



Supervisor Tony Buffington

## Blue Ridge District

NewsFlash



## West Virginia US Route 340 in Harpers Ferry to Close Beginning September 12 for Rock Slide Repair Project

**Planned Detour Route Follows Route 9 and Harpers Ferry Road for 90 Days Starting Tuesday, September 12**

Sent: September 8, 2023

In order to stabilize a rockslide-prone section of the mountain high above US 340 near Harpers Ferry, the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) has been coordinating the US 340 Rock Slide Repair Project in Harpers Ferry, WV, to address safety issues associated with the rock-fall areas along US 340. The area currently has a high potential for rockfalls that impact public safety and vehicular mobility.

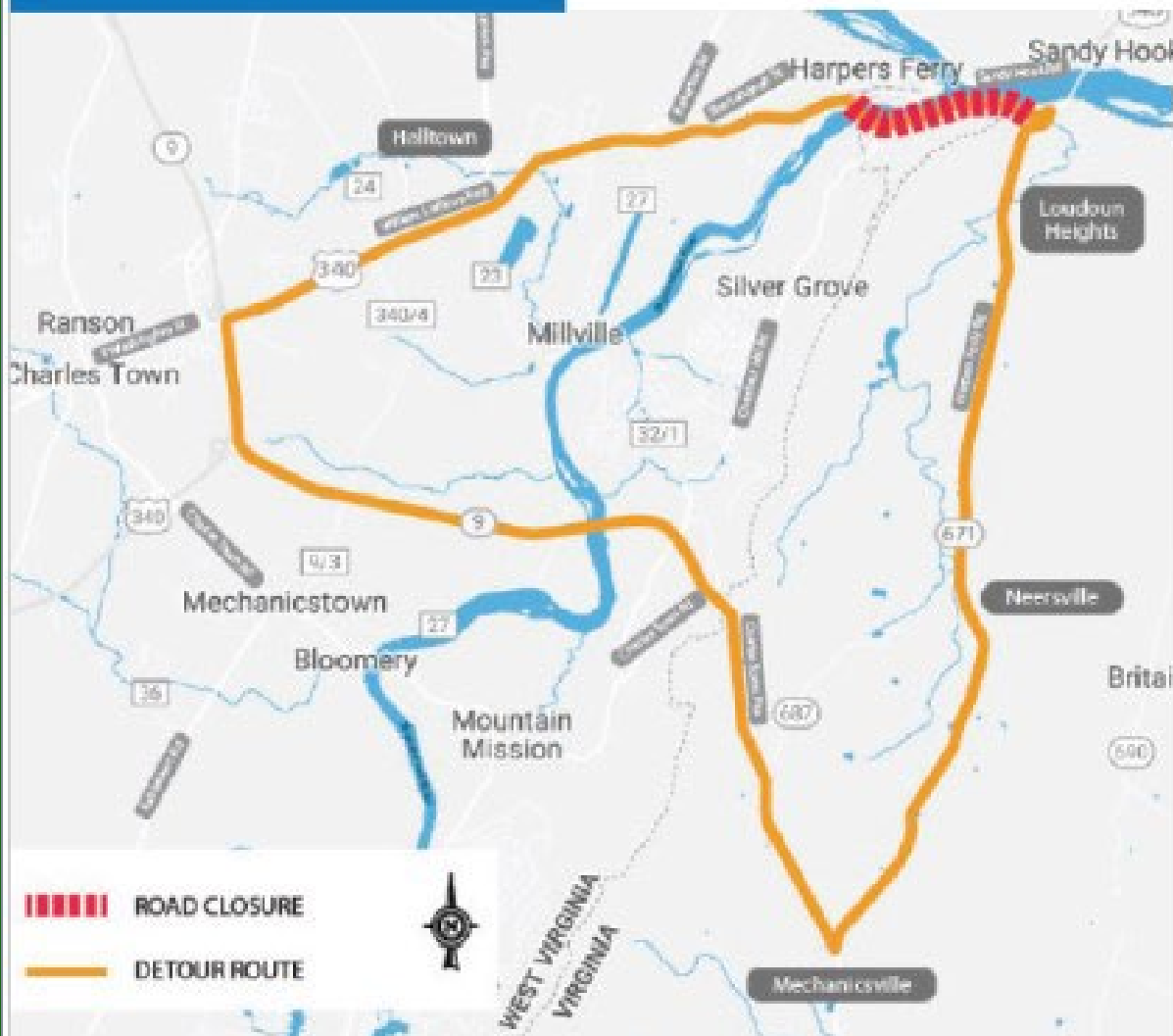
According to both the project page and a [May 2023 article](#), the project will require closing US 340 from September through December to remove rock and install rockfall barriers above US 340 where it hugs the Shenandoah River just south of Harper's Ferry.

US 340 is a high-traffic volume corridor carrying about 24,500 vehicles a day including local, commuter, and truck traffic from West Virginia, Virginia, and Maryland.

Due to the type of construction, this project includes a planned detour (map below), starting on September 12, 2023, that will impact western Loudoun residents along Route 9 and Harpers Ferry Road. Please be patient and allow for extra time when traveling through the area.

Check the [project website](#) frequently for project updates as construction moves forward.

## DETOUR ROUTE



My office has participated in several stakeholder meetings on this project. WVDOH, in partnership with Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), has begun implementing a temporary modification to the Charles Town Pike/Harpers Ferry Road (Rt 9/Rt 671) intersection that involves a temporary traffic signal for all directions, a change to the signal location and its timing, a change to the placement of the signal stop bars, and some additional shoulder enhancements that will accommodate tractor trailers. The temporary measures are not going to alleviate the volume of traffic on Route 9

or through the intersection, but this plan is anticipated to better manage the flow of traffic in as efficient a way as possible.

According to VDOT, these temporary modifications will assist to accommodate previously uncharacteristic movements and an increased number of larger vehicles/trucks while easing the excessive traffic volumes expected to pass through the intersection throughout the duration of the project as much as possible. However, it must be noted that these measures will not eliminate congestion at the intersection with increased delays and queuing are expected. Motorists are encouraged to seek alternate routes and/or avoid the typical AM and PM peak periods whenever possible.

In addition to WVDOH and VDOT coordination, there is a coordinated emergency response effort to ensure safety throughout the region.

As further updates become available, my office will keep you informed of this project's progress.

### **Project Details**

The project area is approximately one mile long and is located along the northbound (NB) and southbound (SB) lanes of US 340 in Jefferson County, WV, in the Loudoun Heights region of the Harper's Ferry National Historical Park and west of the West Virginia / Virginia border on the southern bank of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers. US 340 is a high-traffic volume corridor serving local, commuter, and truck traffic from West Virginia, Virginia, and Maryland.

This corridor also experiences high traffic volume from seasonal tourism due to its recreational and historical significance in the region. The existing cut slopes in the project study area are a product of US 340 construction in the mid-1950s and natural erosion along the Shenandoah River. The cut slopes and the exposed rock of natural slopes vary in height from 150 feet to greater than 300 feet above the roadway. The cut slopes in the project study area exhibit varying degrees of rockfall activity that present potential hazards to the traveling public and require ongoing maintenance by the WVDOH.

WVDOH awarded the lowest bidder contract to Triton Construction Inc. in May of 2023. The contract calls for stabilizing the corridor through rock slope scaling, localized rock bolting, and removal of potential large scale rockfall hazards. Additionally, the slope will have rockfall mitigation efforts including draped and pinned mesh, ground-level rockfall barriers, and on-slope rockfall attenuator systems.

For more details, please visit the project website at:  
[us340harpersferry.com](http://us340harpersferry.com)



**Loudoun County**

**VIRGINIA**

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All our best!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Buffington".

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