PROJECT OVERVIEW

While beautiful and iconic, MT Highway 78 has a crash rate 65% higher than the statewide average. To make this rural roadway safer, the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is designing two adjacent projects, known as Highway 78 - Red Lodge to Luther.

There are numerous areas on MT Highway 78 where the steep road traverses hills and valleys, and drivers have limited sight distance and time to react to upcoming obstacles. The Highway 78 - Red Lodge to Luther project will reduce the roller coaster driving experience and increase lines of sight, helping drivers make better decisions.

The projects will start five miles northwest of Red Lodge, north of Summit Lane, and end east of Butcher Creek Road near Luther. In total, nearly 11 miles of MT Highway 78 will be improved.

CURRENT PROJECTIONS ESTIMATE
THE PROJECT WILL COST

$17 MILLION

INCREASED SIGHT DISTANCE TO SEE BEYOND CURVES
REPLACE BRIDGE CROSSING AT LOWER LUTHER ROAD
FLATTEN STEEP HILLS
WIDEN SHOULDERS TO 4 FEET ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HIGHWAY
ADD VEHICLE TURNOUTS

STAY IN THE KNOW

Email: Contact Takami at takami@bigskypublicrelations.com
SMS Text Updates: Text HIGHWAY78 to 41411 to subscribe
Mail: Highway 78 Project C/O BSPR, PO Box 732, Bozeman MT 59771
Project hotline: 406-207-4484 during business hours

The Montana Department of Transportation cares deeply about community input and ensuring that the public is well-informed before moving forward with a design. MDT encourages any and all input while adjustments can be made to project plans. Though the budget might not accommodate every change, all ideas are welcome and considered.

LEARN MORE ABOUT VISION ZERO AT
www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero

Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided on request. Persons who need an alternative format should contact the Human Resources and Occupational Safety Division, Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue., PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620. Telephone 406-444-9229. Those using a TTY may call 1(800)335-7592 or through the Montana Relay Service at 711.

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Highway 78 – Red Lodge to Luther is in the design phase, which means that certain aspects of the project could change as MDT continues moving forward with plan development. This phase of the planning process is rigorous and takes time. Construction will not begin until at least 2025.

Design phases for every project are extensive. They require ample time so that staff can properly create and review potential project plans. Below are just some of the tasks that project teams perform during the design phase:

- Reviewing past research from surveys of the project area
- Mapping and assessment of surrounding terrain (both above & below ground)
- Presenting and adjusting plans based off of public input
- Determining the feasibility of construction features
- Research and permitting to ensure environmental impacts are kept to a minimum
- Creating detailed plans to guide construction
- Securing federal funding
- Presenting and adjusting plans based off of public input
- Reviewing past research from surveys of the project area
- Mapping and assessment of surrounding terrain (both above & below ground)

You may be familiar with the phrase “tip of the iceberg.” MDT project plans are similar. Road construction is just one part of what we do and much of our work is done behind the scenes.