

MT-1 West of Anaconda to Georgetown Lake

Corridor Planning Study

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CORRIDOR PLANNING STUDY HIGHLIGHTS

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) in cooperation with Anaconda – Deer Lodge County (ADLC) initiated a Corridor Planning Study along MT-1 west of Anaconda, Montana, to identify and assess improvement options for the 17.3 mile segment, from North Cable Road / Linden Street to Georgetown Lake Road.

The Corridor Planning Study, intended strictly as a planning study and not a design project, was developed through a collaborative process with MDT, ADLC, and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and involved focused outreach to the community, key stakeholders, and resource agencies. A full evaluation of known and publically available resource information was conducted. Activities that were completed for the development of the study include the following:

- ◆ Research and analysis of existing MT-1 roadway conditions;
- ◆ Research and analysis of known environmental resources;
- ◆ Identification and documentation of future conditions;
- ◆ Identification and evaluation of corridor issues and areas of concern;
- ◆ Consultation and coordination with local officials, stakeholders, resource agencies, and the community;
- ◆ Identification of corridor needs and objectives;
- ◆ Development of corridor improvement options with consideration to costs, available funding, feasibility, community input, and known environmental resource constraints; and
- ◆ Documentation of potential funding mechanisms for improvement options.

NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE CORRIDOR PLANNING STUDY

Based on the analyses of existing and future conditions within the MT-1 study area, the following needs and objectives were established for use in the development of improvement options identified in the study.

NEED #1: IMPROVE SAFETY AND OPERATION OF MT-1 THROUGH THE CORRIDOR PLANNING STUDY AREA.

- ◆ Improve geometric elements to meet current MDT design criteria.
- ◆ Accommodate existing and future capacity demands within the corridor.
- ◆ Minimize impacts caused by access density.
- ◆ Identify appropriate speeds within the study area.
- ◆ Provide adequate clear zones to meet current MDT design criteria.
- ◆ Review and implement innovative maintenance practices.

NEED #2: PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENTAL, SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL NATURE OF THE CORRIDOR AND PROMOTE WILDLIFE AND AQUATIC CONNECTIVITY.

- ◆ Preserve the scenic nature of the corridor with respect to view sheds and landscape features.
- ◆ Avoid and minimize the environmental resource impacts of improvement options.
- ◆ Evaluate and incorporate “best practice” mitigation strategies to promote wildlife connectivity across MT-1.
- ◆ Evaluate and incorporate “best practice” mitigation strategies to reduce animal-vehicle conflicts.
- ◆ Evaluate fish (aquatic organism) passage issues and incorporate appropriate solutions to improve aquatic connectivity and stream function through structures and culverts.

NEED #3: COORDINATE WITH LOCAL PLANNING EFFORTS AND MINIMIZE CONFLICTS ALONG THE CORRIDOR.

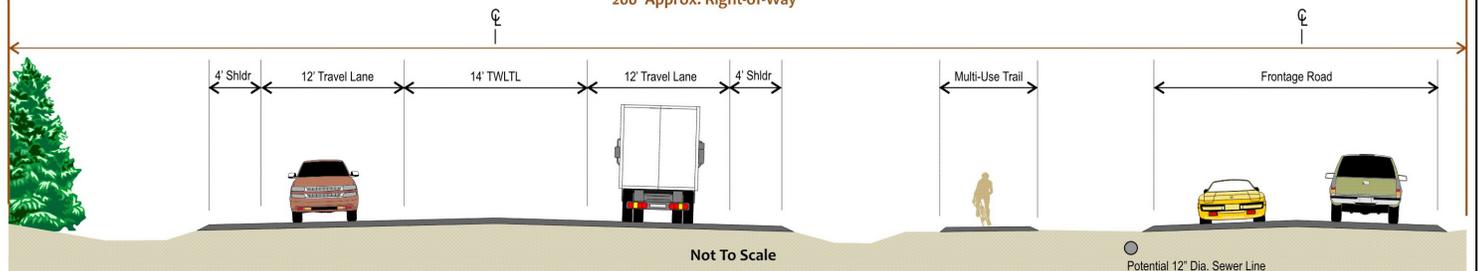
- ◆ Coordinate future infrastructure needs with ADLC.
- ◆ Support local planning efforts.
- ◆ Minimize impacts to existing residences and businesses along the corridor.
- ◆ Consider all modes of transportation.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS

Based on the assessment of existing conditions within the study area and on community and stakeholder input, roadway issues and areas of concern were identified including existing roadway geometrics (widths, steepness of road, sight distance at intersections, etc.), wildlife conflicts, vehicle speeds and speed limits, access density, and alternate use facilities. Improvement options were identified to address the identified roadway issues and areas of concern. These recommended improvement options are shown graphically on Page 3. The typical section below shows the recommended improvement for MT-1 between RP 10.06 and RP 13.8.

TYPICAL #1: TWLTL WITH FRONTAGE ROAD

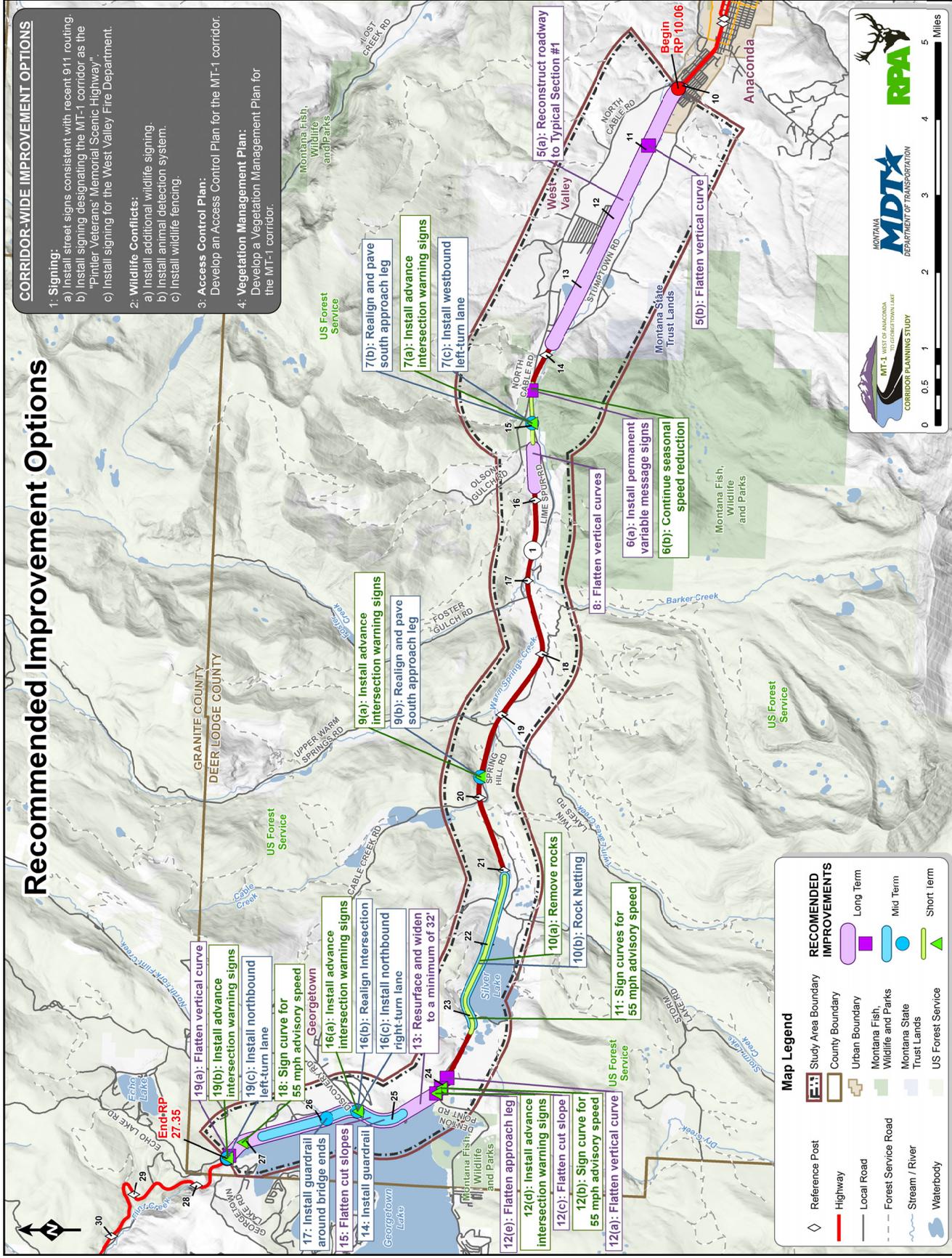
200' Approx. Right-of-Way



Recommended Improvement Options

CORRIDOR-WIDE IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS

- 1: Signing:**
 - Install street signs consistent with recent 9.11 routing.
 - Install signing designating the MT-1 corridor as the "Purifier Veterans Memorial Scenic Highway".
 - Install signing for the West Valley Fire Department.
- 2: Wildlife Conflicts:**
 - Install additional wildlife signing.
 - Install animal detection system.
 - Install wildlife fencing.
- 3: Access Control Plan:** Develop an Access Control Plan for the MT-1 corridor.
- 4: Vegetation Management Plan:** Develop a Vegetation Management Plan for the MT-1 corridor.



Map Legend

Symbol	Description
◇	Reference Post
—	Highway
—	Local Road
- - -	Forest Service Road
~	Stream / River
—	Waterbody
—	Study Area Boundary
—	County Boundary
—	Urban Boundary
—	Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
—	Montana State Trust Lands
—	US Forest Service

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

Symbol	Term
—	Long Term
—	Mid Term
—	Short term

MONTANA **MDTA** DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MONTANA WEST OF ANAONDA TRAILHEAD TOWN LAG

 CORRIDOR PLANNING STUDY

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

Work Completed to Date:

- ◆ Environmental Scan
- ◆ Existing and Projected Conditions
- ◆ Areas of Concern
- ◆ Improvement Options
- ◆ Draft Corridor Study Report

ADLC, MDT, and RPA attempt to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in any service, program, or activity associated with this study. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request.

For further information, call (406) 447-5000 or TTY (800) 335-7592, or call Montana Relay at 711.

Accommodation requests must be made at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled activity and / or meeting.

FINAL COMMUNITY INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Monday, November 7, 2011
6:00 PM—8:00 PM (Presentation 6:15—7:00)
Anaconda High School, Little Theater Room
400 Main Street, Anaconda, MT

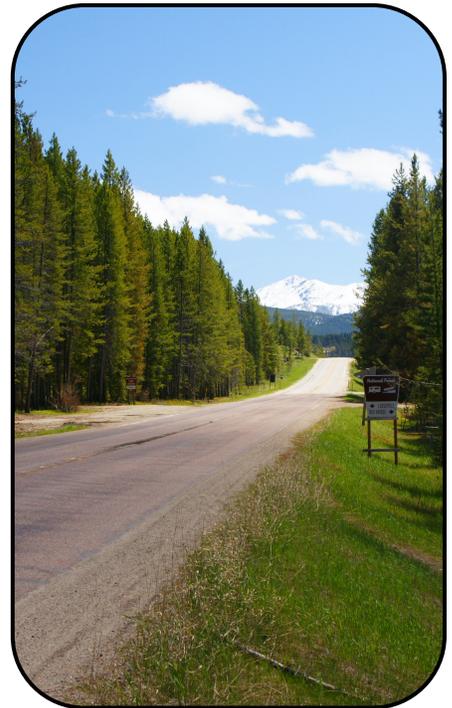
The community is welcome and encouraged to attend.
We hope to see you there!

NEXT STEPS

After the public comment period closes the Corridor Planning Study will be finalized.

The ability to implement improvement options for MT-1 is dependent on the availability of existing and future federal, state, local, and private funding sources. At the current time there is no funding identified to complete the recommended improvement options contained in the study. To continue with the development of a project (or projects) the following steps are needed:

- ◆ Identify and secure a funding source or sources;
- ◆ Initiate preliminary engineering activities;
- ◆ Finalize design and prepare construction plans package; and
- ◆ Let construction contract.



INPUT WANTED

The Draft Corridor Planning Study will be made available for review and comment on **November 4, 2011**. Copies can be accessed via the study website at www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/mt1.

Hard copies will also be made available at MDT offices and the Anaconda—Deer Lodge County planning department.

The deadline for receiving comments is **November 25, 2011**.

Comments may be submitted in writing at the Community Informational Meeting, by mail to **Carol Strizich**, MDT Statewide and Urban Planning, Project Manager, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT. 59620-1001, or online via the study website.

Please indicate comments are for the MT-1 Corridor Planning Study. MDT will collect and consider all comments to better understand the community's view of potential issues and concerns within the MT-1 corridor.