What is this project?

This project will install a roundabout in Billings at the intersection of Rimrock Road and 62nd Street West. Installing a roundabout includes additional changes such as new curb and gutter, median, and striping (the painted lines that help direct traffic). You can also expect to see new LED lights and different culverts along the side of the road. Learn more at https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/rimrock/.

Another roundabout? Why do we keep installing these things?

Roundabouts are to improve safety at intersections like this one. By design, roundabouts:
• provide good visibility to all drivers and pedestrians;
• slow traffic down to safer speeds;
• decrease the number of vehicle and pedestrian conflicts compared to other intersections; and
• significantly reduce the chance of serious crashes.

Other options like traffic signals, stop signs, or flashing lights all come with risks the roundabout helps us eliminate.

Why here?

When MDT studied the project area (all three intersections), we found a total of 14 crashes, including fatal and injury crashes, that could have been addressed by the installation of a roundabout. To create a safer roadway, a single-lane roundabout is the best solution. It combines safety with the improving capacity to accommodate current and future traffic. It also provides a long-term, cost-effective solution. Adding a roundabout means the total number of points where two vehicles could clash will be reduced from 50 to just eight, with speeds at the intersection generally held to 25 mph or less.
**Roundabouts are terrible for truckers and farm equipment. Big rigs can’t fit!**

We work hard with our engineers and national partners to understand how different solutions like roundabouts work for the communities they serve. Because a cookie-cutter approach can’t work for every spot in Montana – we’ve worked with local stakeholders to ensure the roundabout is functional for all users. This includes improvements to the size and style of the roundabout to provide space for large equipment.

**Where is this project at timeline wise?**

We’re currently about 80% done with the design stage and will likely begin right-of-way negotiations in the winter of 2021. Upon successful negotiations with affected landowners, construction can start as soon as project funding is secured. Right now, we’re working with local landowners, planners, and community members to make sure the design meets the needs of its users, is agreeable to landowners, and matches local and community goals.

**So, I can’t provide input anymore?**

You absolutely can! After careful analysis/evaluation, months of public involvement, coordination with local stakeholders, and conversations with community and industry leaders, MDT decided to select a roundabout. This project is in the “design” phase, which means our chance to translate public input into major changes is getting smaller, but we always welcome feedback.

**Why does this always take so long?**

We know it can seem like transportation projects take a long time; we feel it too. But the phases we go through like survey/study, design, and right-of-way are all necessary to ensure we make the best decisions. MDT’s project development process is required for any projects receiving state or federal dollars. Careful planning at the beginning means we are better able to avoid delays as the project is underway - saving time and taxpayer dollars and ultimately creating long-lasting transportation projects for Montanans. If you have any questions about the project, next steps, or concerns and ideas you want to share, please email ellac@strategies360.com.

**Am I going to have to drive around another construction project?**

Not yet! Construction is anticipated to begin in 2024; the design is expected to be completed by 2022 and right-of-way secured by late 2023. In the meantime, you may occasionally see staff out and about in the area as we collect the last of the data we need. Surveying might require a slight and temporary shift in your path, but don’t worry about your morning commute yet!

**What is this project going to cost?**

While we know many factors that go into determining project costs, there’s still a lot to do to refine the design and determine the total project cost. As we learn more and get closer to a final number, all information will be available on the project website.