



AGENCY WORKSHOP #1 Wednesday, April 5th 2006

RESULTS

Wednesday, April 5th, 2006: 2:00 to 4:30 p.m.
MDT Headquarters – Helena: 2701 Prospect Ave.
Commission Room

Purpose of the meeting:

- To introduce the US 93 Corridor Plan process, steps, schedule and roles of the agencies, consultant team and MDT
- To discuss preliminary existing conditions and identify initial corridor resource issues and concerns

I. Attendance

- Sheila Ludlow, MDT Project Manager
- Lynn Zanto, MDT Planning
- Jean Riley, MDT Environmental
- Bob Burkhardt, FHWA
- Scott Jackson, USFWS
- Lisa Axline, DNRC
- Jeff Ryan, DEQ
- Steve Potts, EPA
- Dwane Kailey, MDT District Engineer (by video link)
- Todd Tillinger, USACE
- Carl James, FHWA
- Ted Burch, FHWA
- Lee Bastian, Montana FW&P
- Jim Phillips, Montana FW&P
- Tom Kahle, MDT
- Don Galligan, HDR
- Mike Pepper, KMP

II. Overview of the Planning Area and Process

- Don provided an overview of the planning process, purpose, background, steps and schedule
- Primary goal of the process: *To identify the necessary improvements to meet the needs of the corridor and users for the next 20 years*

III. Corridor Planning vs. NEPA

- Don provided an overview of the attributes of corridor planning as compared to the attributes of the NEPA process

IV. Roles and Responsibilities

- Mike covered the roles and responsibilities in general as part of the description of the Public Involvement plan and associated activities

V. Draft Public Involvement Plan – Overview

- Mike gave an overview of the public involvement activities as they integrate into the planning steps and schedule

VI. Basic Existing Conditions – Highlights

- Don gave an overview of the basic existing corridor conditions including traffic data, accident data, land use, vehicle use, multi-modal use, planned development, etc.
- Don also highlighted the key issues portrayed in the resource maps for cultural sites, animal crossings, wetlands, hazardous areas, animal range, species of concern for plants and animals, and habitat map

VII. Initial Corridor Issues / Agency Resource Issues

- Issues and concerns – Mike presented the highlights of what we have heard so far from interviews, the first round of public workshops and initial corridor investigation.

- ❑ Additional issues from agency workshop participants were identified as follows:
 - Tribal contacts; Steve Platt, MDT Environmental
 - Joanne Bigcrane – Tribal representative
- ❑ Additional consideration for impacts from run-off from roadway, sanding salt use, etc.
- ❑ Consider the “Impaired” streams listed; see DEQ website
- ❑ Incorporate the flood plain layers into data used in corridor plan
- ❑ Incorporate the local wetland delineation info from;
 - Army Corps of Engineers
 - Bureau of Reclamation
 - State Dept. of Natural Resource and Conservation
 - Local irrigation districts or other related entities
 - Results of Miller Creek EIS wetland delineation
 - Include results of water adjudication as available and appropriate (7 to 10 years)
- ❑ Overlay the sole source aquifer for Missoula Valley and the Florence area – others as identified; see water quality management entities for more info on aquifers
- ❑ Consider Missoula MS4 – Municipal Storm Water Plan – as appropriate and applicable
- ❑ Check location of “Non-attainment” areas – impacts and considerations
- ❑ Need to gather more detail on road kills and animal strikes; specific locations of strikes to 1/10 mile locations, the number of strikes – contact Dwane Kailey for more details from MDT data
 - Identify any patterns and relationships to crossing locations and migration corridors – use data to refine animal crossing / migration maps – see MFW&P memo
 - Such as “forested lands” to “forested lands”, near McClain Crk., etc.
- ❑ See EPA “Guidance and Measures” document – see Jean Riley for document
- ❑ Further identification of specific locations of 4-F and 6-F lands, as well as fishing access sites
- ❑ Consider the National Historic Landmarks along the corridor
 - Lolo Trail
 - Travelers Rest – Lewis and Clark rest / camp stop; currently east of US 93, but based on new analysis, the real site has been identified to be on the west side of US 93. Formal declaration pending final approval of National Park Service / Secretary of the Dept. Interior. Approval predicted for sometime in 2006
- ❑ Avoid impacts to wetlands, streams, flood plains and fisheries, etc. from any new corridor development
- ❑ Connect and incorporate land use / development / growth issues into the corridor planning process, and specifically into traffic data and projections – also incorporate growth impacts and related considerations into associated environmental scans as part of the corridor planning process
- ❑ Refine the identification of cultural sites to more closely identify specific locations, within the allowable use of the data; see Jon Axline and Steve Platt

VIII. Next Steps / adjourn by 4:30 p.m.

- ❑ Stakeholder Workshop – Thursday, April 6th 2006 – establish draft goals
- ❑ Complete existing conditions & data gathering
- ❑ Refine draft corridor goals
- ❑ Identify possible alternatives
- ❑ Next agency workshop – summer 2006 – discuss draft feasible alternatives