

Paradise Valley Corridor Planning Study

US 89 (Gardiner to Livingston)



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Study Description

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Park County, is developing a *Corridor Planning Study* of US Highway 89. The study will examine conditions on and adjacent to US 89 from Gardiner to Livingston. US 89 is functionally classified as a principal arterial on the National Highway System.

The study will examine geometric characteristics, crash history, and existing and projected operational characteristics of the corridor. Physical constraints, land uses, and environmental resources will also be reviewed. The study will identify feasible improvement options based on the needs and objectives of the corridor with input from the study partners, resource agencies and the public.

The study will produce a package of short- and long-term recommendations intended to address the transportation needs of the highway over the 20-year planning horizon. These recommendations will assist the study partners in targeting the most critical needs and allocating resources.

What is a Corridor Planning Study?

A *Corridor Planning Study* is a planning-level assessment undertaken before conducting project-level environmental compliance activities under the National and Montana Environmental Policy Acts (NEPA/MEPA). The study involves early communication with interested agencies and the public to help identify needs, constraints, and opportunities for a corridor and to determine if there are implementable improvements, given available resources and local support.

The *Corridor Planning Study* is a planning activity, rather than a design or construction project. The study is designed to facilitate a smooth and efficient transition from transportation planning to project development and environmental review if a project is forwarded from the study. The study includes consideration of multiple improvement options to address the needs and objectives within the study area. The planning process is distinct from NEPA/MEPA environmental compliance documentation and from the design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction phases of an individual project.

INFORMATIONAL MEETING #1

Please Join Us!

Gardiner:

Wednesday, July 24

6:00 PM

Gardiner Community Center
210 West Main Street

Livingston:

Thursday, July 25

6:00 PM

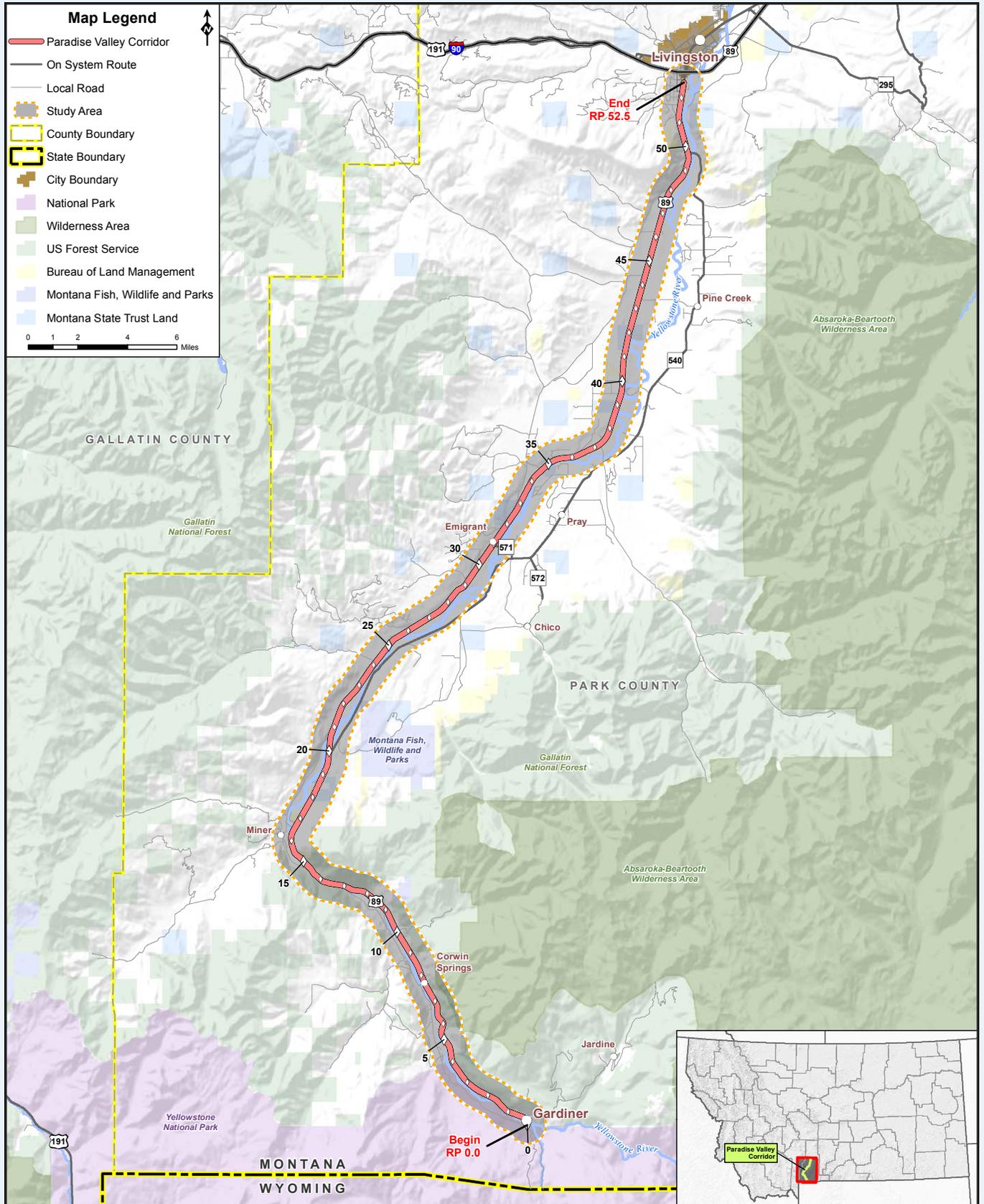
Community Room
City/County Building
414 East Callender Street

Purpose:

Informational Meeting #1 is intended to explain the planning study process, present information about existing and projected conditions, and gather feedback on issues and concerns related to the US 89 corridor.

Study Area

The study area for the *Paradise Valley Corridor Planning Study* includes a 3/4-mile buffer on each side of US 89. The study corridor begins in Gardiner (RP 0.0) and extends northerly for approximately 52.5 miles, ending just south of Livingston (RP 52.5).



Initial Considerations

The following initial considerations have been identified through on-site reviews and preliminary data analysis. This list is not all-inclusive and is subject to change over the course of the planning process.

Transportation Standards

- US 89 is classified as a Rural Principal Arterial on the Non-Interstate National Highway System.
 - ◊ There are areas that do not meet existing standards for horizontal and vertical roadway alignment.
 - ◊ The highway is approximately 32 feet wide. Existing standards recommend a 40-foot roadway width.

Traffic

- US 89 has an average annual daily traffic (AADT) volume of 1,670 vehicles per day.
- The corridor experiences a high degree of seasonal use.

Rock Slides

- Multiple areas within the corridor are prone to rock slides.

Safety

- There were 286 crashes reported from July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2012, including 142 involving wild animals.

Non-motorized Travel

- Bicyclists use the entire corridor.
- Pedestrians use the corridor near Gardiner and Livingston.

Recreation

- Recreational opportunities include fishing access sites, trailheads, and Yellowstone National Park.

Planning

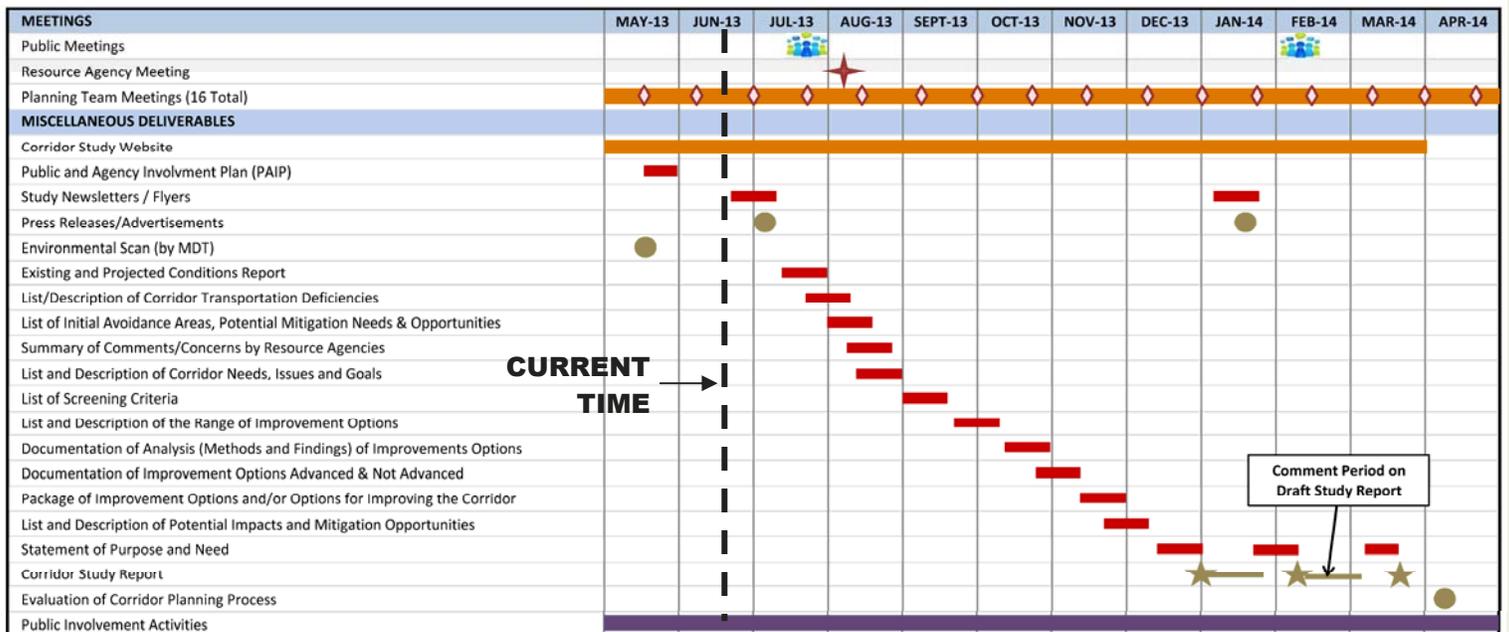
- Identify short- and long-term improvements for the corridor.

Environmental Considerations

- Floodplains exist along the entire corridor.
- Several locations have irrigated farmland.
- Three (3) threatened and endangered species potentially reside within the study area.
- Fifteen (15) species of concern occur within the study area.
- US 89 crosses the Yellowstone River and multiple tributaries.
- Multiple 4(f) and 6(f) resources exist in the study area.

Study Schedule

The *Paradise Valley Corridor Planning Study* began in May 2013 and is slated for completion by the end of March 2014.





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Website

[www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/
paradisevalley](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/paradisevalley)

Public Involvement Opportunities

Public involvement is important to any successful corridor study process. It is a proactive process that gives the public an opportunity to participate in all phases of the study. The public is invited to participate by attending community informational meetings, as well as reviewing and contributing input on ongoing study information.

The website developed for the study provides online opportunities to comment on the *Paradise Valley Corridor Planning Study*. Dates, times, and locations for all community outreach events will be announced in advance by using local media and the study mailing list. Notices will also be posted on the study website.

The study team will collect and consider all public comments received to better understand community views on potential issues. People with a specific interest in the study are encouraged to join the study mailing list. They can do so by submitting their names and contact information to Jeff Key at jeff.key@rpa-hln.com.

MDT attempts 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, TTY (800) 335-7592, or Montana Relay at 711. Accommodation requests must be made at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled activity and / or meeting.



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