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Montana Department of Transportation Begins Project in Great Falls
Crews will begin placing dirt near work zone this fall

GREAT FALLS, Montana (September 21, 2020) – The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is beginning a new project on Highway 87 north of Great Falls. This seven-mile project area will not fully impact the roadway until spring of 2021. However, **to ready the area for spring work, Schellinger crews will be placing embankment throughout the work zone this fall.** As large equipment is in the area, drivers may experience minor delays.

“We know Great Falls area residents saw plenty of construction this year,” Great Falls District Administrator, Jim Wingerter said. “This is why we wanted to get a jump on getting the word out to those not only who live in Great Falls, but those who use this roadway north of Great Falls to access recreational sites, the landfill, and neighboring communities. Crews will be piling up dirt to leave for a number of months, but there is good reason for it!”

Crews will start with initial work on **Monday, September 21**. First, the topsoil from neighboring hills on both sides of the road will be removed. Then, embankment will be unloaded from trucks onto the sides of the roadway and left to settle until construction on the current road begins in the spring. This is important to ensure that next spring’s construction activities begin on settled ground, providing solid investments for years to come.

During the embankment placement, speeds will be reduced to 35 MPH. Traffic will be controlled by pilot car operations during the embankment placement process. There will be signage indicating shoulder work where drivers will need to slow down, causing minor delays. No road closures will occur, but all are encouraged to stay alert for posted signage. The construction activities won’t have major impacts to traffic this fall, but MDT wants residents and drivers to know of these impacts early.

Public input is an important step for all road projects. Please reach out if you have questions. For those who would like regular updates, please contact Becca MacLean at becca@bigskypublicrelations.com or call the project hotline at (406) 207-4484 during business hours. You can also sign up to receive updates by texting “GREATFALLSNORTH” to 41411 For more information about the project, visit the project webpage at <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/greatfallsnorth/>.

Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided on 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 406-444-5416 or Montana Relay Service at 711.

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