



PARADISE VALLEY

Corridor Planning Study

Informational Meeting No. 2

Livingston

Monday, February 24th, 2014

Community Room

6:00 p.m.

Gardiner

Tuesday, February 25th, 2014

Gardiner Community Center

7:00 p.m.



Welcome and Introductions

- Introduction of local officials
- Partners
 - MDT
 - FHWA
 - Park County



Outline of this Evening's Meeting

- Title VI considerations
- Corridor planning process
- Areas of concern
- Needs and objectives
- Recommended improvement options
- Recommended improvement options to be implemented by others
- Other improvement options considered
- Next steps & conclusion

TITLE VI CONSIDERATIONS

Title VI Considerations

This meeting is held pursuant to Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act which ensures that no person shall, as provided by Federal and State Civil Rights law, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination on the basis of a protected status during any MDT project.

Further information is available in Title VI pamphlets available at the sign-in table.

CORRIDOR PLANNING PROCESS

What is a Corridor Planning Study?

- Corridor planning studies:
 - Are a “high level scan”
 - Define transportation issues/areas of concern
 - Consider social, economic and environmental effects at an early stage
 - Identify and prioritize cost-effective and feasible strategies
 - Provide a level of analysis that can support informed and sustainable decisions
 - Provide opportunities for early and continuous involvement

What a Corridor Planning Study is Not

- Corridor planning studies are **not**:
 - Environmental compliance document
 - Preliminary or final design project
 - Construction or maintenance project
 - Right-of-way acquisition project

Goals and Purpose of Study

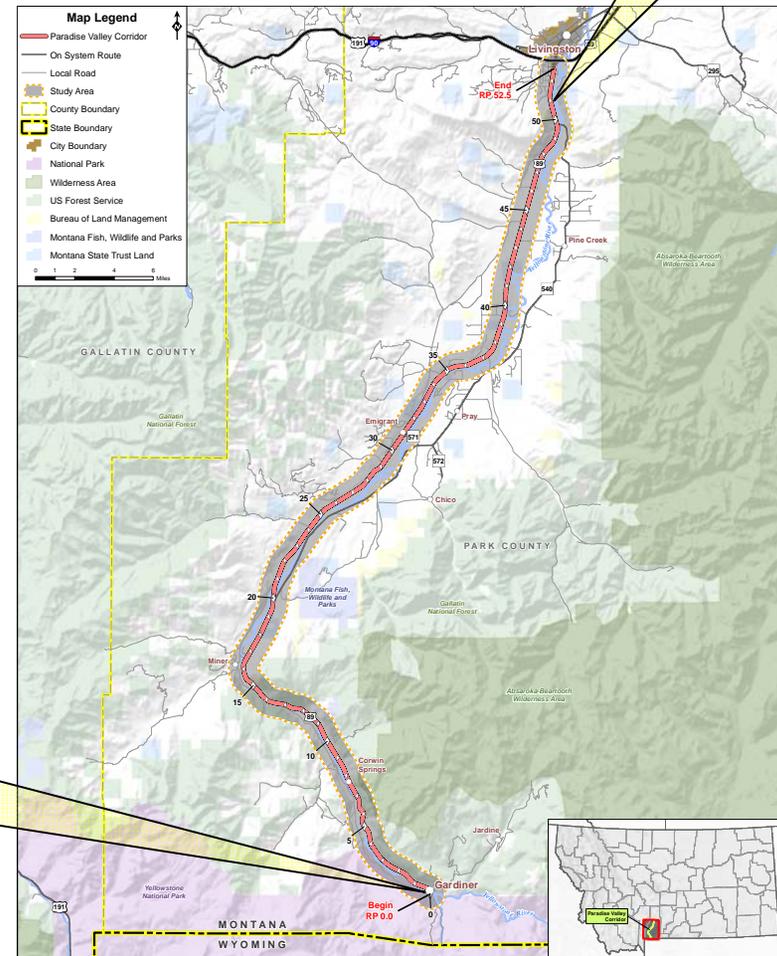
- Engage constituents early!
- Identify potential impacts and constraints
- Identify needs and objectives
- Identify short-range and long-range improvements
- Develop planning level cost estimates
- Develop information and data to be forwarded into the environmental process if a project moves forward from the study (dependent on available funds)

Study Area Boundary

- US Highway 89 (US 89)
- Between Gardiner and Livingston
- 52.5 miles in length

**BEGIN
US 89 @ YNP
Boundary in
Gardiner
(RP 0.0)**

**END
US 89 south
of Livingston
(RP 52.5)**



AREAS OF CONCERN

Areas of Concern – Transportation System

- **Level of Service** – Concerns over existing and projected levels of service (LOS).
- **Horizontal Alignment** - Eight curves do not meet standards.
- **Vertical Alignment** - Four curves and two grades do not meet standards.
- **Safety** – Concerns over animal-vehicle collisions.
- **Passing** - Seven locations do not meet standards.

Areas of Concern – Transportation System

- **Surfacing** - Roadway widths less than 40 feet.
- **Access Points** - Eleven approaches do not meet standards.
- **Parking** – Locations in Gardiner do not meet standards.
- **Geotechnical** - Landslide and rockfall hazard sites at various locations.

Areas of Concern – Environmental Considerations

- **Prime Farmland** - Areas of prime farmland are located within the study area.
- **Geologic Resources** - Three designated faults are located within the study area.
- **Surface Waters** - A Special River Management Zone exists for the Yellowstone River from Emigrant to Springdale.

Areas of Concern – Environmental Considerations

- **Hazardous Substances** - Abandoned and inactive mine sites are present.
- **Wildlife** - Three endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species may occur in the study area.
- **Recreational, Cultural and Archaeological Environment** - Multiple Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) resources are present within the study area.

NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES

Needs and Objectives

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.

Needs and Objectives

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.

Needs and Objectives

Other considerations

- Minimize the environmental resource impacts of improvement options.
- Limit disruptions during construction to the extent practicable.
- Provide appropriate speeds within the study area per statutory and special speed zones established by the Montana Transportation Commission.
- Review maintenance practices.

Needs and Objectives

Other considerations (*continued*)

- Recognize the environmental, scenic, cultural, recreational, and agricultural nature of the corridor.
- Consider local planning efforts.
- Consider availability and feasibility of funding.
- Consider construction feasibility.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS

Recommended Improvement Options

Geometrics

- 1. Shoulder Widening
- 2. Maiden Basin Road Intersection (RP 5.15)
 - 2(a). Advance Warning Signs (RP 5.15)
 - 2(b). Right-turn Lane (RP 5.15)



Recommended Improvement Options

Geometrics

- 4. East River Road Intersection – Turn Lanes (RP 19.8)
- 5. Mill Creek Road Intersection – Right-turn Lane (RP 37.2)
- 6. Geometric Improvements (RP 49.0 to RP 49.8)
 - 6(a). Advance Warning Signs (RP 49.10 and RP 49.35)



Recommended Improvement Options

Vehicle and Congestion Passing Opportunities

- 7. Passing Opportunities
 - 7(a). Evaluate No-Passing Zones
 - 7(c). Passing Lanes at Spot Locations
 - *RP 16.6 (Tom Miner Creek Road) to 19.8 (East River Road)*
 - *RP 25.6 to 28.4*
 - *RP 40.0 (Inverness Road) to 42.0*
 - *RP 44.4 (Old Yellowstone Trail) to 47.9 (Farm Access Overpass)*

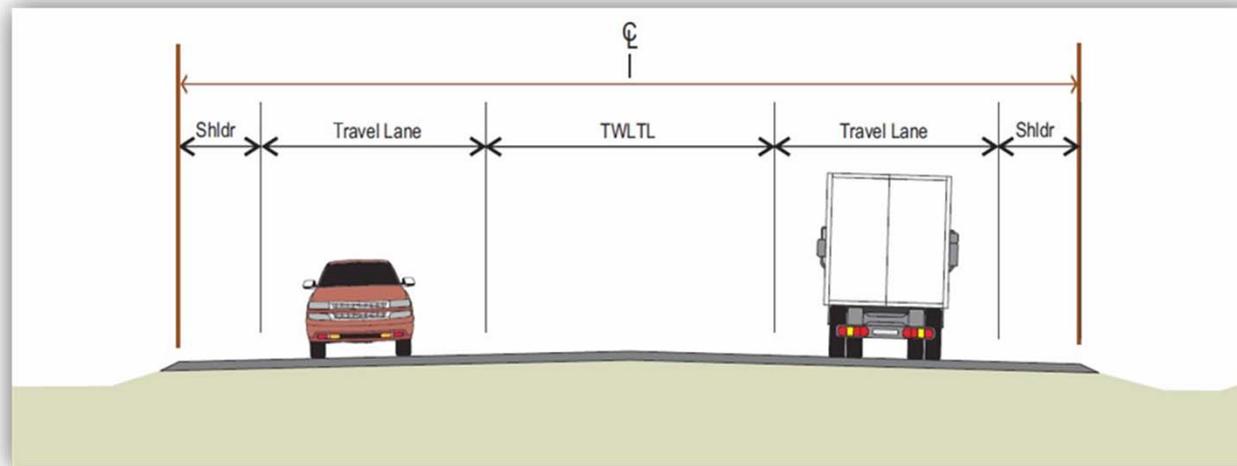


FOUR POSSIBLE LOCATIONS

Recommended Improvement Options

Access Management

- 9. Livingston Rural/Urban Interface (RP 49.8 to RP 52.5)



Recommended Improvement Options

Alternative Travel Modes / Other

- 11. Gardiner Area (RP 0.0 to RP 1.0)
 - 11(a). On-street Parking
 - 11(b). Lighting Improvements



RECOMMENDED
IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS TO
BE IMPLEMENTED BY
OTHERS

Recommended Improvement Options to be Implemented By Others

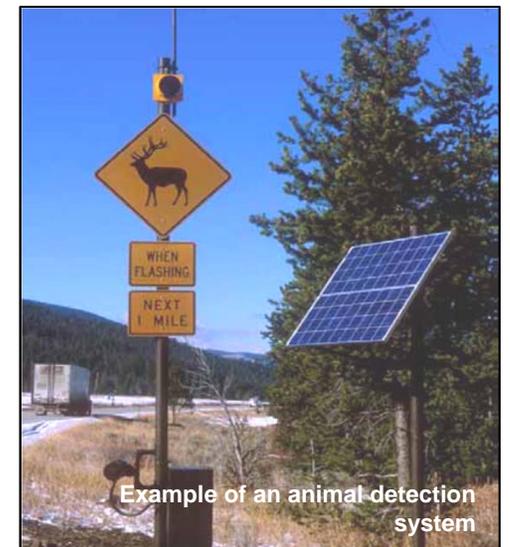
- 10. Multi-use Trail
- 13. Reduce Wildlife-vehicle Conflicts



Existing non-motorized path



Example of a "variable" message sign



Example of an animal detection system

OTHER IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Other Improvement Options Considered

- 2(c). Slope Flattening (RP 5.15) -
Sight distance is limited from
Maiden Basin Road
- 3(a). Rockfall Hazard Section #307
(RP 13.32 to RP 13.66)
- 3(b). Rockfall Hazard Section #309
(RP 13.84 to RP 13.96)
- 3(c). Rockfall Hazard Section #310
(RP 13.96 to RP 14.61)
- 6(b). Geometric Reconstruction
(RP 49.0 to RP 49.8)
- 7(b). Pullouts for Slow-moving
Vehicle



Other Improvement Options Considered

- 7(d). Four- or Five-lane Typical Section
- 7(e). Alternating Passing Lanes
- 8. Access Management Plan
- 12. Vegetation Management Plan
- 13. Wildlife Conservation Assessment
- 14. Wash-out Area (RP 8.7)

NEXT STEPS AND CONCLUSION

Next Steps

- Receive and consider comments on draft corridor study report from:
 - Public
 - Stakeholders
 - Resource agencies
- Review with study planning team
- Prepare final corridor study report
- Post to study website, distribute and conclude process

**Comment Period Runs From
February 21 thru March 14,
2014.**

Implementation

- Ultimately, depends on availability of funds.
 - Required steps:
 - Identify and secure a funding source(s).
 - Follow MDT guidelines for project nomination and development.
- or**
- Coordinate with MDT via the System Impact Action Process (SIAP).

Conclusion

- Questions, answers and/or comments?

- Study website:

<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/paradisevalley/>

- Study newsletters:

- Study contact:

Sheila Ludlow

MT Department of Transportation

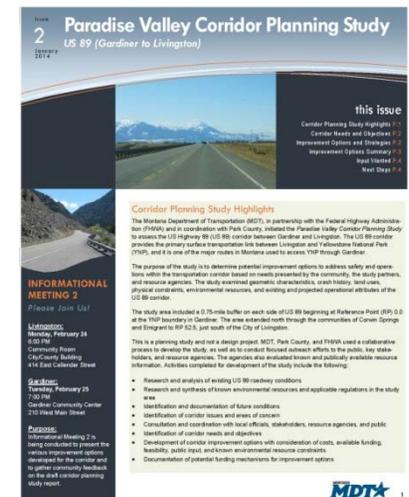
2701 Prospect Avenue

P.O. Box 201001

Helena, Montana 59620-1001

Email: sludlow@mt.gov

Tel: (406) 444-9193



**Comments Must Be Sent To
 MDT via Email, Regular Mail
 or the Website Comment
 Link**