

# RIVERDRIVE CORRIDOR STUDY

## this issue

|                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Corridor Planning Study Highlights | P.1 |
| Corridor Needs and Objectives      | P.2 |
| Improvement Options Summary        | P.2 |
| Improvement Options Map            | P.3 |
| Contacts                           | P.4 |
| Public Involvement Opportunities   | P.4 |
| Next Steps                         | P.4 |



## Corridor Planning Study Highlights

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and in coordination with the Great Falls Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), has developed a corridor planning study of River Drive North between 15th Street North and 38th Street North. The purpose of the study is to determine potential improvement options to address safety and operations within the transportation corridor based on identified needs.

River Drive North serves as a key route in the Great Falls transportation system supporting both local access and regional travel demands. The study corridor is a designated truck route and provides access to several businesses, industrial areas, residential neighborhoods, and community resources.

The corridor planning study was developed through a collaborative process with MDT, the Great Falls MPO, and FHWA and involved focused outreach to the public, stakeholders, and resource agencies. An evaluation of known and publically available information was conducted. Activities completed for development of the study include the following:

- Research and analysis of existing roadway conditions
- Research and synthesis of known environmental resources and applicable regulations in the study area
- Identification of corridor issues and areas of concern
- Consultation and coordination with local officials, stakeholders, resource agencies, and public
- Identification of corridor needs and objectives
- Development of corridor improvement options with consideration of costs, available funding, feasibility, public input, and known resource constraints
- Documentation of potential funding mechanisms for improvement options

The draft *River Drive Corridor Study* will be made available for review and comment on July 29, 2016. Copies can be accessed via the study website at [www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/riverdrive](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/riverdrive). The deadline for receiving comments is August 31, 2016.

## INFORMATIONAL MEETING #2

*Please Join Us!*

### Great Falls:

Wednesday, August 3rd  
6:00 PM

Resource Center Room  
Lewis and Clark  
Interpretive Center  
4201 Giant Springs Road

### Purpose:

Informational Meeting #2 is being conducted to present improvement options developed for the corridor and to gather community feedback on the draft corridor study report.

## Corridor Needs and Objectives

Based on the analysis of existing and projected conditions of the study area, the following need and objectives were established. They were used in the development of improvement options.

### Need 1: Improve the Safety of the Corridor

#### Objectives (To the Extent Practicable)

- Reduce the frequency and severity of crashes.
- Improve roadway elements to current design criteria.
- Reduce vehicle conflicts.

### Need 2: Accommodate Existing and Future Demands

#### Objectives (To the Extent Practicable)

- Reduce corridor congestion.
- Improve operations to achieve LOS standards.
- Accommodate large vehicles and freight movements.
- Accommodate non-motorized use.

### Need 3: Minimize Adverse Impacts to the Environmental Characteristics of the Study Area

#### Objectives (To the Extent Practicable)

- Minimize adverse impacts to the Missouri River and surrounding wetlands.
- Avoid or minimize adverse impacts to historic, cultural, archaeological, and recreational resources.
- Preserve the scenic character of the corridor.

### Other Considerations

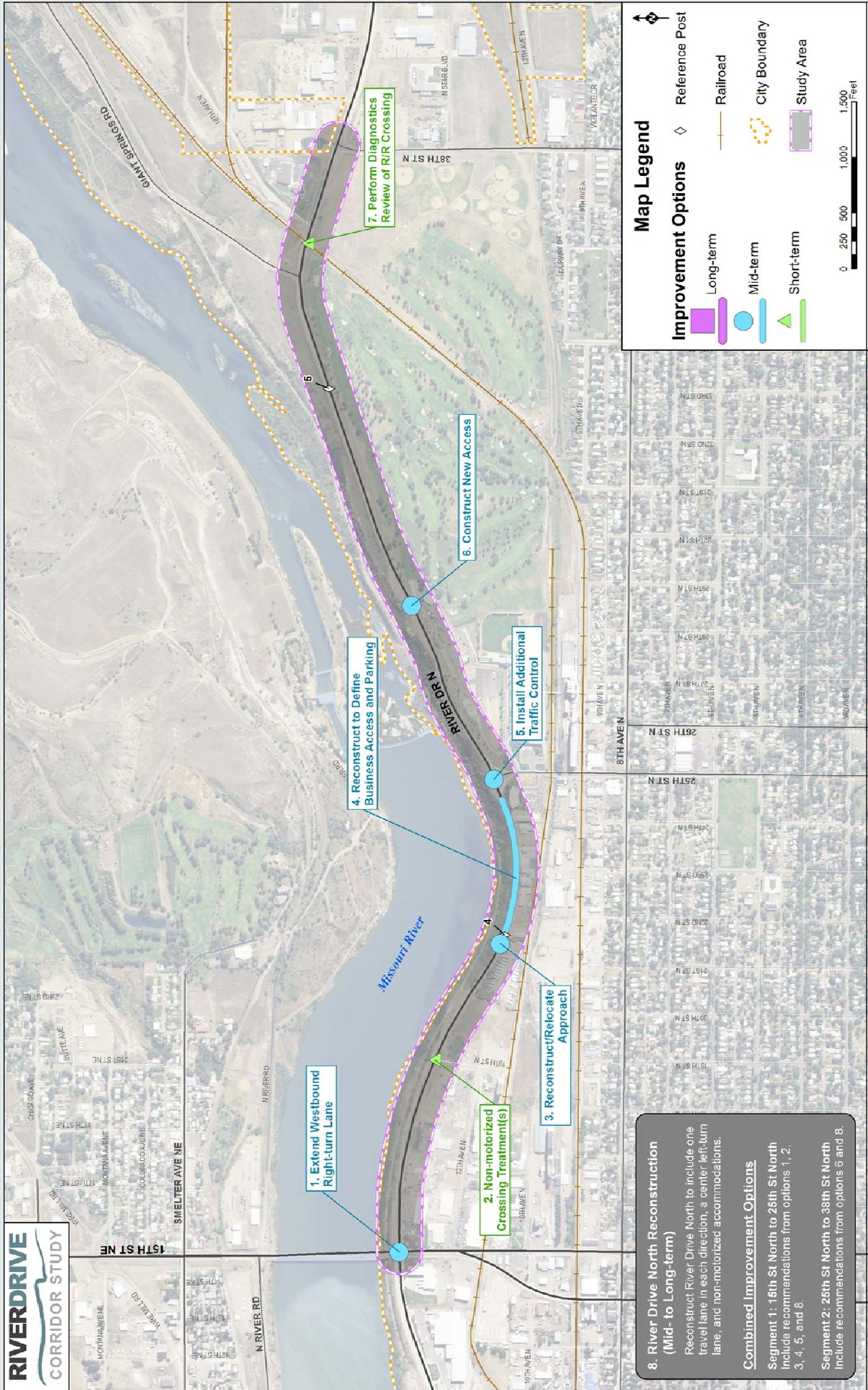
- Local and regional planning efforts
- Funding availability
- Construction feasibility and physical constraints
- Impacts to existing residents and businesses in the area

## Improvement Options Summary

The following table is a summary of the potential improvement options, along with planning-level cost estimates. Implementation of any of the improvement options may require close coordination with resource agencies to identify areas of sensitivity.

| Improvement Option              | Description  | Cost Estimate   |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>SPOT IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS</b> |  |   |
| 1.                              | 15 <sup>th</sup> Street North Intersection                                 | Extend the westbound right-turn lane to accommodate vehicle queues.<br>\$180,000  |
| 2.                              | 19 <sup>th</sup> Street North Intersection                                 | Evaluate and install enhanced non-motorized crossing treatment(s)<br>\$2,000 (advance signing)<br>\$40,000 (rectangular rapid flashing beacons)   |
| 3.                              | Big Stack Mobile Home Court Approach                                       | Reconstruct or relocate the existing approach to River Drive North.<br>\$900,000 (existing location)<br>\$500,000 (new connection to 19 <sup>th</sup> Street North)   |
| 4.                              | Business District Access   | Reconstruct roadway to provide for a center left-turn lane, bike lanes, and sidewalk on the south side.<br>\$1,500,000  |
| 5.                              | 25 <sup>th</sup> Street North Intersection                                 | Install additional traffic control such as a traffic signal or roundabout in coordination with corridor improvement options.<br>\$2,600,000 (Signal)<br>\$4,000,000 (Roundabout)  |
| 6.                              | Eagle Falls Golf Club Access   | Construct a new access along River Drive North near Eagle Falls Golf Club.<br>\$60,000 (without westbound left-turn lane)<br>\$320,000 (with westbound left-turn lane)  |
| 7.                              | Railroad Crossing  | Perform a diagnostics review of the railroad crossing.<br>\$30,000  |
| 8.                              | River Drive North Reconstruction   | Reconstruct to include one travel lane in each direction, center left-turn lane (where appropriate), and non-motorized accommodations.<br>\$6,000,000 to \$8,000,000 (Segment 1)<br>\$8,500,000 to \$11,400,000 (Segment 2) |
| <b>COMBINED OPTIONS</b>         |  |   |
| 1.                              | Segment 1 – 15 <sup>th</sup> Street North to 25 <sup>th</sup> Street North | Include recommendations from options 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8.<br>\$9,400,000 to \$14,500,000   |
| 2.                              | Segment 2 – 25 <sup>th</sup> Street North to 38 <sup>th</sup> Street North | Include recommendations from options 6 and 8.<br>\$8,600,000 to \$11,800,000  |

# Improvement Options





## Public Involvement Opportunities

An informational meeting will be held on **Wednesday, August 3rd** in the Resource Center Room of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, 4201 Giant Springs Road. The meeting will begin with a presentation at 6:00 PM and will be followed by a question and answer period. Time for informal discussions with the project team will also be available.

The purpose of the meeting is to present the recommended improvement options and gather feedback on the draft corridor study report. Starting July 29th, the draft report will be made available for review on the study website ([www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/riverdrive](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/riverdrive)).

Community input is a very important part of the process, and interested parties are encouraged to attend and participate. Comments and concerns may be submitted in writing at the meeting; by mail to Corrina Collins, Project Manager, MDT Statewide and Urban Planning, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620-1001; or online at: [www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/comment\\_form.shtml](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/comment_form.shtml)

The deadline for receiving comments is August 31, 2016.

## Next Steps

After the public comment period closes, comments will be reviewed, and the *River Drive Corridor Study* will be finalized. The ability to implement improvement options for River Drive depends on the availability of existing and future federal, state, local, and private funding sources. At the current time, funding has not been identified to complete the improvement options contained in the study.

*MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person's participation in any service, program or activity of our department. If you require reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting, please call Jan Nessel at (406) 556-4707 at least two days before the meeting.*

## CONTACTS:

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### Website

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

*Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided upon request. Persons who need an alternative format should contact the Office of Civil Rights, Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620. Telephone (406) 444-9229. Those using a TTY may call 1(800)335-7592 or through the Montana Relay Service at 711.*

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