



Primary study objective: "Identify what economic, regulatory, or operational changes would result in traffic and safety conditions that would warrant building a 4-lane roadway on the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway in Montana."

<i>TRED Steps & Schedule</i>	
Step #1 Identify issues ♦ Stakeholder interviews ♦ Meet with elected officials ♦ Project Kickoff Meetings	Feb / Mar 2006
Step #2 Partnering Meeting with Canadian Transport Officials, Meetings with Canadian freight shippers	May 2006
Step #3 Economic Sector Interviews ♦ Oil and Gas ♦ Agriculture ♦ Transportation ♦ Tourism	Mar / July 2006
Public Open House #1 Review economic findings to date, public input on issues to address as the study moves forward. <i>Expert Panel Formed.</i>	July 2006
Step #4 Assess Transportation and Environmental Conditions	Jul / Aug 2006
Step #5 Risk Assessment Assess Economic and Transportation Variables	August 2006
Step #6 Analyze future travel demand based on economic development scenarios	Aug / Sept 2006
Step #7 Develop draft economic analysis/impacts	Sept / Oct 2006
Step #8 Finalize Economic Analysis Report	October 2006
Stakeholder Workshop Final check-in with industry stakeholders and expert panel.	October 2006
Public Open House #2 Present TRED study document	October 2006

For more information

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Project Web Site:
www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/us2tred/

Project Description and Status

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) launched the US 2 / MT 16 Transportation Regional Economic Development (TRED) Study to examine whether four-lane highway improvements can be justified by economic and safety considerations. The study's focus is on the federally-named Theodore Roosevelt Expressway (TRE). The Montana segment of the TRE includes US 2 from the North Dakota state line to Culbertson, MT, then north on MT 16 to the Port of Raymond.

The TRED Study will assess future opportunities that might indicate the need for highway expansion in the area. Trade areas are being assessed at the corridor level, as well as regionally and internationally. The project analysis is considering economic development, safety, and regulatory factors.

"MDT can be an active partner in helping revitalize eastern Montana," said Jim Lynch, MDT director. "This is not business as usual for our agency. We need to look outside the box, to work with businesses and the communities and link transportation improvements with economic development. We are listening carefully, and working to find the best, most positive possible outcomes."

To date, the project team has been collecting information, meeting with area stakeholders, and interviewing business leaders to help assess the possibilities. The TRED Study team has visited the area every month since the project began in January. A draft of the study is expected in late September, with the final document completed in October.

Public Open House #1

Several meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, July 11, 2006.

7 to 9 a.m. Missouri Breaks Truck Stop in Culbertson. Meet members of the project team for casual coffee and discussion.

7 to 9 a.m. Cousins Family Restaurant in Plentywood. Meet members of the project team for casual coffee and discussion.

12 noon to 2 p.m. Jubilee Room, Sheridan County Courthouse in Plentywood. The project team will be conducting an open house to present and discuss the purpose, approach, findings to date, and next steps.

5 to 7 p.m. Senior Citizens Conference Room in Culbertson. The project team will be conducting an open house to present and discuss the purpose, approach, findings to date, and next steps.





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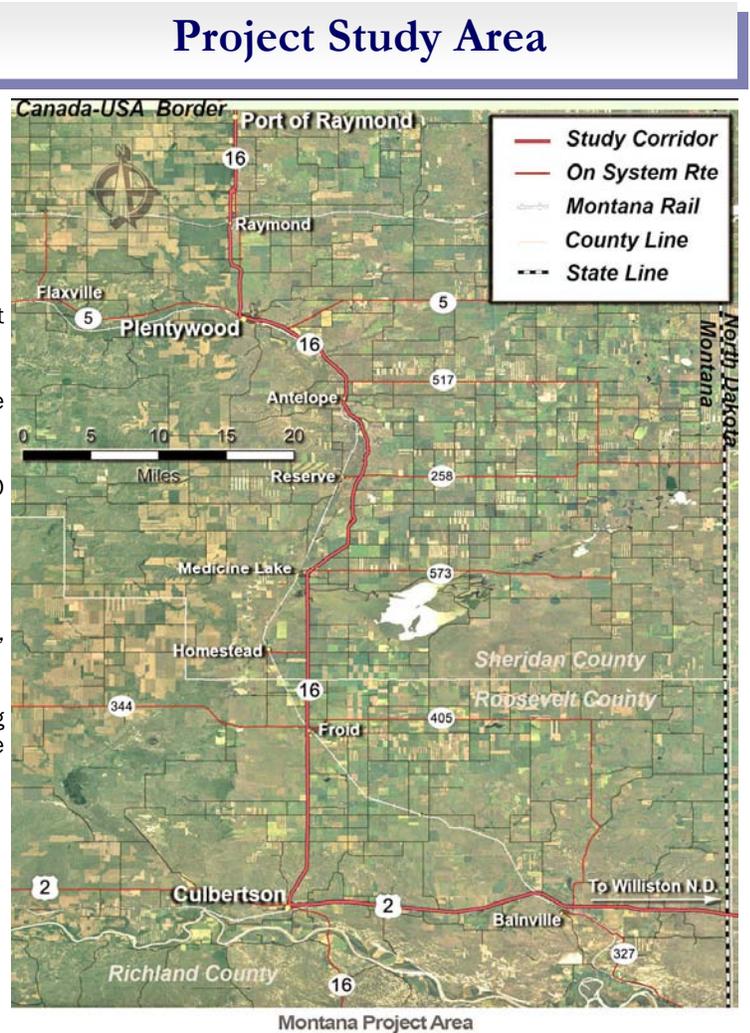
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We need to hear from you...

Below are some questions that will help to prepare for our public open houses, or you can go on-line to our project web site and leave a public comment there.

www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/us2tred/

- What types of industry and businesses in your area make most use of the TRED Corridor?
- What type of growth have you witnessed in your area over the last ten years?
- How do you see growth in the area happening over the next 10 years?
- What are the challenges to growth in your area?
- What role will transportation/access (highway, rail, pipeline, air, and other) play in future plans for your community?
- What role will truck size and weight regulations, border crossing requirements, and other laws and regulations play in your future plans for your community?
- Do you see changes to growth in your area based upon transportation infrastructure improvements?
- Can you provide us with any specific information to help support this study?



"MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in any service, program or activity of the Department. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request. For further information call (406) 541-8132 or TTY (406) 444-7696"