



# WORKING AROUND THE RAILROAD

Railroads are a fact of life in several Montana towns; many were built around railway stops and before a lot of today's roadways were built. These communities grew around the railway and roadways were built to serve them. In Belgrade, traffic on Jackrabbit Lane is quick to accumulate with every train car that passes through. As the city expands, traffic remains an ever-pressing issue. The railroad travels along Frontage Road and Main Street, and runs through the town at regular intervals.

**Diverting train traffic is not an option, but diverting vehicle travel is:** by constructing a railroad underpass or overpass on Jackrabbit Lane. An underpass acts as a tunnel for vehicles to travel beneath the tracks, while an overpass would act as a bridge, taking vehicles above the train.

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND WHAT LIES AHEAD

### EARLY 2019

- Jackrabbit – Madison to Main project outreach begins; originally plans did not include an underpass or overpass.
- Stakeholders and residents provide feedback to MDT, calling for a larger solution that would address train traffic.
- MDT evaluates and weighs concerns, even though there are no available funding sources for a solution.

### EARLY 2020

- The risk assessment shows that construction is feasible.
- MDT continues conversations with local stakeholders on how they wish to proceed.
- Community leaders conclude they would rather all major construction be done at once, putting a delay on the project.

### 2021 AND BEYOND

- Given the large task of designing a structure like this, MDT hires Morrison-Maierle to create the design.
- The process of researching the area, designing the project, securing right-of-way, and getting environmental permits takes multiple years.
- MDT works with community partners to identify potential funding sources.

### LATE 2019

- MDT begins a risk assessment, looking into what it would take to construct such a structure. Numerous challenges prevent underpasses and overpasses from being built, including limited space and high water tables.

### LATE 2020

- MDT formally adds the larger structure to the project. Montana's Transportation Commission, the quasi-judicial body that oversees highway projects, approves the change.

## STAY IN THE KNOW



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### WEBSITE

[www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/jackrabbit/](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/jackrabbit/)

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