



Russell Street – Broadway to Dakota Traffic Swap Q&A

Traffic Configuration

- **What is the traffic configuration on Russell Street going to look like once the east half of the newly constructed bridge is completed?**
 - The new configuration for the east half of the new Russell Street Bridge will maintain two-way traffic. There will be one southbound lane and one northbound lane, as there is now on the current structure.
 - New to the configuration will be a shared-use path on the eastern side of the bridge.
 - The southern end of the bridge will open to two-lane, two-way traffic with a shared left turn median.
 - Drivers will be familiar with the lane configurations. For those traveling north, there will still be a dedicated left-turn lane on to Broadway Street, a straight lane to continue on to Russell Street, and a right-turn on to Broadway Street. For those turning right on to the new bridge, there will be one lane for southbound traffic.
- **Was this reconfiguration always part of the Montana Department of Transportation's plan?**
 - Yes. The project was designed to maintain traffic flow throughout the duration of the project. The bridge is being built in two phases to maintain traffic flow and reduce delays for the traveling public.
- **Which routes will this effect?**
 - The **Broadway and Russell Street** intersection will have a slightly different traffic configuration as traffic is shifted onto the east half of the newly constructed Russell Street Bridge. If you're planning to head east toward downtown, please be aware that the righthand eastbound lane of Broadway Street will be closed while crews work to complete connecting pavement work. That said, you will still be able to turn right on to Broadway Street. There will just be one less lane in order to do so.
 - **River Road** will be affected when traffic is moved over 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 from or to River Road available 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.
 - 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.
- **Will the signal at Broadway and Russell be impacted?**
 - Yes. In order to complete connecting intersection roadway work, temporary signals will be installed to assign and facilitate safe traffic flow. The temporary signals will be in use until the second phase of the bridge is complete and permanent signals are installed.

- **How will Montana Department of Transportation ensure the safety of the traveling public when this big shift is made?**
 - Safety is a top priority for the Montana Department of Transportation and we've worked hard to create a traffic control plan that will get everyone safely through the project – whether traveling by car, bike, or on foot. There will be detours for all modes of traffic. Some trail and road closures will be necessary to ensure that the public is kept a safe distance from construction activities. Signs will be posted to inform the public of detours. All are reminded to please follow signage as posted.

Timing

- **When will drivers be shifted on Russell Street?**
 - This work is weather dependent. If we have warm, dry days, crews anticipate having traffic moved by the end of April 2019.
- **How long will this change in traffic last?**
 - This traffic swap will be in effect until the second phase of the bridge work is completed.
 - Once the west half of the bridge is constructed, all four lanes of the new bridge will go into use.
- **When does MDT expect to see the bridge fully complete?**
 - All bridge building work is anticipated to be completed in early 2020.
- **Why is MDT shifting traffic now?**
 - Once the first phase of the bridge is complete, traffic will be shifted to the new bridge.
 - Once traffic is shifted, the old bridge can be demolished, and construction on the second phase of the bridge (west sections) can begin.
- **Is this traffic shift the result of a cold, wet winter?**
 - No. The bridge was designed to be built in two phases. Some of the construction work was expected to occur during the winter months, as weather permitted.
- **Is the overall Russell Street – Broadway to Dakota project still on schedule?**
 - Yes. While there have been minor delays, the overall project is still on schedule.

Future Anticipated Impacts to Travel

- **Is this the final traffic configuration for the project?**
 - Once the traffic is on the east half of the new bridge, drivers will remain on the new bridge until the next phase of the bridge construction is completed.
 - As needed during construction, traffic may shift to maintain safety for the public. If there are changes to traffic plans, all will be updated well in advance.
 - The intersection at Broadway and Russell Street will have slightly different traffic configurations while construction takes place in the intersection.
 - Please follow traffic signals and signage for traffic detours.

- **When will the second half of the bridge be completed?**
 - Crews anticipate that with good weather, the second half should be completed in early 2020.
- **When the bridge is fully constructed, will we have the same traffic impacts?**
 - Once the bridge is fully constructed, there might be limited traffic delays while crews wrap up landscaping and miscellaneous work.
- **There is landscaping in the medians as part of the project. When that is planted, will traffic be shifted?**
 - Single lane traffic impacts may be used occasionally for installation of landscaping.
- **When will we see the final roadway alignment?**
 - Once the second phase of the bridge is finished, and the intersection of Broadway and Russell Street is complete, the alignment will be final.

Public Transportation, Pedestrian & Cyclist Impacts

- **Will Mountain Line and/or UDASH have to change their routes?**
 - Public transportation will follow the traffic reconfigurations.
 - Bus stops may be relocated temporarily to ensure safety of the traveling public. Any changes to bus stop locations will be posted in weekly updates and on the project webpage to keep riders informed.
 - The Montana Department of Transportation works in close collaboration with Mountain Line, UDASH, and Beach Transportation to ensure all public transportation routes run successfully during construction.
- **Will school buses be able to navigate the new configuration?**
 - Yes. School buses will be able to navigate new configurations.
- **Should we expect a new pedestrian detour this spring?**
 - Yes. Crews are in the process finalizing pedestrian routes. Detour maps will be provided in weekly updates and on the project webpage throughout the project as they are approved.
- **Can I still access the Milwaukee Trail system?**
 - Yes. The detour along Wyoming will remain until the Milwaukee trail underpass is opened. This is anticipated to occur near the end of summer or early fall of 2019. Crews have paved the bike paths along the corridor recently to help during the transition.
- **Once vehicles are traveling on the east half of the new bridge, will cyclists and pedestrians also be able to use the bridge?**
 - Yes. There will be a shared use path on the bridge. The Riverfront Trail on the north and south end of the bridge will remain closed under the bridge until the second phase of the bridge is fully built. This is for the safety of users and construction crews alike.

Traffic Flow & Delays

- **Will there be other major traffic changes before the project is completed?**
 - Yes. Moving traffic to the west half of the new bridge will cause a major traffic change. There will also be a configuration change at the intersection of Russell and Broadway in late 2019 or in 2020 to accommodate traffic along the new bridge.
 - Once traffic is on the new bridge, drivers will remain in this configuration until the next phase of the bridge is completed. Once the western section of the bridge is complete, two-way traffic will span the entire width of the new bridge.
- **What are the anticipated delay times for this particular traffic shift?**
 - Drivers can anticipate delays of up to 10-15 minutes. Delays will be dependent upon traffic congestion and time of day.
- **Will drivers experience more delays as a result of this traffic shift?**
 - Yes. Congestion on Broadway may increase slightly with the intersection construction.
- **Should I avoid the area?**
 - It is recommended to avoid the area if possible, by using either the Orange Street Bridge or Reserve Street Bridge. If driving on Russell Street is required, all are encouraged to plan for additional travel time and be alert of signs and workers on and near the road.

Roadway Corridor Impacts to Neighbors

- **Are other roads affected?**
 - River Road will have a change to permanent access. All left turns onto and off of River Road will be removed with the final traffic configuration. The southbound right turn onto River Road and southbound right turn off of River Road will remain in place.
 - The intersection at Broadway and Russell will have a different northbound traffic configuration. This configuration is to help with reduce delays on Russell Street. New traffic signals will be installed at the intersection for the final configuration.
- **Will neighbors on and near River Road have access to their residence?**
 - Yes. Access to River Road will be maintained but there may be detours along Wyoming Street during the construction.
- **Will the signal at Broadway be impacted?**
 - The Broadway and Russell Intersection will have a slightly different traffic configuration to and from the first phase of the eastern section of the new bridge.
 - There will also be an eastbound lane closure on Broadway Street to complete pavement work.
 - Temporary signals will be installed to control traffic during the Russell/Broadway intersection work. The temporary signals will be in use until the west side of the new bridge is complete and the permanent signals can be installed and tied into the traffic light grid.

Notifications & Signage

- **What signage will be in-place to notify drivers?**
 - The Montana Department of Transportation will ensure clear signage is in place to ensure the safety of all drivers and pedestrians, as well as for the construction workers.
- **How can I stay up-to-date on the progress?**
 - 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/travinfomobile/>); and
 - By engaging with us on Facebook.

Construction & Maintenance

- **Are any of the construction materials going to be repurposed or recycled?**
 - The contractor is able to reuse or dispose of materials according to applicable laws and regulations.
- **Is there is maintenance plan for this temporary configuration?**
 - Yes. As maintenance issues arise, they will be addressed. The majority of the remaining work will occur during the summer months and snow removal will not be a priority during this time. If construction continues into the fall and winter, maintenance plans will be incorporated into the traffic plan.
- **Are there plans to review this configuration during construction to ensure safety needs are being met? Can changes be made if this isn't working well?**
 - Yes. Traffic configurations, volumes, and congestion are always monitored. Should issues arise, the contractor and MDT will work together with our partners to ensure the public's safety.

Budget

- **Is the project on budget?**
 - Yes. The total project cost is \$29 million and is on budget.
- **Was this new configuration budgeted for?**
 - Yes. The plans have always showed the bridge being built in two phases. MDT realized early on that to accommodate traffic a new configuration would have to be used.