

GETTING TO KNOW THE KALISPELL BYPASS

Flathead Valley residents and travelers know the Kalispell Bypass well. One of the most heavily traveled roadways in Montana, US 93 Alternate, or “the bypass,” is an eight-mile stretch of highway. The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) designed this roadway to provide an additional high-volume route for diverting travel around the center of Kalispell.

The Kalispell Bypass has been a massive community undertaking that has been delivered in segments constructed between 2008 and 2016. Some residents may be surprised to know that the three southern-most miles were built in an “interim” configuration that was intended to grow and expand in the future. The interim section provided two lanes and roundabouts at public road intersections.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

In partnership with the City of Kalispell, MDT was awarded a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development, or BUILD, grant in 2018 specifically to transition the interim Foys Lake Road roundabout intersection into its final configuration as a full interchange.

As a separate but related project, MDT is also studying and designing 1.7 miles of the Kalispell Bypass to the south. This project, known as **Kalispell Bypass - US 93 to Airport Road**, is being designed by KLJ Engineering. It will begin east of the Siderius roundabout/BaseCamp Drive and extend to the south end of the sound wall near Merganser Drive. The sound wall is projected to remain as is, with no plans to extend the current structure.

The fully completed Kalispell Bypass will provide two additional travel lanes, built to the west of the current roadway. A new interchange bridge will be constructed carrying Airport Road traffic over the Bypass. Along the full length of the project, the existing shared-use path will be maintained at its current location to ensure generations of cyclists and pedestrians have a safe trail system to enjoy.

STAY IN THE KNOW

We know the Kalispell Bypass is important to you. That’s why we want to make sure you have several ways to stay engaged with us throughout the course of this project. Please sign up for updates or give us a call at any time. We are listening and we do care.

Email a question or request for updates
to Katie at Katie@BigSkyPublicRelations.com

Call the project hotline at (406) 207-4484
Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Check out the project webpage:
www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/kalispellbypass



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Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request by contacting the ADA Coordinator in the Human Resources and Occupational and Safety Division, P.O. Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620; (406) 444-9229; fax (406) 444-7243, or e-mail to aflesch@mt.gov. Those using a TTY may call (800) 335-7592 or through the Montana Relay Service at 711.

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FOYS LAKE ROAD INTERSECTION

With federal funding secured for the Foys Lake Road portion of the project, MDT plans to begin construction on this particular intersection as soon as the fall of 2020. While final plans have not been fully developed, the major components of this project have been determined. The Foys Lake Road roundabout will be removed and replaced with an interchange, consisting of an overpass and four access ramps to be built above the Bypass to provide safe and efficient highway travel. The existing two-lane roadway will be widened to four lanes and will maintain the shared-use path connections along the well-established trail system.

AIRPORT ROAD INTERCHANGE

Current engineering plans show that Airport Road will have an overpass to carry traffic, very similar to the current configuration of Three Mile Drive and US 93. The final design of the overpass and ramps is yet to be fully determined.



SIDERIUS ROUNDABOUT/BASECAMP ROAD INTERSECTION

The southern section of the Kalispell Bypass will be converted to a four-lane roadway with engineering studies in the works to determine the best configuration for the Siderius roundabout and Basecamp Drive. KLJ's transportation engineers will be evaluating how the Siderius Roundabout/Basecamp Drive intersection may be rebuilt to better carry increasing traffic volumes. To make these determinations, traffic data will be collected, and multiple configurations will be studied. Intersection alternatives will be shared with the community by early 2020.

These directing documents will shape the future of both the Airport Road and Siderius/Basecamp Drive intersections.

At this time, MDT estimates construction at Airport Road and Siderius/Basecamp Drive as early as 2024.

