

Project Development Process:

This study process will result in the selection of a single or limited number of alignment options that would be further reviewed under a National and Montana Environmental Policy Act (NEPA/MEPA) process if a project is forwarded. The NEPA/MEPA process would ensure that the proposed roadway design would minimize impacts to the surrounding built and natural environments. If a specific alignment is chosen, impacts would be analyzed and disclosed through the NEPA/MEPA process, and the project could move into final design and construction.

Figure 6—Project Development Process



Sidney area officials will explore funding options and identify responsibilities for the ultimate costs of the project design, construction, and maintenance of the facility. The City of Sidney, Richland County, the Richland Economic Development Authority, and MDT all recognize the challenge of funding the large but important undertaking of a new truck route. Each party must recognize that successful implementation of any new truck route will require identification of a funding plan, community support, and cooperation of local residents, business owners, and developers during right-of-way negotiations to ensure the project is viable.

How do I stay involved in this project?

Public participation is an important part of the project development process. You are welcome to submit comments and review project reports. Information about the Sidney Truck Route Study is available on the project website located at <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/sidneytruckroute/>

For other information, please feel free to contact either:

Montana Department of Transportation Ray Mengel PO Box 890 Glendive, Montana 59330-0890 (406) 345-8200 rmengel@mt.gov	DOWL HKM Jamie Jespersen PO Box 1009 Helena, Montana 59624-1009 (406) 442-0370 (ext. 604) jjespersen@hkminc.com
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Please refer to the Sidney Truck Route Study in your correspondence.

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.

City of Sidney
Richland County



Sidney Truck
Route Study

Third Public Information Meeting June 17, 2009

Project Team:

Local Officials:

Mayor Smelser Terry Meldahl Russ Huotari

Montana Department of Transportation:

Ray Mengel Jim Frank Gary Lundman
Carol Strizich Jean Riley Larry Sickerson
Brian Andersen

Federal Highway Administration:

Jeff Patten

DOWL HKM:

Jamie Jespersen
Darryl James,
subconsultant

Purpose of Tonight's Meeting:

The project team will provide an update on the progress of the study, a summary of Stakeholder Committee input, and the results of our preliminary analysis and modeling efforts. We will be requesting public feedback on the various phased alignment options and findings in the Public Review Draft Sidney Truck Route Study. This is your final opportunity to submit comment on this study phase of the project.

Document Viewing Locations:

Copies of the Public Review Draft Sidney Truck Route Study are available at the following locations:

- Sidney Public Library (121 3rd Avenue NW)
- Sidney City Hall (115 2nd Street SE)
- MDT Glendive District Office (503 N River Ave)
- MDT Helena Planning Division (2960 Prospect Ave)
- <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/sidney/documents.shtml>
- Call MDT Glendive District at (406) 345-8200 for a hard copy or cd

Submit Comments:

Comments may be submitted during the public meeting. Additionally, written comments may be submitted as follows:

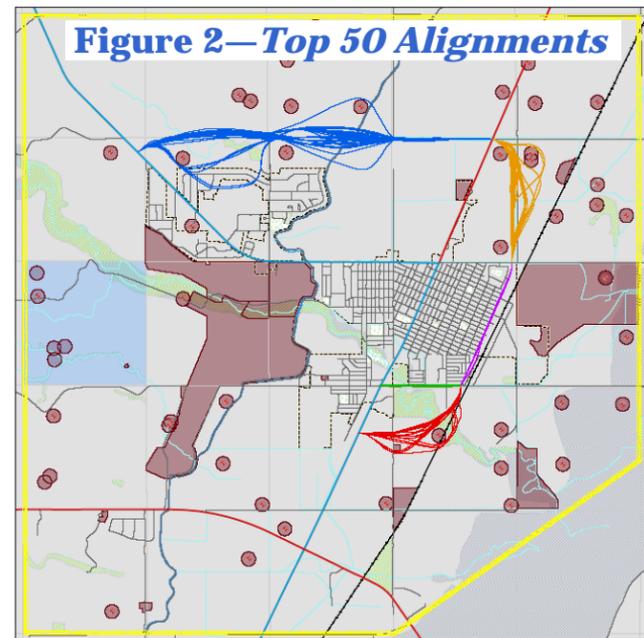
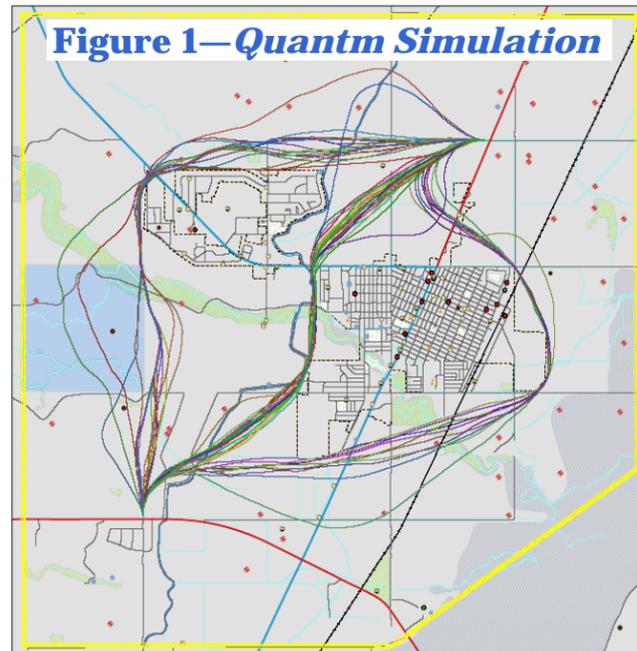
- Mail to Carol Strizich, MDT, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620-1001
- Submit comments online at www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/comment_form.shtml Please indicate comments are for the Sidney Truck Route Study project.

Comments received by June 26, 2009 will be considered in the final study report. Comments received after this date will be kept on file. Your input will be critical in helping us to gauge public and political support for the remaining options.

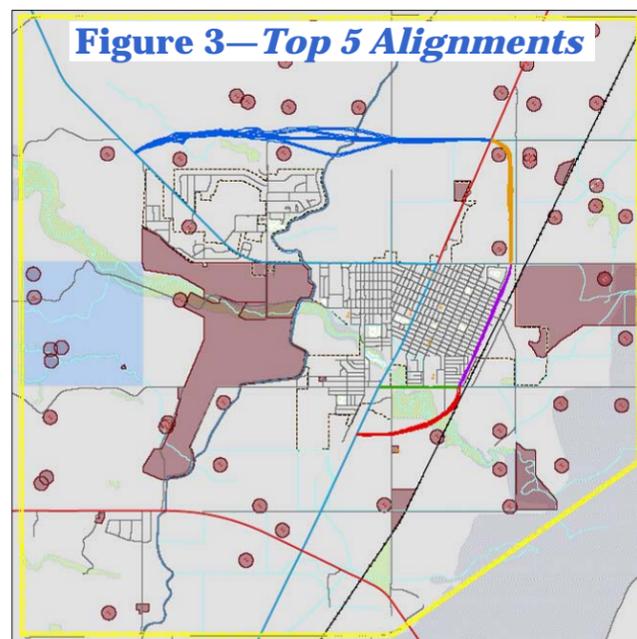
Sidney Truck Route Study Process:

The City of Sidney has requested that the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) conduct a study to examine potential benefits and optimal routes for a truck route around Sidney. The concept of a truck route has been a topic of discussion in Sidney for several decades, and the recent expansion of oil exploration in the region has heightened the local sense of need for this type of facility.

The project team conducted a Public Information Meeting in May 2008 and two stakeholder meetings were held in August and December 2008. An Agency Coordination Meeting was also held in December 2008 to gather information from regulatory agencies with jurisdiction in the study area. Input from the public, stakeholders, agencies, and the computer modeling software known as Quantm helped identify east, west, north, and central corridors. These are shown in the figure to the right.



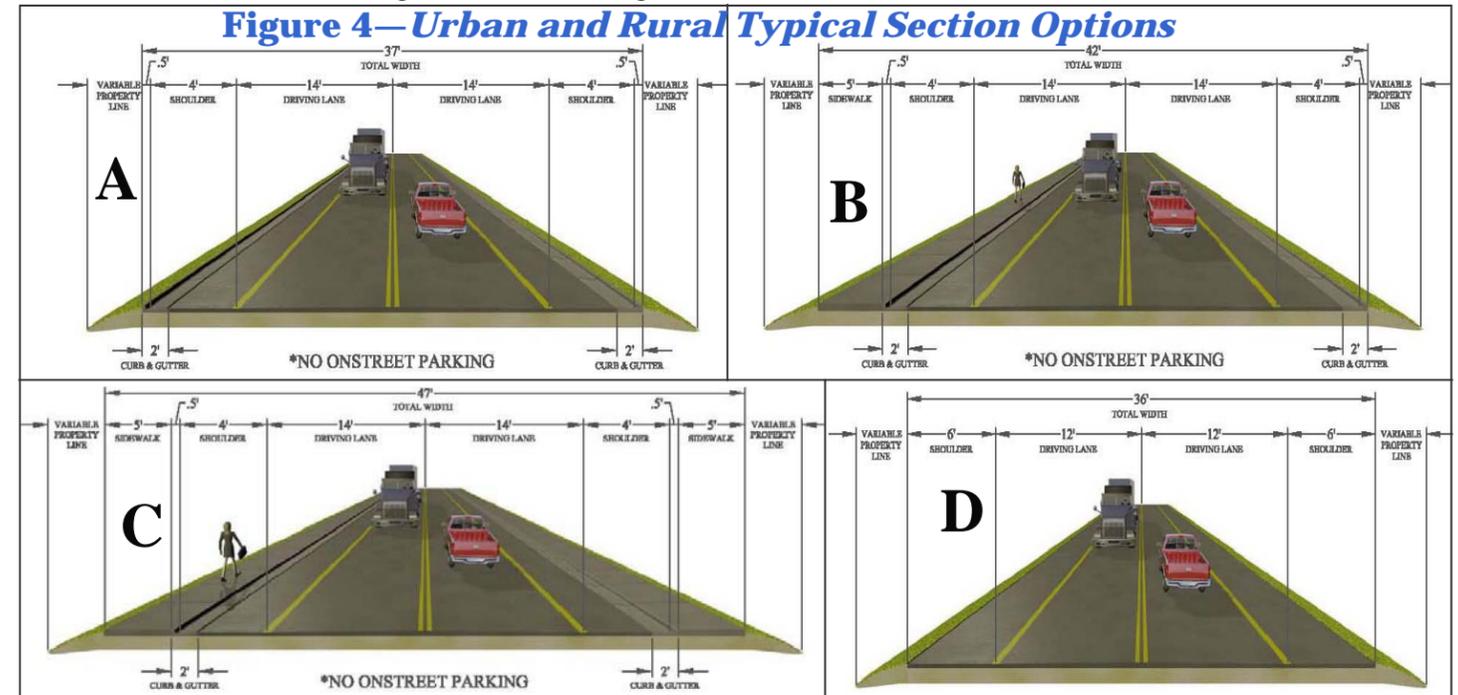
The west and central corridors were dropped from further consideration based on findings in the *Environmental Scan* document, *Traffic and Safety Tech Memorandum*, and stakeholder, local government, and other agency input. For the remaining north and east corridors, thousands of alignments were developed for each segment. The top 50 alignments for each segment based on cost, constructability, and impacts are shown in the figure to the left.



From the top 50 alignments for each segment, the top five were explored in more detail through the Quantm program. These top five alignments were selected based on cost, impacts, design criteria, and constructability. These are shown in the figure to the right.

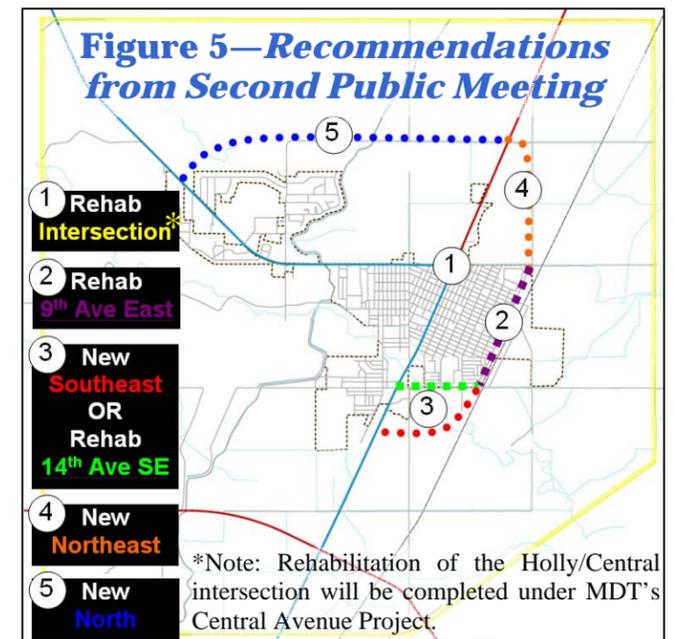
Sidney Truck Route Study Process (continued):

The City of Sidney, Richland County, and the Stakeholder Committee chose three urban typical section options (shown as options A-C) and one rural typical section option (shown as option D) to carry through the final Quantm modeling and cost estimating.



A second Public Information Meeting was conducted in March 2009. Attendees were asked to choose their preferred urban typical section. Attendees chose option B shown above for routes within Sidney City Limits. Option D would be utilized for undeveloped areas outside the Sidney City Limits. Attendees were also asked to specify the order of importance of the remaining five corridors. These results are shown to the right.

A draft of the Sidney Truck Route Study was issued for public review and comment on May 27, 2009.



Next Steps:

The City of Sidney, Richland County, MDT, and FHWA will review and address comments received by June 26, 2009, as appropriate, and finalize the document for possible City Council approval. Comments received after June 26, 2009 will be kept on file. As a locally-led project, local officials will need to identify the priorities and explore funding options for this project to continue forward. If funding can be identified at the local level, it may be possible to break out short segments of the Sidney Truck Route that can be constructed in the near term, as long as those segments have logical termini and independent utility apart from any other improvement.