Dear East Helena Friends and Neighbors,

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is proposing to reconstruct US 287/US 12, east of East Helena. This project, known as Highway 287 – Diehl Ranch Drive to Spokane Creek Road, would consist of two travel lanes in each direction, a center turn lane, a right-turn lane from Spokane Creek Road, and eight-foot shoulders. Highway 287 is an important route between Helena and Three Forks that is experiencing increasing travel that it was not originally designed to accommodate. To meet increasing demand, the three-mile stretch of roadway will be completely reconstructed, including grading, resurfacing, pavement markings and signage.

While construction isn’t slated to begin until the summer of 2021, the right-of-way process is scheduled to begin soon. Residents and businesses may see crews in the area and may be contacted by MDT in the near future. The final design and construction schedule of the project will be established soon. MDT staff will contact all potentially affected landowners prior to construction regarding property acquisition and temporary construction permits.

We know that you care about this area and we take this responsibility very seriously. This mailer is intended to share our current progress with you and also to share our contact information. Our goal is to ensure you know project plans well and that you are able to have your questions answered quickly. Please feel free to contact us through the following channels to sign up for updates or to continue learning more.
Again, construction is tentatively planned for 2021. During construction drivers may experience delays up to 15 minutes and should expect lower travel speeds during that time. One travel lane in each direction will be maintained throughout the project.

We look forward to working together.

Respectfully,
Katie Klietz
Communications Manager
Big Sky Public Relations on behalf of the Montana Department of Transportation