FROM THE BEARTOOTH TO BILLINGS

The US 212 corridor is a major thoroughfare, transporting residents and visitors from the scenic Beartooth mountains to the city of Billings and beyond. The number of travelers on the stretch of highway between Red Lodge and Roberts has been steadily increasing through the decades, yet the highway has not undergone major reconstruction or rehabilitation efforts since 2002.

To accommodate the growth in roadway users over the past 20 years, and address the safety and reconstruction needs of this corridor, the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) has launched the US 212 – Red Lodge to Roberts project. The US 212 – Red Lodge to Roberts project spans between the towns of Red Lodge and Roberts, from Two Mile Bridge Road to a half-mile outside of Roberts, near West Bench Road.

The Montana Department of Transportation understands that US 212 is a major highway for regular commuters and visitors. As such, we will make every effort to keep delay times low and communicate prior to and throughout construction. We encourage all to sign up for project updates:

**EMAIL**
takami@bigskypublicrelations.com to subscribe.

**PROJECT HOTLINE**
406-207-4484
Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**WEBSITE**
bitly.com/redlodgeroberts

Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided on request. Persons who need an alternative format should contact the Office of Civil Rights, Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620. Telephone 406-444-5416 or Montana Relay Service at 711.

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DITCHING OUR FLOOD ISSUES

A major feature of the US 212 – Red Lodge to Roberts project is water management. Within the context of roads and bridges, water seeps into cracks and causes structures to deteriorate quicker. Engineers spend countless hours researching and developing plans to reduce flooding and direct water to places where it can properly drain.

On US 212, flooding is a major concern for many. Rock Creek and wetlands are nearby, and groundwater and springs flow from the west to the east. In some areas, irrigation canals for farming operations mix with storm water. Storm water running through ditches can often carry fertilizer and other pollutants from the land, presenting drainage concerns.

To address these concerns, the US 212 – Red Lodge to Roberts project will create flat bottom ditches separate from irrigation canals in many areas. These ditches resemble a trapezoid and can move large amounts of water with less maintenance over time. Its shape slows the water down, reducing erosion on the sides of the ditch. In areas where there is not enough space to construct a flat bottom ditch, engineers will create a triangle shaped ditch, which is also effective in moving water but requires more maintenance. These ditches will also provide snow storage during winter months.

TIMELINE

2021
Right of way negotiations with landowners are underway.

2022
Project is shovel ready. Project plans are fully complete.

2023 & BEYOND
Funding will determine when the project is constructed. A funding source has not yet be fully identified and finalized.

IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE

- Reconstructing nearly 10 miles
- Eight-foot shoulders
- Passing lanes
- Bus turnout/weigh station
- Ditches to improve drainage
- Six concrete box culverts
- Minor alignment shifts
- Rumble strips
- Improving intersections and approaches
- Adjusting curves of the highway