

MISSOULA BRIDGES PLANNING STUDY

PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

PREPARED FOR:



PREPARED BY:



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March 2013

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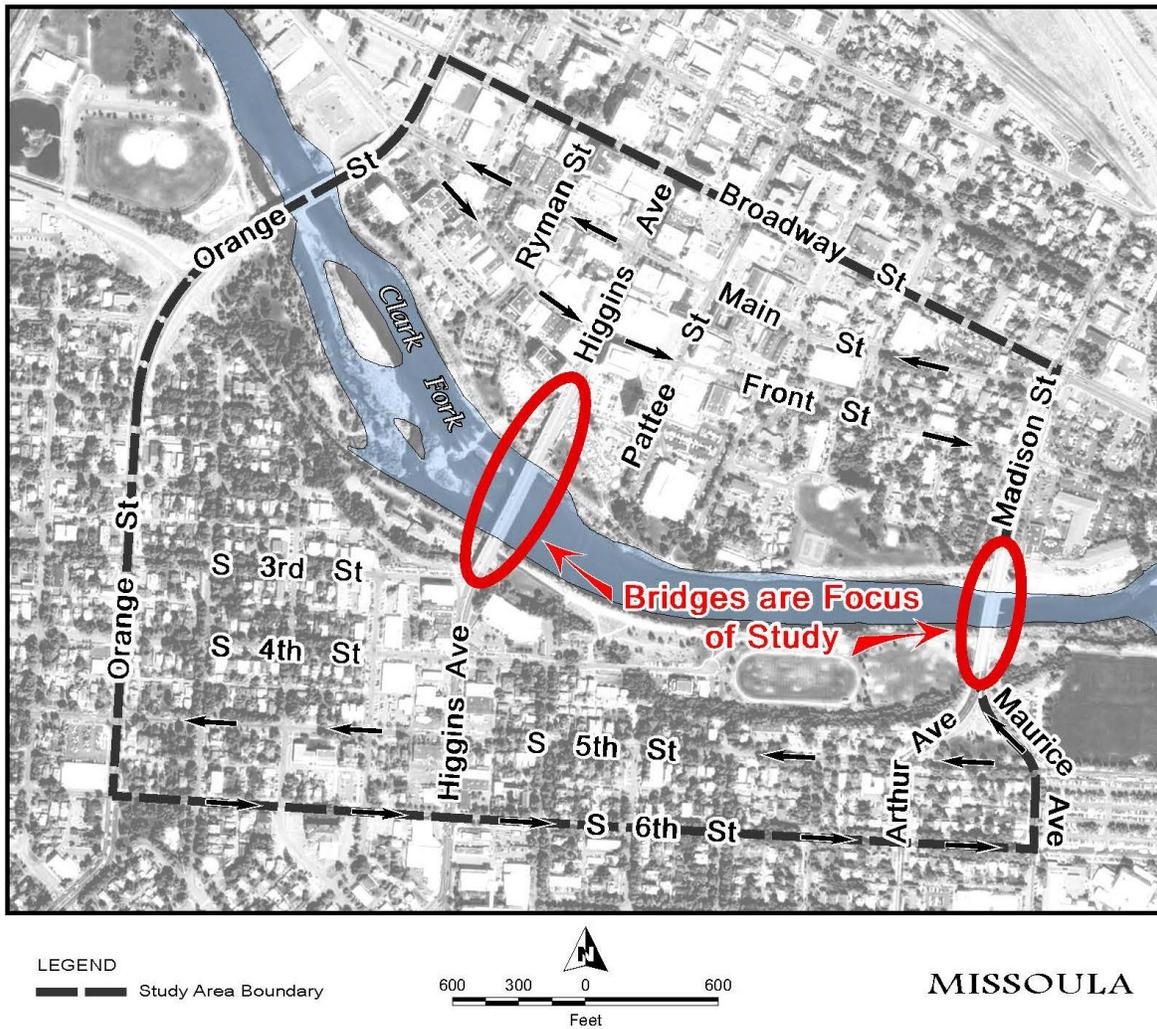
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Study Area

Figure 1-1 illustrates the study area. The study will focus on the Higgins Avenue and Madison Street Bridges. Construction impacts within the area bounded by Broadway Street on the north, Orange Street on the west, South 6th Street on the south, and Madison Street/Maurice Avenue on the east in Missoula will be considered.

Figure 1-1 Study Area



1.2 Goal of the Public and Agency Involvement Plan

The primary goal of this plan is to provide opportunities for members of the public, stakeholders, and resource agency representatives to learn about the process, review information about the Missoula Bridges Planning Study, and provide input throughout the planning effort. In support of this goal, Section 2.0 identifies procedures that will guide the public and agency involvement effort.

2.0 PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVMENT

2.1 Study Contacts

Contact information for MDT and the consultant will be provided in all published materials.

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2.2 Print Media

Announcements will be developed by DOWL HKM and advertised by MDT at least two weeks before public meetings and the formal comment period. Advertisements will announce the meeting location, time, and date; the format and purpose of the meetings; and the locations where documents may be reviewed (as applicable). The following newspapers may carry display advertisements.

- Missoulian
- Missoula Independent

2.3 Radio and Television

MDT may issue press releases to local radio and television stations announcing public meetings and the formal comment period. Specific media outlets will be identified during the course of the study as appropriate.

2.4 Document Availability

2.4.1 Newsletters and Meeting Materials

DOWL HKM will develop two newsletters for the study. The first newsletter will be issued at the time of the first public meeting and will introduce the study and describe its purpose, illustrate the study area and study components, and describe key findings from the existing conditions report. The second newsletter will be distributed at the time of the second public meeting and will present proposed improvement options and potential impacts and mitigation strategies. DOWL HKM will also develop meeting materials for each public meeting, including agendas, static exhibits, and other presentation materials. Print copies of newsletters and meeting materials will be available at each of the two public meetings hosted for this study. MDT will publish electronic versions of newsletters and meeting materials on the study website at <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/missoulabridges> following the meetings. Print copies of newsletters will also be mailed to the study mailing list.

2.4.2 Reports

MDT will publish electronic versions of reports on the study website. Print copies of the existing conditions report and the draft study report will be available at the MDT Rail, Transit, and Planning Division Office (2960 Prospect Avenue; Helena, MT). Print copies of these reports may also be made available at the following locations.

- Missoula Public Library (301 East Main; Missoula, MT)
- MDT Missoula District Office (2100 W. Broadway; Missoula, MT)
- City of Missoula Transportation Planning Office (127 West Spruce; Missoula, MT)

2.5 Meetings

2.5.1 Advisory Committee Meetings

Advisory committee meetings will generally be scheduled every three weeks for the duration of the 12-month study period. Advisory committee members will discuss study progress, analysis methodologies, and any issues or concerns that arise during the study. The advisory committee will also review study documentation before publication. Representatives from MDT, FHWA, and the City of Missoula will be invited to participate in the advisory committee.

2.5.2 Public Meetings/Comment Period

Two public meetings will be held during the course of the study. The first public meeting will be held part-way through the planning process after the consultant has evaluated environmental, social, and land use conditions and conducted crash and operational analyses within the study area. During the first meeting, the consultant will introduce the study, present findings from the existing conditions report, and discuss issues and concerns in the study area. Members of the public will be asked to provide feedback on potential improvement options at the second public meeting.

Comments will be considered throughout the planning process. A formal comment period will occur following publication of the draft study report. All comments will be considered before the report is finalized.

2.5.3 Resource Agency Meeting

MDT will host a single resource agency meeting at the MDT offices in Helena, with MDT Polycom arrangements at the MDT Missoula District Office and at the City of Missoula Transportation Planning office, as appropriate. The purpose of the meeting will be to present

findings from the draft existing conditions report. Resource agencies will be asked to identify initial avoidance areas, mitigation needs, and opportunities.

2.6 Consideration of Traditionally Underserved Populations

MDT will attempt to involve traditionally underserved segments of the populations in the planning study process through the following measures:

Plan Meeting Locations Carefully

- MDT will host public meetings in locations that are accessible and compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Seek Help from Community Leaders and Organizations

- MDT and the consultant will confer with community leaders and representative organizations about how best to involve traditionally underserved populations.

Be Sensitive to Diverse Audiences

- MDT and the consultant will communicate as effectively as possible at the public meetings by avoiding technical jargon and exercising appropriate conduct and judgment. Alternative accessible formats of study materials will be provided upon request.

2.7 Study Schedule

The Missoula Bridges Planning Study began in March 2013 and is expected to be completed by the end of March 2014. Figure 2-1 illustrates the schedule in more detail.

Figure 2-1 Schedule

