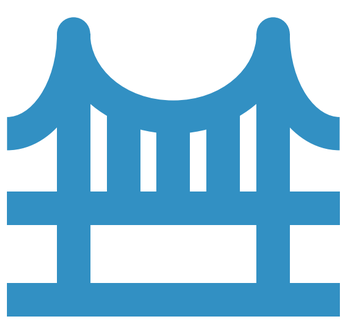
# Why Is This Work Needed?

**Sections of I-44 are aging and in need of replacement.** In addition, the curves near the Route 72 interchange present a challenge to drivers and can slow traffic.



Built in 1959, the **Route 68/8 bridge** in St. James was widened to four lanes in 1998 and is expected to serve the community well into the future. **Increased traffic north of I-44, however, has created the need for intersection improvements** to improve traffic flow and safety for drivers and pedestrians.



Built in 1964, the **Route V bridge** was designed for two lanes and later re-striped for three, resulting in narrow shoulders. **Its age and increased commercial traffic have created the need for a new bridge and updated interchange.**



**Roundabouts** at the Route V and Route 68/8 interchanges will **help slow traffic and reduce conflict points for drivers and pedestrians**. At Route 68/8, **shorter crosswalks, pedestrian signage and flashing beacons** will also **improve pedestrian safety and visibility**.