

NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES

*Paradise Valley Corridor Planning Study
US 89 (Gardiner to Livingston)*

FINAL



Prepared for:
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

MDT	Montana Department of Transportation
YNP	Yellowstone National Park

NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES

1.0 CORRIDOR NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES

Needs and objectives for the US 89 Corridor Planning Study were developed based on a review of existing data, local plans, and input from resource agencies, stakeholders and the public. The needs and objectives explain why an improvement option, or options, may be necessary. The process includes analyzing the social, environmental, and engineering conditions described in the *Existing and Projected Conditions Report* and recognizing the character of the corridor.

The following needs and objectives will be used to develop improvement options. Improvement options identified in this study may lead to future transportation projects that improve safety and operations, or address infrastructure concerns. The “Purpose and Need” statement for any future project should be consistent with the needs and objectives contained in this study.

1.1 NEED 1

Improve the safety of US 89 in the study area for all users.

Objectives (To the Extent Practicable)

- Improve roadway elements to meet current design standards.
- Review signing and passing opportunities based on current design standards.
- Evaluate best practice mitigation strategies as appropriate to reduce potential animal-vehicle conflicts.
- Evaluate existing access density impacts.

1.2 NEED 2

Improve the operations of US 89 within the study area.

Objectives (To the Extent Practicable)

- Accommodate existing and future capacity demands within the corridor.
- Minimize future access density impacts.
- Consider access to recreational sites in the corridor.

1.3 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Minimize the environmental resource impacts of improvement options.
- Limit disruptions during construction as much as practicable.
- Provide appropriate speeds within the study area per statutory and special speed zones established by the Montana Transportation Commission.
- Review maintenance practices.
- Recognize the environmental, scenic, cultural, recreational, and agricultural nature of the corridor.
- Consider local planning efforts.
- Availability and feasibility of funding.
- Construction feasibility.