The Montana Department of Transportation will discuss the I-15/I-90 and I-115 interstate systems and interchanges near and within the Butte urban limits. The purpose of the meeting is to review the study process and potential improvement options developed for the interstate system (I-15/I-90 and I-115) including the Rocker, W. Butte, Excelsior Ave., Montana St., Harrison Ave., E. Butte and Continental Dr. interchanges.

The meeting is open to the public and will be recorded. 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 reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting, please contact Paul Grant at (406) 444-9415 at least two days before the meeting. 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.

Comments may be submitted in writing at the meeting, by mail to Jeff Ebert, MDT, PO Box 3068, Butte, MT 59702-3068 or online at www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/comment_form.shtml. Please indicate comments are for project CN 5098 and submit comments by October 17, 2008.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information:
Jeff Ebert, MDT Butte District Administrator, (406) 494-9600
Miki Lloyd, MDT Project Manager, (406) 444-9200
Corey Lang, PBS&J, (406) 599-1479
Paul Grant, Public Involvement Coordinator, (406) 444-9415

Public meeting to discuss Butte Interstate Traffic Study

Butte - The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is holding a public meeting to discuss the Butte Interstate Traffic Study on Wednesday, September 17, 2008. The open house meeting will be held at the Butte Civic Center, 1314 Harrison Avenue in Butte. Personnel from MDT and the project consultant team will be available to answer questions and take comments from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., with a brief presentation at 5:30 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to review the study process and potential improvement options developed for the interstate system (I-15/I-90 and I-115) including the Rocker, West Butte, Excelsior Avenue, Montana Street, Harrison Avenue, East Butte and Continental Drive interchanges.

The goal of the Butte Interstate Traffic Study is to identify existing deficiencies and develop potential improvement options to address these deficiencies. The first phase of the project (identify existing deficiencies) was completed in 2007 and the second phase (develop potential improvement options) has reached a milestone with the completion of the draft Butte Interstate Traffic Study report. Currently there is no funding for any of the potential improvement options, but this study will develop a long-range planning document for the Butte Interstate system so future funding can be pursued.

Community participation is a very important part of the process, and the public is encouraged to attend. Opinion, comments and concerns may also be submitted in writing at the meeting, by mail to Jeff Ebert, District Administrator, at MDT's Butte district office at PO Box 3068, Butte, MT 59702-3068, or online at www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/comment_form.shtml

Please indicate comments are for project CN 5098 and submit them by October 17, 2008.

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----------------END---------------------------------------------

Project name: Butte Interstate Traffic Study
Project ID: IM 0002(672)
Control number 5098
Silver Bow County
Butte Interstate Traffic Study Overview

Presentation for:
Public Open House Meeting #2
September 17, 2008

Presentation Outline

- Overall Study Background & Goals
- Review Phase 2 Process
- Present Phase 2 Options

Project Background

- 2005 Butte-Silver Bow Transportation Plan Update
  - Committed Project CM4 – Butte Interstate Traffic Study
  - Recommended Committed Project RCM6 – Interstate Collaboration
  - Additional projects with interstate access

Study Area

Project Goals

- Analyze existing conditions and identify deficiencies (Phase 1)
- Develop conceptual treatments, cost estimates and prioritize list of options (Phase 2)
- Provide a long-range planning document for the Butte Interstate system
- Identify funding requirements for potential options

Implementation of any potential option is dependent on available funding
Currently none of the potential options are programmed for implementation
Minor add-on option elements will be considered in projects currently in development

Benefits of Long Range Plan

- Provides guidance on prioritization of future improvements
- Used to review future development requests
- Potentially streamlines future project development
- Identifies future funding needs for corridor

Phase 2 Process

- Review Deficiencies (Identified in Phase 1)
- Option Development Workshop
  - Determine all reasonable options that address a deficiency
  - Advance options by conceptual design
- Option Review Meeting
  - Review Options for technical, operational & financial feasibility
  - Advance final options
- Prioritize Options
  - By timeframe
  - By priority
- Prepare Phase 2 Report
- Select Options for Implementation

Phase 2 Process

- Review Deficiencies
- Open House #1
  - Identify funding and select options for implementation

- Option Review & Prioritization Meeting
  - Advance conceptual option designs

- Option Development Workshop
  - Develop Schematic Options

- Identify funding and select options for implementation (Future Steps)
**Types of Potential Improvement Options**

- Safety Options
  - Minor Improvements
  - Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)
- Full Reconstruction Options
  - Interchange Reconfigurations
  - Mainline Interstate Reconstruction

**Non-Standard Options**

- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)
- Roundabouts
- Single Point Urban Interchange
- Variable Speed Limits
- Reclassification of I-115

**Non-Standard Options**

- Variable Message Signs
- Roundabouts
- Variable Speed Limits
- Speed Reduction Systems
- Anti-Icing Systems

**Non-Standard Options**

- Roundabouts
- Rocker Interchange
- Montana Street Interchange
- Continental Interchange

**Final Potential Options**

- 31 Final Options
- 14 Corridor Wide and Minor Improvement Options
- 17 Full Reconstruction Options

**Option Prioritization**

- Potential Implementation Timeframe of Option
  - Near Term – 0 to 7 years (14 options)
  - Long Range – 7 to 20 years (15 options)
  - Ultimate – Beyond 20 years (2 options)
- Priority of Improvement
  - High – Address Safety Deficiency
  - Medium
  - Low – Corrects a Guideline Deficiency

**Highest Priority Areas**

- Highest Priority Areas for Improvement
  - West Butte EB off-ramp (left side)
  - Harrison Ave EB off-ramp & Dewey Blvd Spacing
  - Mainline Segment (West Butte to Montana St)
- Next Highest Priority Areas
  - EB Rocker on-ramp acceleration length
  - Harrison Avenue tight loop ramps
  - East Butte tight loop ramp
  - Montana Street access issues

**Next Steps**

- Finalize Phase 2 Report – Fall 2008
- Identify funding for potential Options
- Implement potential Options based on available funding

**Questions**
WELCOME

to the

Butte Interstate Traffic Study

Public Open House

Wednesday, September 17, 2008 • 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
A Brief Presentation will Begin at 5:30 p.m.

PLEASE SIGN IN.
**PROJECT GOAL AND OVERVIEW**

**PROJECT GOAL:**
Provide a long-range planning document for the Butte Interstate system

- Analyze existing conditions and identify deficiencies (Phase 1)
- Develop conceptual treatments, cost estimates and prioritize list of options (Phase 2)

**PROJECT STUDY ELEMENTS:**

**Phase 1 – Existing Conditions**
- Safety Analysis
- Traffic Capacity & Operation Analysis
- Noise Study
- Geometric Features

**Phase 2 – Develop Potential Projects**
- Public involvement opportunities
- Develop list of safety/minor options
- Develop conceptual designs to address deficiencies identified in Phase 1
- Prepare cost estimates
- Prioritize options
- Prepare Phase 2 Report

**FUTURE STEP:**
- Identify funding and implement potential options

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Butte Interstate Traffic Study

Rocker Interchange

Near Term Options

Rocker Minor Improvements

Rocker Roundabout Option

Long Range Options

Eastbound Acceleration Lane

Butte Interstate Traffic Study

Rocker Interchange

Near Term Options

Rocker Minor Improvements

Rocker Roundabout Option

Long Range Options

Eastbound Acceleration Lane
Butte Interstate Traffic Study

Continental Interchange

Long Range Options

Roundabout Option
Butte Interstate Traffic Study

West Butte Interchange

Near Term Options
- West Butte Minor Improvements

Long Range Option
- Eastbound Off-ramp Option

Ultimate Option
- Diamond Interchange Option
Butte Interstate Traffic Study

Harrison Avenue Interchange

Near Term Options

Harrison Minor Improvements

Long Range Option

Single-point Urban Interchange Option

Diamond Interchange Option

DRAFT
Butte Interstate Traffic Study

Excelsior Interchange

Long Range Option

Improve Ramps Option

DRAFT
THANK YOU

Please fill out a comment form.

For additional information contact:

MDT
Jeff Ebert
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MDT’s Butte district office
PO Box 3068
Butte, MT 59702
(406) 494-9600

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http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/butte_traffic