

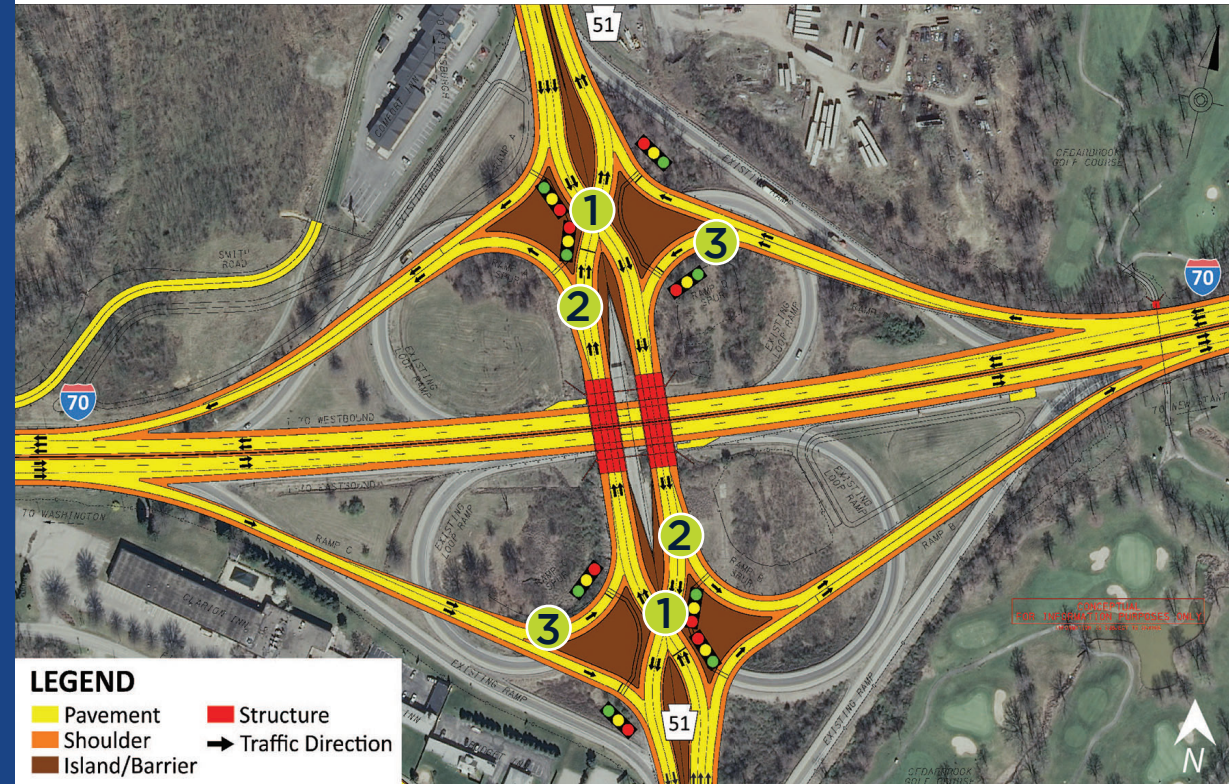
2022

# INTERCHANGE PROJECT 70 51

## DIVERGING DIAMOND INTERCHANGE (DDI)

The DDI's primary purpose is to move traffic more efficiently compared to other interchange types. The DDI's shape is similar to the standard diamond interchange, but the DDI has three distinct differences.

- 1 Traffic on Route 51 will cross over to the opposite or left side of the roadway within the interchange area to access interstate on-ramps more directly.
- 2 The left turn movements from Route 51 to the I-70 on-ramps will occur from the left side of the roadway eliminating the need to cross opposing travel lanes. The benefit is free flow left turns onto the I-70 ramps.
- 3 The left turn movements from the I-70 exit ramps to Route 51 do not need to cross opposing travel lanes to gain access to the desired lanes of Route 51.



## How to drive a DDI

### ROUTE 51 NORTHBOUND (Toward Pittsburgh)

#### To Stay on Route 51:

- Motorists remain in the Route 51 northbound travel lanes through both crossovers.

#### To Go East on I-70:

- Motorists stay to the right and turn right onto the ramp before the southern crossover.

#### To Go West on I-70:

- Motorists stay to the left through the southern crossover, enter the far-left lane and turn left directly onto the ramp after passing over I-70.

### I-70 EASTBOUND EXIT AT ROUTE 51

#### To Exit at Route 51:

- Motorists utilize Exit 46.

#### To Go North on Route 51:

- Motorists enter the left turn lane of the exit ramp. When the light is green, turn left directly onto the northbound lanes.

#### To Go South on Route 51:

- Motorists enter the right lane of the exit ramp. When the light is green, turn right onto the southbound lanes.

### ROUTE 51 SOUTHBOUND (Toward Uniontown)

#### To Stay on Route 51:

- Motorists remain in the Route 51 southbound travel lanes through both crossovers.

#### To Go West on I-70:

- Motorists stay to the right and turn right onto the ramp before the northern crossover.

#### To Go East on I-70:

- Motorists stay to the left through the northern crossover, enter the far-left lane and turn left directly onto the ramp after passing over I-70.

### I-70 WESTBOUND EXIT AT ROUTE 51

#### To Exit at Route 51:

- Motorists utilize Exit 46.

#### To Go South on Route 51:

- Motorists enter the left lane of the exit ramp. When the light is green, turn left directly onto the southbound lanes.

#### To Go North on Route 51:

- Motorists enter the right lane of the exit ramp. When the light is green, turn right onto the northbound lanes.

## How to Drive the Diverging Diamond Interchange



### DID YOU KNOW?

This DDI will be the fourth in Pennsylvania. The DDI at Route 19 and I-70 was the first of its kind in the state. There are now more than 130 DDIs in operation in the United States with many more in the design and construction phase.

### DDI DESIGN FEATURES:

Signing and pavement markings including post-mounted and overhead signs, will help guide motorists through the interchange. Additional arrow pavement markings will be provided on the travel lanes for guidance through the DDI.

Curbed islands will guide motorists through the crossovers and a median barrier will help to reduce headlight glare in the interchange.

Traffic signals will have two phases, unlike three or more phases at typical interchanges and intersections.

## A new interchange project is coming that will change the way you will drive.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is implementing long term improvements to Interstate 70 in Washington and Westmoreland Counties. This project will improve I-70 and Route 51. With this project, I-70 will be reconstructed similar to other sections of I-70 to the east and west. A Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) will be constructed to replace the current substandard cloverleaf interchange at I-70/Route 51.

### SCHEDULE:

Project Let: April 2022

Construction Start: Summer 2022

Construction Complete: Fall 2026

### If you have any questions, please contact:

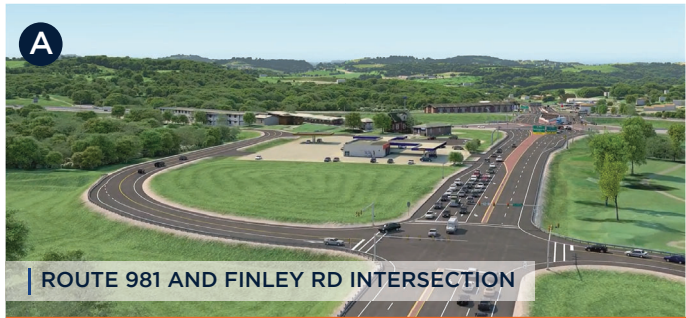
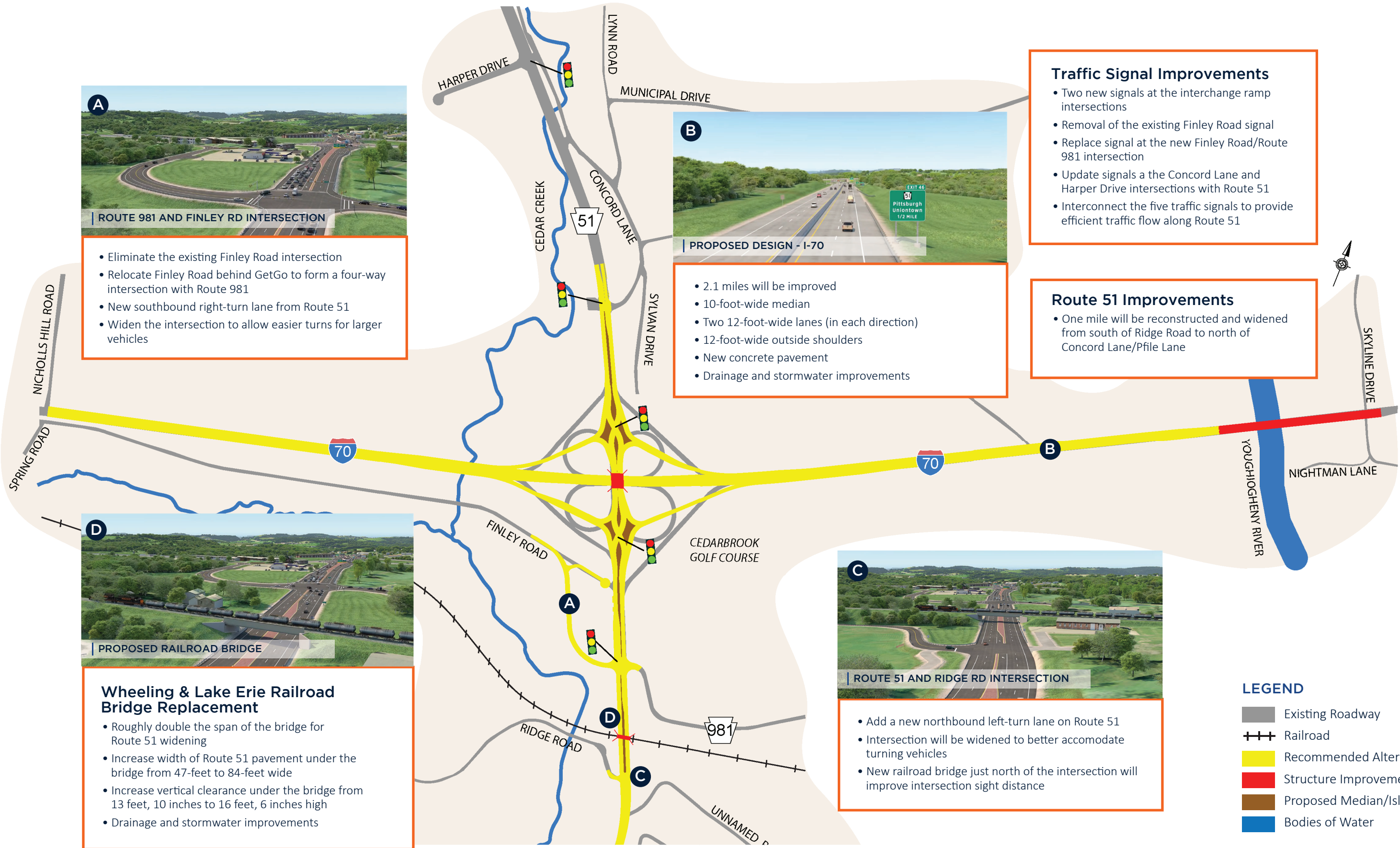
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Watch the DDI simulation video to see the improvements in action at:  
[www.i-70projects.com/projects/i-70-at-sr-51-interchange](http://www.i-70projects.com/projects/i-70-at-sr-51-interchange)





ROUTE 981 AND FINLEY RD INTERSECTION

- Eliminate the existing Finley Road intersection
- Relocate Finley Road behind GetGo to form a four-way intersection with Route 981
- New southbound right-turn lane from Route 51
- Widen the intersection to allow easier turns for larger vehicles



PROPOSED DESIGN - I-70

- 2.1 miles will be improved
- 10-foot-wide median
- Two 12-foot-wide lanes (in each direction)
- 12-foot-wide outside shoulders
- New concrete pavement
- Drainage and stormwater improvements

- Traffic Signal Improvements**
- Two new signals at the interchange ramp intersections
  - Removal of the existing Finley Road signal
  - Replace signal at the new Finley Road/Route 981 intersection
  - Update signals at the Concord Lane and Harper Drive intersections with Route 51
  - Interconnect the five traffic signals to provide efficient traffic flow along Route 51

- Route 51 Improvements**
- One mile will be reconstructed and widened from south of Ridge Road to north of Concord Lane/Pfile Lane



PROPOSED RAILROAD BRIDGE

- Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad Bridge Replacement**
- Roughly double the span of the bridge for Route 51 widening
  - Increase width of Route 51 pavement under the bridge from 47-feet to 84-feet wide
  - Increase vertical clearance under the bridge from 13 feet, 10 inches to 16 feet, 6 inches high
  - Drainage and stormwater improvements



ROUTE 51 AND RIDGE RD INTERSECTION

- Add a new northbound left-turn lane on Route 51
- Intersection will be widened to better accommodate turning vehicles
- New railroad bridge just north of the intersection will improve intersection sight distance

**LEGEND**

- Existing Roadway
- Railroad
- Recommended Alternative
- Structure Improvements
- Proposed Median/Island
- Bodies of Water