we received during the online public meeting confirmed what we heard during Phase 1 Needs Assessment and Prioritization. Below is an outline of comments received from each focus area.

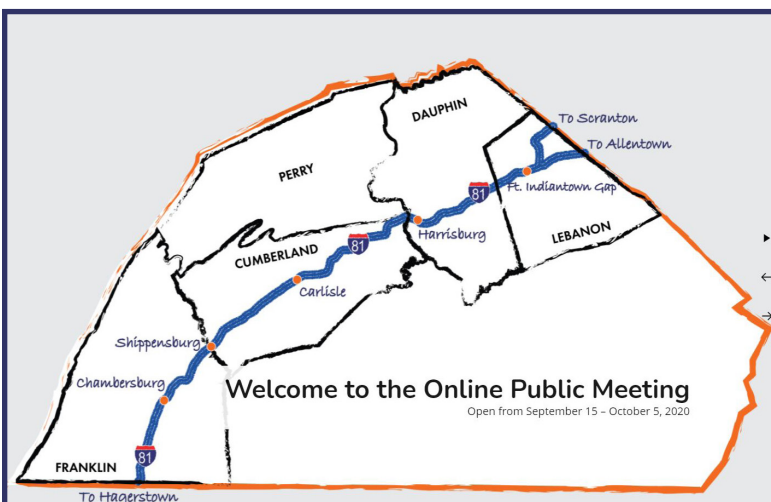


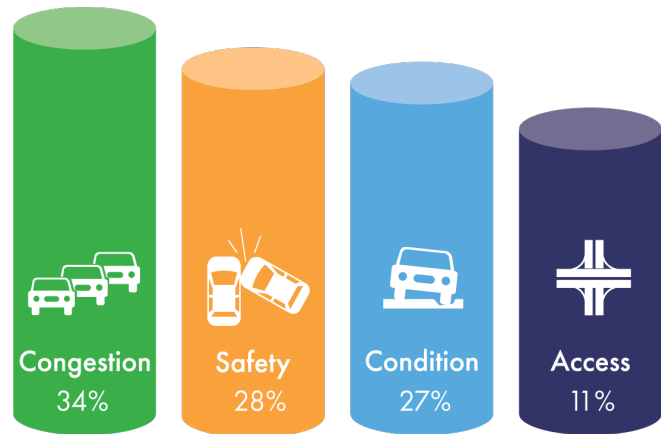
Image of Online Public Meeting website homepage.

| Focus Area | # of Comments |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Greater Carlisle Area | 63 |
| Mechanicsburg/Wertzville Rd. Area | 26 |
| Rural Dauphin/Lebanon | 24 |
| Newville/Rest Area | 20 |
| Greater Shippensburg Area | 19 |
| Harrisburg/Enola/River Routes | 18 |
| Greater Harrisburg Area | 18 |
| Greater Chambersburg Area | 14 |
| I-78 Split | 14 |
| Greater Greencastle Area | 12 |
| Scotland | 10 |
| Lebanon Access | 9 |
| Total Comments | 247 |



What's Important to Travelers

Meeting participants were asked to rank the importance of highway safety, mobility (congestion), infrastructure (pavement and bridge), and land use and access for each focus area. With congestion ranked as the top criterion, it continues to be the most important issue that impacts travelers on I-81 followed by safety.



Congestion & Safety Top Priorities Overall

Public concerns across each of the corridor's focus areas vary widely. Below is how respondents prioritized the issues in each focus area as it relates to importance.

| Focus Area | Congestion | Safety | Condition | Access |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Greater Greencastle Area | 23% | 31% | 38% | 8% |
| Greater Chambersburg Area | 44% | 17% | 39% | 0% |
| Scotland | 38% | 46% | 8% | 8% |
| Greater Shippensburg Area | 55% | 33% | 6% | 6% |
| Newville/Rest Area | 44% | 31% | 19% | 6% |
| Greater Carlisle Area | 24% | 35% | 25% | 16% |
| Mechanicsburg/Wertzville Rd. Area | 33% | 19% | 48% | 0% |
| Harrisburg/Enola/River Routes | 36% | 9% | 46% | 9% |
| Great Harrisburg Area | 56% | 22% | 11% | 11% |
| Rural Dauphin/Lebanon | 22% | 31% | 22% | 25% |
| I-78 Split | 8% | 50% | 21% | 21% |
| Lebanon Access | 25% | 0% | 50% | 25% |

Highest ranked concern in each area is highlighted.