

# MT 16 / MT 200 Glendive to Fairview Corridor Planning Study



## What is a Corridor Planning Study?

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), in cooperation with Dawson and Richland Counties, is conducting a corridor planning study between Glendive and Fairview on Montana Highway 16 (MT 16) and Montana Highway 200 (MT 200).

A Corridor Planning Study is a **planning-level assessment** of a study area occurring before project-level environmental compliance activities under the National and Montana Environmental Policy Acts (NEPA/MEPA). MDT developed a corridor planning study process to provide a better link between early transportation planning and environmental compliance efforts. The corridor study process is designed to determine what, if anything, can be done to improve the corridor and to facilitate a smooth and efficient transition from transportation planning to environmental review and potential project development. The process involves conducting a planning level review of safety, operational, and geometric conditions and environmental resources within a corridor to identify needs and constraints. The process also allows for early coordination with members of the community, resource agencies, and other interested stakeholders. This planning process is distinct from a NEPA/MEPA environmental compliance document or any design, right-of-way acquisition, or construction phases that occur during project development.

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## Please Join Us for an Informational Meeting!

**Wednesday, April 4, 2012**  
 Dawson Community College  
 Lecture Hall (US 102)  
 300 College Drive  
 Glendive, MT  
 6:00 p.m.

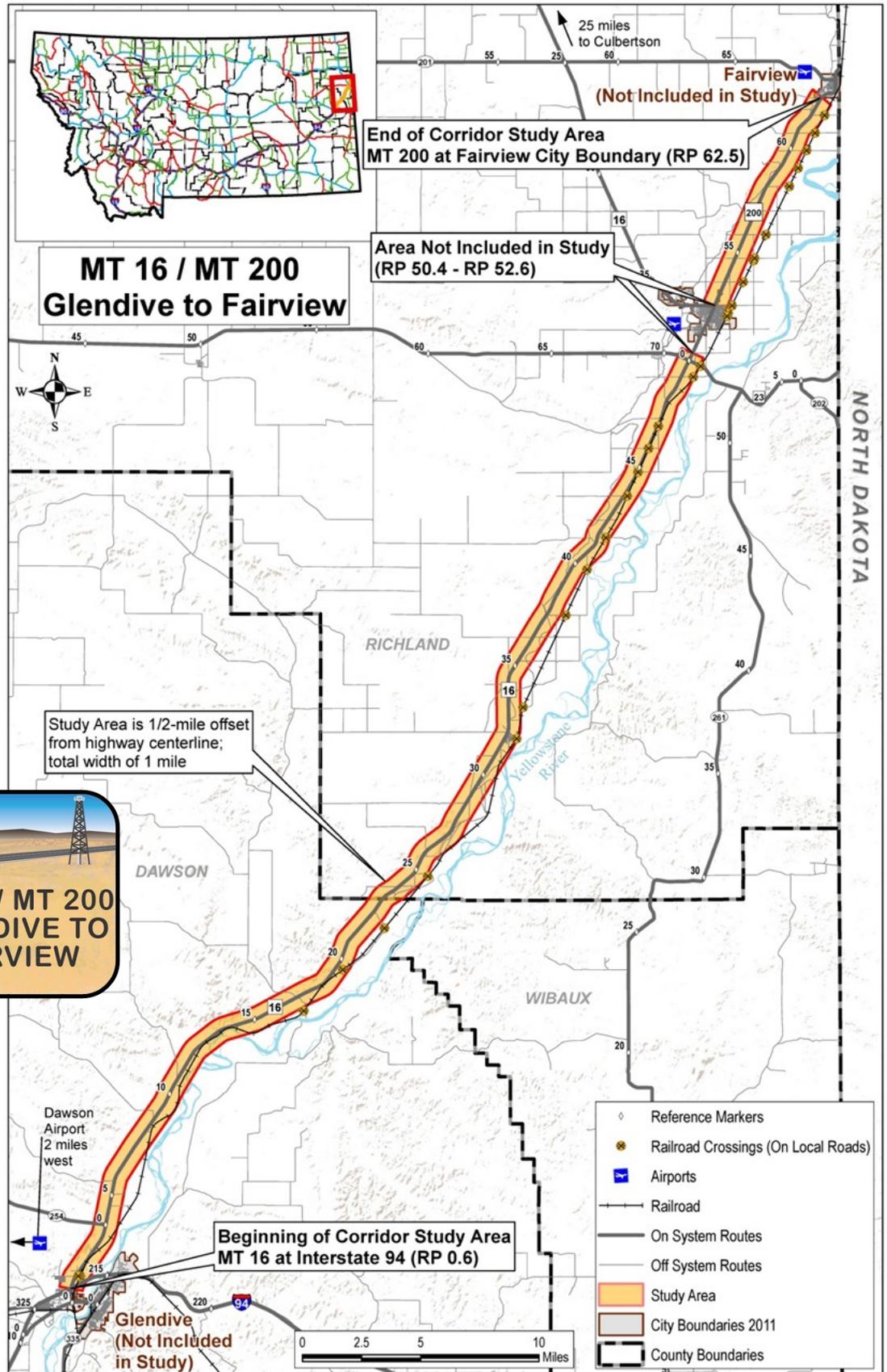
OR

**Thursday, April 5, 2012**  
 Sidney High School  
 Cafeteria  
 1012 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
 Sidney, MT  
 6:00 p.m.

The purpose of the meetings is to present existing and projected conditions information and request feedback. Both meetings will follow the same format. We hope to see you there!

## Study Area

The study area begins on MT 16 at Reference Post (RP) 0.6 just north of the I-94 Interchange in Glendive and ends on MT 200 at the Fairview city limits (RP 62.5). The study excludes areas within the city limits of Glendive, Sidney, and Fairview. The study area is illustrated in the figure to the right.



Study Area is 1/2-mile offset from highway centerline; total width of 1 mile

## Key Findings

from the Existing and Projected Conditions Report

### Physical Features

- High pressure natural gas pipelines cross the corridor in seven (7) locations.
- Pavement condition is deteriorated in some locations, with evidence of rutting, transverse cracking, longitudinal cracking, and shoulder failure.

### Geometric Conditions

- Seven (7) horizontal and thirteen (13) vertical curves do not meet current MDT design standards.
- Guardrail concerns occur in twelve (12) locations.

### Crash History

- The corridor crash rate, severity index, and severity rate were similar to or lower than statewide averages for similar facilities from 2006 to 2010.
- Approximately 37% of reported rural crashes involved wild animals, and 12% of reported rural crashes involved large vehicles. Large vehicles include vans, buses, school buses, truck/truck-tractors, motor homes, ambulances, fire trucks, wreckers in transit, and working construction vehicles.

### Economic Conditions

- Unemployment in Dawson and Richland Counties is approximately 3% compared to a statewide percentage of 6.6% and a 8.6% national average.
- Analysts expect oil exploration and development in the Bakken to continue for ten to twenty years.
- Due to changes in the size and location of grain loading facilities, haul trucks are often larger, heavier, and travel longer distances from farms to grain elevators, potentially impacting roadway pavement conditions.

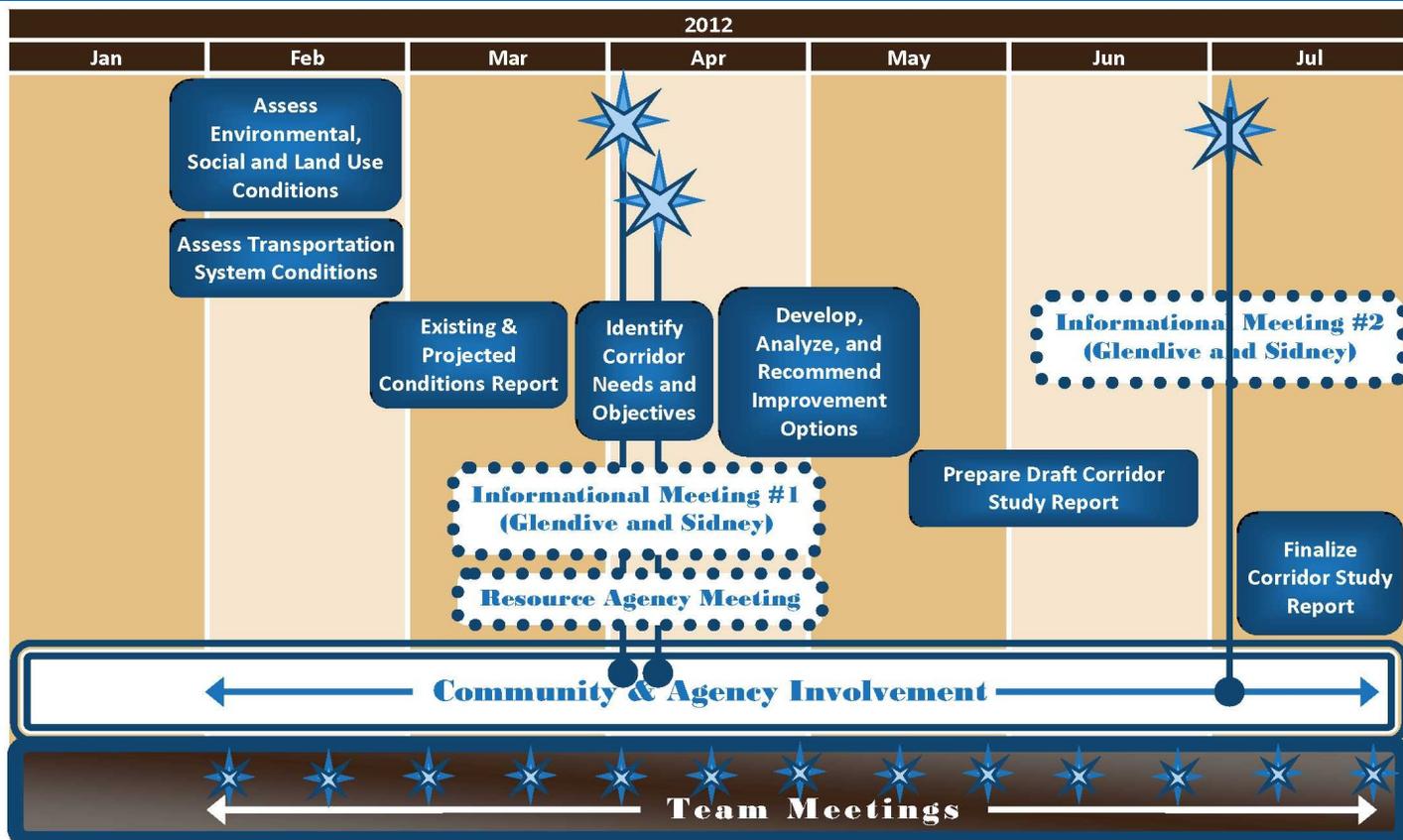
### Environmental Conditions

- Prime and important farmlands are located within the study area.
- The study area includes portions of the Yellowstone River, its tributaries, and associated wetlands.
- Hazardous materials sites are located within the study area.
- Six (6) endangered, threatened, proposed or candidate animal species and 45 animal species of concern are expected to occur in Dawson and Richland Counties.
- One plant species of concern is expected to occur in Dawson and Richland Counties.
- Resources within the study corridor include historic irrigation canals, bridges, residences, mining operations and trash deposits, and archaeological sites.



For more information, review the study website at <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/mt16>

# Study Schedule



## How can I stay involved in this study?

Please join us for Informational Meetings on [Wednesday, April 4, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.](#) at the Dawson Community College, 300 College Drive, Lecture Hall (UC 102) in Glendive or [Thursday, April 5, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.](#) at the Sidney High School Cafeteria, 1012 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South East in Sidney. To review additional information about the study and to submit comments electronically, visit the study website at <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/mt16>

### Contact Us

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MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person's participation in any department service, program or activity. For the hearing impaired, the TTY number is (406) 444-7696 or (800) 335-7592, or Montana Relay at 711. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request.