Presentation Outline

• Life of an MDT Project
• Plans and Studies
• Nomination Tools
• Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)
• Tentative Construction Plan (TCP)
• Challenges in Providing Wildlife Accommodations
• Successful installations
• Q & A
The Life of an MDT Project
The Life of an MDT Project

Planning → Nomination → Design → Construction → Maintenance

VISION ZERO
zero deaths - zero serious injuries
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Planning for Montana’s transportation future takes ongoing collaboration. Let’s keep the conversation going!

Your input is welcome at any time! Stakeholders and members of the public may also participate at specific milestones through the opportunities noted in the graphic below. Thank you for your involvement in TranPlanMT.

For more information contact us at:

http://www.mdt.mt.gov/tranplan | 406-444-6201
Montana Urban Areas: Plans and Maps

Take a tour of the Montana Urban Areas and view their respective planning documents and Urban Area maps.
The Life of an MDT Project

Planning → Nomination → Design → Construction → Maintenance
MDT Nomination Tool

ArcGIS - MDT Project Nomination Tool

Contents

- Montana Traffic Data - ATR WIM Sites
- Bridge Condition
- CoMS Level Of Service
- CoMS Level of Service - 5-year Projection
- CoMS Level of Service - 10-year Projection
- CoMS Level of Service - 20-year Projection
- Traffic Growth

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Map prepared May, 2014 by Fielding Holt & Ullevig in coordination with DIExSys. Wild animal crash patterns were determined through modeling produced revised in May, 2014 by DIExSys™. Map produced in ESRI ArcMap 10.2. Land jurisdiction and highway information provided by MDT Hillshade provided by USGS. Mapped using lookup table (provided by MDT) for conversion between reference marker (RM) and true distance (DCMI) linear referencing systems. Map reduced from 34”x44”.

Legend
- Wild Animal Crash Patterns
- Forest Service Lands
- County Boundaries
- National Parks
- Reservations
- MDT Districts
Interactive STIP Map

ArcGIS MDT Statewide Transportation Improvement Projects (STIP) 2017-2021.

Legend

STIP
STIP POINTS

STIP LINES

MDT BOUNDARIES

MDT Financial Districts

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STIP Project

ArcGIS - MDT Statewide Transportation Improvement Projects (STIP) 2017-2021.

Legend

REFERENCE MARKERS
Reference Markers

STIP
STIP POINTS

STIP LINES

MDT BOUNDARIES
MDT Financial Districts

27TH ST-1ST AVE S TO AIRPORT

UPN-UNIT 7910
CORRIDOR C000053N
BEGIN REF POST 0.000
LENGTH 2.988
TENTATIVE DATE 2018
PROJECT SCOPE 189 - RESURFACING- ASPHALT (THIN LIFT<=60.00MM) (INCLUDING SAF. IMP.) (PAVE PRES
PROJECT TYPE RESURFACE

Convert to
The Life of an MDT Project

Planning → Nomination → Design → Construction → Maintenance
FEDERAL & STATE TENTATIVE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS 2018 - 2022
Estimated Letting Dates as per October 26, 2017, TCP
The Life of an MDT Project
The Life of an MDT Project
Challenges in Providing Wildlife Accommodations

• Adjacent Land Use
• Scale and location of wildlife accommodations
• Data Needs
• Trust and Understanding of NGO’s
• Funding and Eligibility
• Installation and Future Maintenance Costs
• Paradigm Shift for Transportation
Montana Department of Transportation

Montana Wildlife and Transportation Summit

MDT Wildlife Accommodations

December 4, 2018

Tom Martin, PE  MDT Environmental Services Bureau Chief
Why Does MDT Care about Wildlife?

- Vision Zero
- Mission Statement – Sensitivity to the Environment
- TranPlanMT – Environmental Goals
- Responsible for Safety of Travelling Public and Maintaining Wildlife Movement
- Natural Resources fuel Montana’s economy
What is MDT Already Doing Regarding Wildlife?

- Wildlife Accommodation Process
- MDT District Biologists
- Project Coordination with FWP
- Wildlife Data
- Project Example: Lincoln – East project
MDT’s Wildlife Accommodation Definition

• Feature or a Strategy
• Designed and implemented into a transportation facility to moderate the effects of the infrastructure on wildlife and their habitat.
Wildlife Accommodations Process

1. NEEDS
2. RECOMMENDATIONS
3. ITERATIVE EVALUATION
4. DECISION

MDT District Biologists

- Missoula District: Joe Weigand
- Great Falls District: Paul Sturm
- Butte District: Deb Wambach
- Billings District: Susan Lenard
- Glendive District: Larry Sickerson
MDT District Biologists Duties

- Every project evaluated by Biologists
- Agency coordination (USFWS, FWP, etc.)
- Biological Resource Reports
- Biological Assessments (T&E Species)
- WA Needs and Feasibility analysis
- Project Impact Analysis
  - Avoidance/Minimization Recommendations
- MDT Design Team
FWP Project Coordination

- Biennial MDT/FWP Regional Meetings
  - Next one February 2019
  - ArcGIS Online Collaboration tool
- MDT/FWP Biologist coordinate on project by project basis
  - FWP Wildlife Biologists
  - FWP Bear Management Specialists
  - FWP Non-game Biologists
- Biologist field visits, call, email, etc.
- Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society Meeting
MDT Wildlife Data

- Collision Data from the MHP
- Carcass Data from MDT Maintenance
- Other sources: (primarily mapping data)
  - FWP
  - USFWS
  - BLM
  - DNRC
  - Tribal
  - Heritage Program/NRIS
- What else is out there?! Let talk about it.
Percent of Carcasses Collected by Species Statewide (Jan. 1, 2013 to Nov. 13, 2018)

32,047 total carcasses collected (Avg. = 5046/Year)

- Deer: 92.5% (n = 29,654)
- Elk: 2.8% (n = 884)
- Other Wildlife: 2.6% (n = 830)
- Antelope: 1.1% (n = 347)
- Moose: 0.4% (n = 136)
- Black Bear: 0.4% (n = 117)
- Bighorn Sheep: 0.2% (n = 51)
- Mtn Lion: 0.1% (n = 26)
- Mtn Goat: <0.1% (n = 2)
Statewide Crossings

**Constructed Wildlife Accommodations**

- Large-Mid Animal Crossings (n = 95)
- Small Animal Crossings (n = 15)
LINCOLN-EAST WILDLIFE ACCOMMODATIONS
EAST WILDLIFE BRIDGE/UNDERPASS
12 FEET TALL X 20 FEET WIDE
ALICE CREEK BRIDGE
WEST WILDLIFE BRIDGE/UNDERPASS
12 FEET TALL X 20 FEET WIDE
CAMERAS USED FOR ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT
TYPICAL JUMPOUT
ELK USING JUMPOUT
ASPEN GROVE FENCE END
BLACK BEAR
MOUNTAIN LION
MOOSE
ELK---TOUGH TO GET THROUGH STRUCTURES
ELK
WOLF
BIGHORN SHEEP
GRIZZLY
KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Takes time for animals to adapt
- Adaptive Management – willingness
- Team Effort!
Paul Sturm, Great Falls District Biologist
406-444-9438
psturm@mt.gov
How can NGOs and FWP support MDT?

• FWP/other agencies
  – Elevate importance of transportation/wildlife considerations
  – Data sharing (collar data, other?)
  – Recommendations that support MDT/projects
  – Share your knowledge and expertise
  – FWP Biologists at MDT field reviews with MDT Biologists or Design Team

• NGOs & Other Partners
  – Land acquisitions, easements
  – Alternative funding, grants
  – Public education outreach
  – Positive media for MDT
  – Improved communication/relationships
  – Monitoring new, existing crossings
How/when to engage?

- **Inside STIP projects**
  - MDT lead and engages outside entities for info, data, other needs

- **Outside STIP projects**
  - MDT partner at table
  - NGO, other agencies lead?
  - Funding
  - Priority areas
  - Collaborate before project becomes a project
The End