



Watson Coulee Road Reconstruction Project

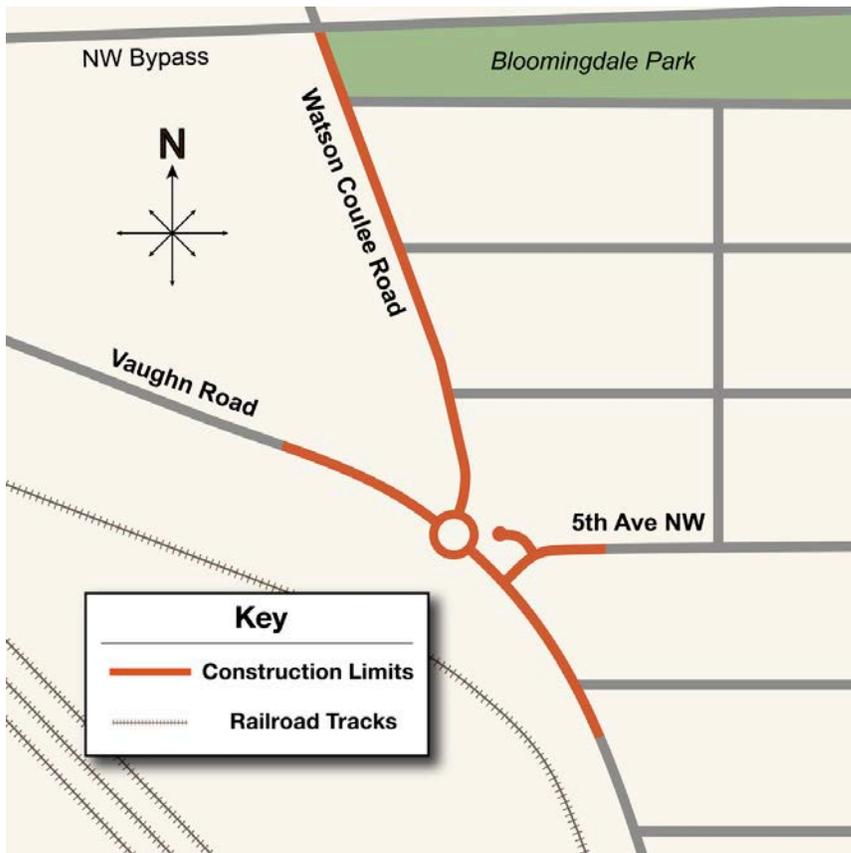
Project Overview

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), in partnership with Sanbell (formerly Sanderson Stewart) and the City of Great Falls, is advancing the Watson Coulee Road Reconstruction project. This project was nominated through the local Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process and reflects a proactive approach to managing growth and planning for long-term transportation needs.

The project will reconstruct Watson Coulee Road from Vaughn Road to the NW Bypass, replacing deteriorating pavement and adding upgraded storm drains, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant curb ramps, and sidewalks. A single-lane roundabout has been selected for the intersection of Watson Coulee Road and Vaughn Road.

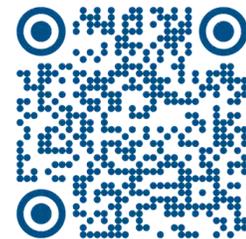
Project Timeline

The project began with development of alternatives for both 9th Street NW and Watson Coulee Road from 2021 to 2022. In 2023, the project was divided into two separate projects. From 2023 to 2024, the focus was on assessing intersection treatments for the Watson Coulee Road and Vaughn Road intersection, completing traffic analysis, and creating a preliminary roundabout design. Currently, Sanbell is working on project design, anticipated to finish between 2026 and 2027, when the right-of-way process will begin. Construction is expected to start in 2028, depending upon acquiring the right-of-way, finalizing the design, and securing the necessary funding.

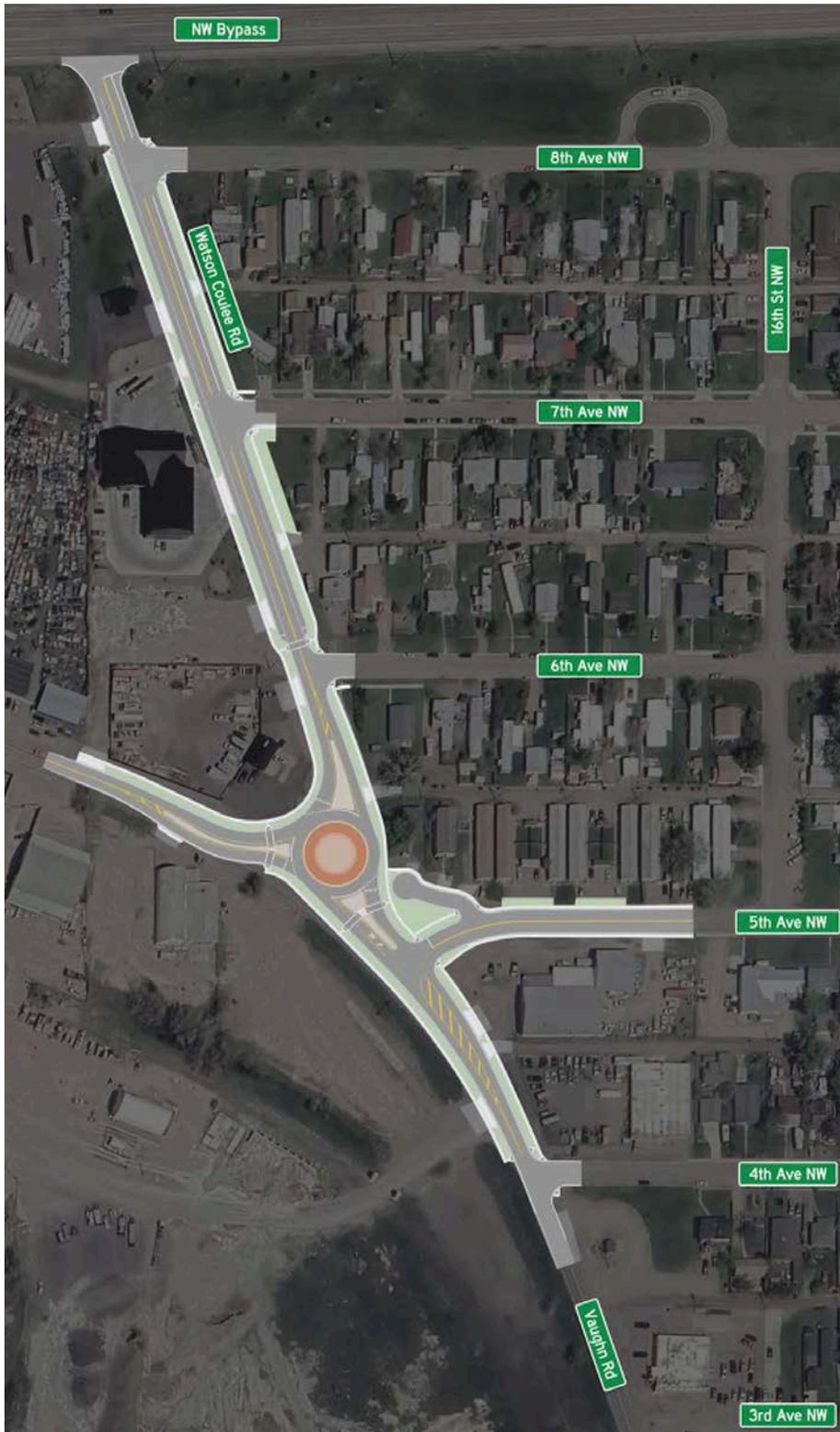


For information, contact ella@benchmarkpublicaffairs.com or text* "WatsonCoulee" to 406-226-1603
*Texting alerts are not managed by MDT and may have different privacy and security policies. For more information, read the SimpleTexting Privacy Policy.

Visit the project website for more information.



mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/watson/



Why a Roundabout?

After reviewing traffic studies, MDT in coordination with the City of Great Falls has selected a roundabout to be installed at the Watson Coulee Road and Vaughn Road intersection.

Peak-hour traffic counts showed that Watson Coulee Road was carrying more traffic than expected. A roundabout will reduce delays and improve flow.

The anticipated development to the north of Great Falls is expected to increase traffic in the area. The roundabout provides long-term efficiency and accommodates anticipated future traffic demands.

The roundabout aligns with the City's broader vision of redirecting traffic north and east of Great Falls connecting to future routes.

A roundabout will improve traffic operations, reduce conflict points, and enhance safety features.

Building the roundabout now avoids the need to reconstruct the intersection again in 10 to 15 years as traffic grows.



Questions? Contact us! ELLA CURRIER, 406-465-7198, ella@benchmarkpublicaffairs.com

To request an alternative accessible format of this document, please contact MDT's ADA coordinator Matt Maze at 406-444-5416, Montana Relay Service at 711, or by email at mmaze@mt.gov.

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