



Top 5 Travel Tips for the New Russell Street Bridge

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is thrilled to announce that drivers, cyclists and pedestrians will all be able to travel on the first section of the new Russell Street Bridge in early May! Traffic will be moved to the new structure once the east half of the bridge is complete.

Prior to that time, we want to make sure you know our plans as well as we do. The following are the top 5 things you need to know before your first trip across the new bridge.

- 1) **The new configuration for the east half of the new Russell Street Bridge will maintain two-way traffic. Drivers will be familiar with the lane configurations.** The only big change will be the addition of a shared-use path on the eastern side of the bridge. There will also be a shift in the travel lanes through the intersection to get traffic to the new bridge.
- 2) **Some routes will be affected by the traffic swap.**
 - **The Broadway and Russell Street intersection.** When traffic is shifted onto the east half of the newly constructed Russell Street Bridge, there will be some changes. If you're planning to head east toward downtown, please be aware that you can still turn right. Drivers heading east on Broadway will also not be able to take a left turn on to Russell Street.
 - **River Road.** Once traffic is swapped to the new bridge, there will only be right turn out of River Road – heading south on Russell Street. There will be no other turn options to/from River Road until the west half of the bridge is completed. For drivers looking to access River Road, the detour route will be west on Wyoming Street to Curtis Street, then north on Curtis Street to River Road.
 - **Liberty Lane.** There will be closures on Liberty Lane in order to build the new west half of Russell Street. The detour will be on/off of Broadway Street from Cooper Street, near the McDonalds restaurant approach.
 - These maps are available on the [project webpage](#).
- 3) **There will be traffic.**
 - With temporary signals, roadway work, and bridge construction all taking up real estate on Russell Street, there will be lane restrictions. We'll do all we can to limit delays, but we anticipate longer wait times the next few months within the Russell Street – Broadway to Dakota project limits. Taking alternative routes wouldn't be a bad idea if you're in a hurry. Otherwise, be mindful of construction, signage and our workers. We think you'll be pleased to see the progress we're making!
- 4) **The Russell/Broadway signal will look different but will function in the same way.**
 - Temporary signals will be installed to assign and facilitate safe traffic flow while crews connect in new intersection improvements. The temporary signals will operate until the bridge is fully constructed and permanent signals are installed. Temporary signals take up a lot of room, which is a main reason for some of the lane changes mentioned above.
- 5) **Traffic will stay on the east section of the bridge until later this year when the entire bridge is fully constructed.** Once the west half of the bridge is constructed, all five lanes of the final new bridge will go into use.

If you have questions about this traffic swap, or want to learn more about the project, we're here to help!

- Email updates: Email a request to Katie at katie@bigskypublicrelations.com
- Text message updates: Text "Russell" to 41411
- Radio:
 - Mountain Broadcasting (KMSO) 102.5 FM
 - The Blaze (KBAZ) 96.3 FM
 - The Trail (KDTR) 103.3 FM
 - Montana Public Radio 89.1 FM
- Follow the MDT Road Report: <http://roadreport.mdt.mt.gov/travinformobile/>
- Engage with us on Facebook.