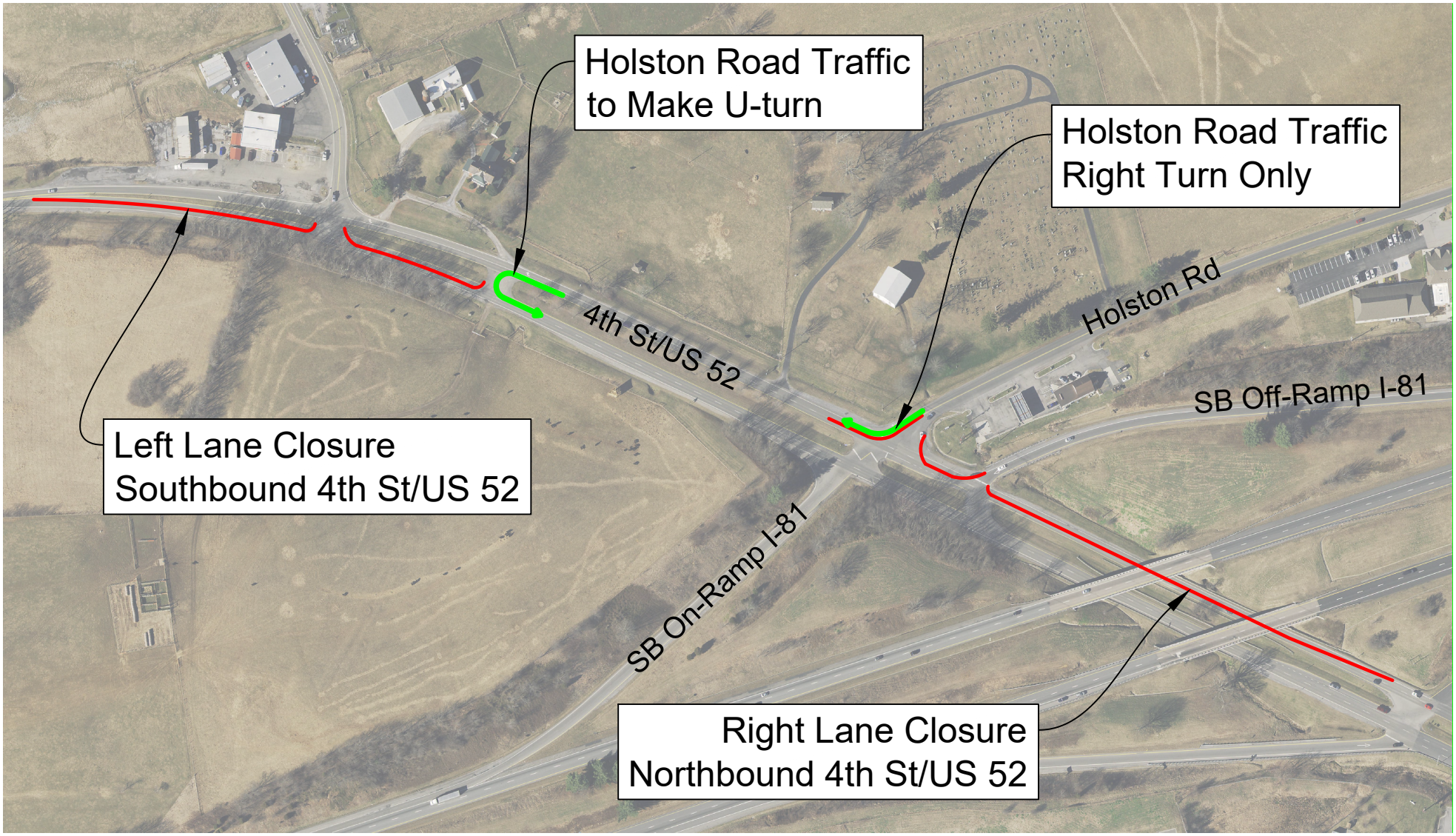
Cove Road Bridge Closure and Detour

If you have driven along Interstate 81 through the Wytheville area recently, you probably noticed that construction has started on the Cove Road bridge. Plans for the bridge include the construction of new safety barriers along I-81 and refurbishment of the bridge structure and deck. The repairs and improvements will require the closure of the bridge to all traffic for 5 to 6 weeks. The closure will begin on either Monday, Oct. 11 or the following Monday, Oct 18. Residents of the area are encouraged to allow a little extra time for travel and consider alternate routes where possible.

While the bridge is closed, Cove Road will be open to local traffic only between Holston Road and the I-81 bridge, as well as between Peppers Ferry Road and Rolling Hills Drive. Traffic between town and neighborhoods north of I-81 will need to use Holston Road and North 4th Street. Due to the increased traffic expected at the intersection of Holston and 4th, inbound traffic will be required to make a right turn only. Lane closures on 4th Street will facilitate right and U-turn movements. A sketch highlights the temporary detour near the intersection of Holston Road and 4th Street.

VDOT selected this detour option to reduce the time required for the bridge closure. Similar bridge repairs normally require up to 18 weeks when traffic is flagged using a single lane. Due to the unusual structure of this bridge, periodic closures of both lanes would be required to complete the work. That would cause additional confusion and inconvenience. Closing the bridge allows the work to be completed more quickly and restores normal traffic sooner.


Holston Road Traffic
to Make U-turn
Holston Road Traffic
Right Turn Only
4th St/US 52
Holston Rd
SB Off-Ramp I-81
Left Lane Closure
Southbound 4th St/US 52
SB On-Ramp I-81
Right Lane Closure
Northbound 4th St/US 52