



I-15 Gore Hill to Emerson Junction

Corridor Planning Study

5-28-2015

Informational Meeting No. 2

Welcome and Introductions

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- **Introductions**

- **Partners**
 - MDT
 - FHWA
 - Great Falls MPO

- **Consultant team**



Meeting Outline

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- Title VI considerations
- Corridor planning process
- Areas of concern
- Needs and objectives
- Recommended improvement options
- Next steps and conclusion

Title VI Considerations

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This meeting is held pursuant to Title VI of the 1964 Civil Right Act which ensures that no person shall, as provided by Federal and State Civil Rights law, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination on the basis of a protected status during any MDT project.

Further information is available in Title VI pamphlets available at the sign-in table.

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Corridor Planning Process

What is a Corridor Planning Study?

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- **Corridor planning studies:**
 - ▣ Are “high level scans”
 - ▣ Define transportation issues/areas of concern
 - ▣ Consider social, economic, and environmental effects at an early stage
 - ▣ Identify cost-effective and feasible strategies
 - ▣ Provide a level of analysis that can support informed decisions
 - ▣ Provide opportunities for early and continuous involvement

What a Corridor Planning Study is Not

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- **A corridor planning study is not:**
 - ▣ An environmental compliance document
 - ▣ A preliminary or final design project
 - ▣ A construction or maintenance project
 - ▣ A right-of-way acquisition project

Goal and Purpose of Study

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- Engage constituents early and often
- Identify potential impacts and constraints
- Identify needs and objectives
- Identify short-range and long-range improvements
- Develop planning level cost estimates
- Develop information and data to be forwarded into the environmental process if a project moves forward from the study (dependent on available funds)

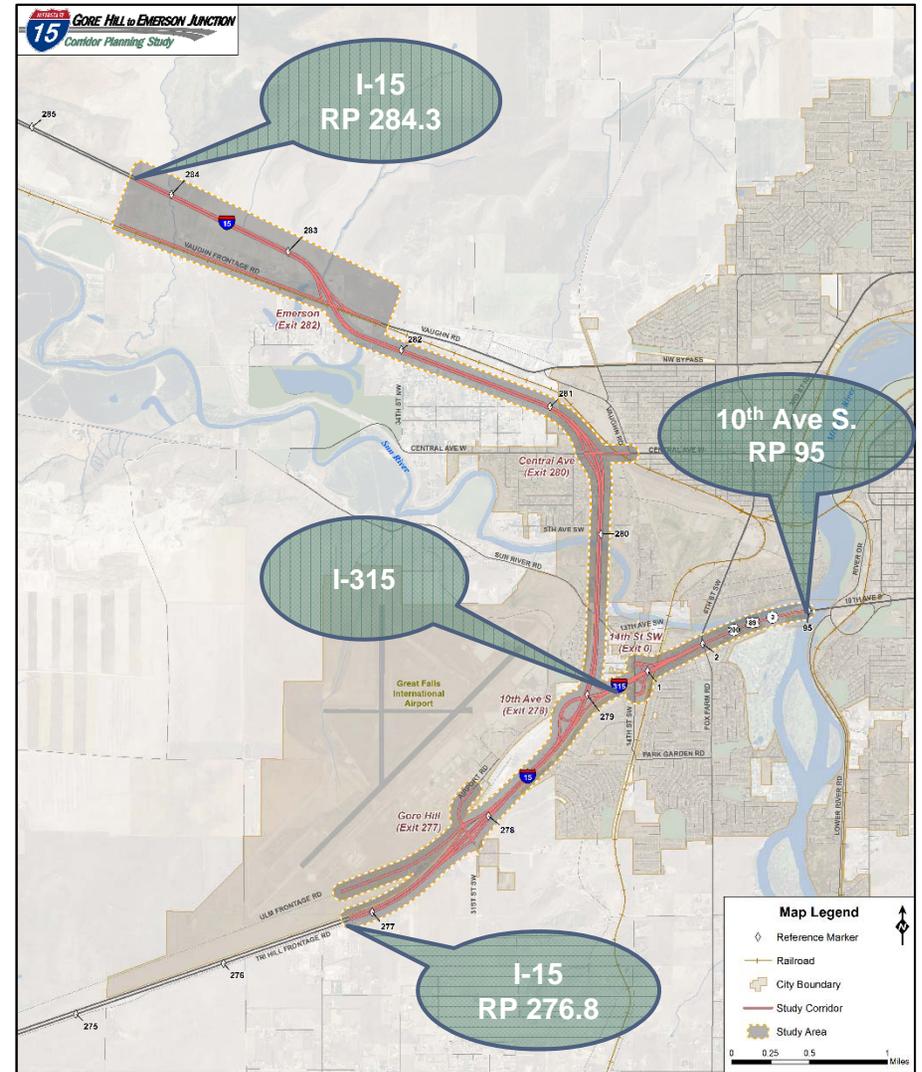
Study Area

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- **Interstate 15**
 - ▣ South of Gore Hill
 - ▣ North of Emerson Junction

- **Interstate 315**

- **10th Avenue South**
 - ▣ West of Missouri River



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Areas of Concern

Areas of Concern

Transportation System

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- **Bridges**
 - ▣ Width and deck condition
- **Road surfacing**
 - ▣ Pavement condition
- **Railroad**
 - ▣ Two crossings
- **Air service**
 - ▣ Access at Gore Hill



Areas of Concern

Transportation System

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□ Mainline Interstate

- Horizontal and vertical geometrics

□ Interchanges

- Ramp length
- Interchange spacing

□ Intersections

- Operations (LOS)



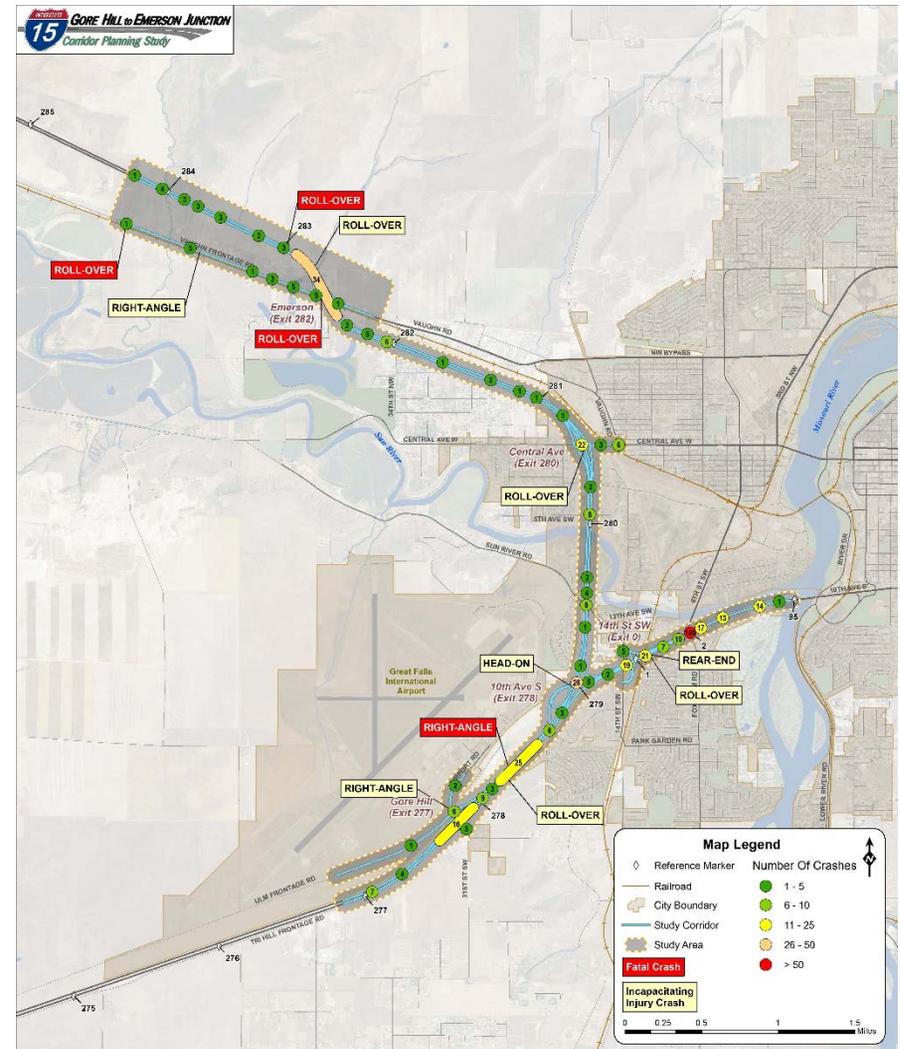
Areas of Concern

Transportation System

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□ Safety

- Five-year analysis period
 - Four fatal crashes
 - Eight incapacitating injury crashes
- Trend of fixed-object collisions



Areas of Concern

Environmental Considerations

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- **Physical environment**
 - ▣ Land use
 - ▣ Sun River

- **Biological environment**
 - ▣ Fish, wildlife, and plants

- **Social and Cultural**
 - ▣ Historic properties
 - ▣ Parkland



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Needs and Objectives

Needs and Objectives

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Need 1: Improve the Safety of the Corridor

Objectives (To the Extent Practicable)

- ▣ Reduce the frequency and severity of crashes.
- ▣ Improve roadway elements to meet current design criteria to address identified safety concerns.
- ▣ Reduce conflicts between vehicles of varying types and speeds.
- ▣ Address identified crash trends and clusters.

Needs and Objectives

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Need 2: Accommodate Existing and Future Capacity Demands

Objectives (To the Extent Practicable)

- ▣ Maintain LOS standards for mainline segments and interchange ramps.
- ▣ Improve operations and maintain LOS standards for intersections.

Needs and Objectives

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Need 3: Provide for the Mobility of People and Freight

Objectives (To the Extent Practicable)

- ▣ Provide for the movement and transfer of people and goods.
- ▣ Maintain the roadway for effective and prompt emergency response.

Needs and Objectives

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Other Considerations

- ▣ Environmental resource impacts of improvement options.
- ▣ Local and regional planning efforts.
- ▣ Funding availability.
- ▣ Construction feasibility and impacts.
- ▣ Security of the transportation system.

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Recommended Improvement Options

Recommended Improvement Options

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Interstate 15

- 1. Southbound auxiliary lane (RP 278.1 to 278.5)**
- 2. Interstate alignment (RP 282.3 to 283.0)**
 - (a) Roadway illumination
 - (b) Reconstruct roadway



Recommended Improvement Options

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Interstate 315

3. Pavement rehabilitation (RP 0.0 to 1.4)
4. Bridge deck treatment
5. Diagrammatic guide signing (10th Ave S to 14th St SW)
6. Westbound auxiliary lane (14th St SW to I-15)
7. Westbound auxiliary lane (Fox Farm Rd to 14th St SW)



Recommended Improvement Options

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Interchanges

8. **Lengthen southbound off-ramp**
(10th Ave S Interchange)
9. **Modify lane merge**
(West of Central Ave Interchange)
10. **Feasibility analysis**
(Emerson Junction)



Recommended Improvement Options

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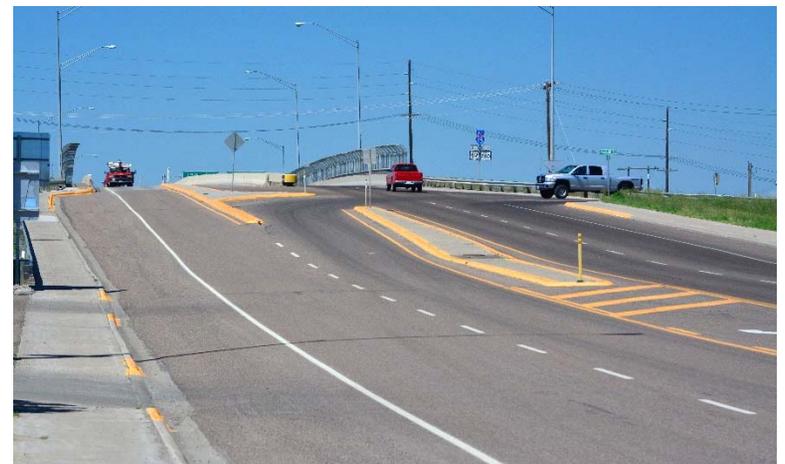


Recommended Improvement Options

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Intersections

- 11. Intersection improvements
(Gore Hill Interchange)**
- 12. Intersection improvements
(Central Ave Interchange)**
- 13. Intersection improvements
(Fox Farm Road Intersection)**



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Next Steps and Conclusion

Next Steps

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- Receive and consider comments on draft corridor study report from:
 - Public
 - Stakeholders
 - Resource agencies
- Review with study planning team
- Prepare final corridor study report
- Post to study website, distribute, and conclude process

Comment period runs from May 22 through June 21, 2015

Implementation

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- Depends on availability of funds.

- Required steps:
 - ▣ Identify and secure a funding source(s)
 - ▣ Follow MDT guidelines for project nomination and development

or

- ▣ Coordinate with MDT via the System Impact Action Process (SIAP)

Conclusion

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- Questions, answers and/or comments
 - ▣ Study website:
<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/i15>
 - ▣ Study newsletters
 - ▣ Study contact
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DRAFT

INTERSTATE 15
GORE HILL to EMERSON JUNCTION
Corridor Planning Study

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Montana Department of Transportation
Helena, MT

May 22, 2015



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