



Billings Area I-90 Corridor Planning Study

COMMUNITY AND AGENCY PARTICIPATION PLAN

PREPARED FOR:



PREPARED BY:



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April 2011



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) has initiated a corridor planning process along an approximately 22-mile segment of I-90 beginning at the Laurel Interchange (RP 433.8) and ending immediately west of the Pinehills Interchange (RP 455.85) in order to comprehensively address future transportation needs, prioritize transportation projects, and foster cooperative state and local transportation planning efforts for the Interstate corridor.

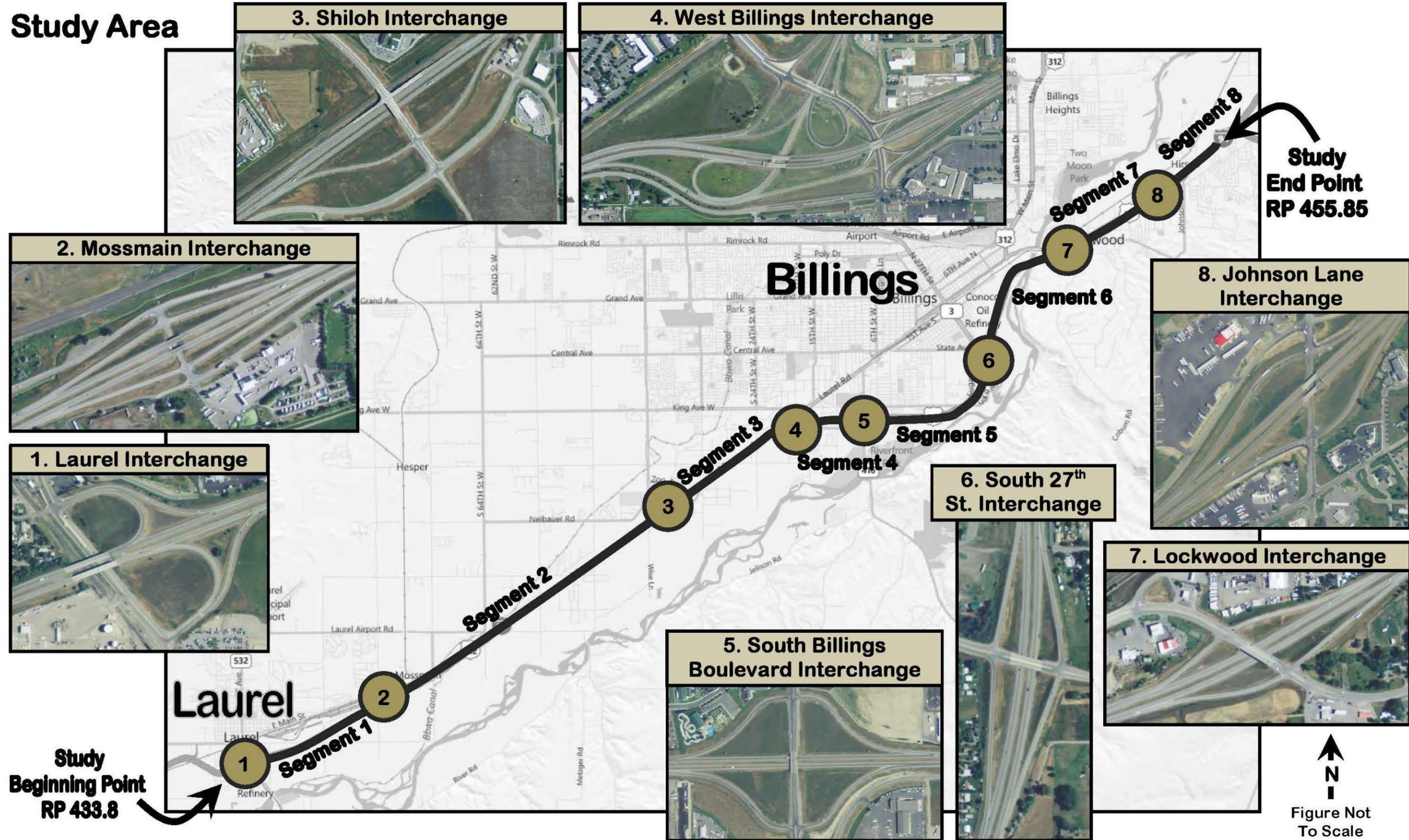
This planning process will examine the geometric characteristics, crash history, and existing and projected operational characteristics of I-90 Interstate segments and select interchanges, as well as existing and projected physical constraints, land uses, and environmental resources within the planning corridor. The end result of the planning effort will be a comprehensive package of short-term and long-term recommendations intended to address the transportation needs of the Interstate highway. These recommendations will assist MDT in targeting the most critical Interstate highway needs and allocating resources appropriately.

1.1 Study Area

This study will focus on the portion of I-90 beginning at the Laurel Interchange (RP 433.8) and ending immediately west of the Pinehills Interchange (RP 455.85). Figure 1-1 illustrates the study area.



Figure 1-1 Study Area





1.2 Goals of Involvement Plan

The primary goal of the community and resource agency involvement effort for the Billings Area I-90 Corridor Planning Study is to gather input about the needs, issues, and concerns within the I-90 corridor. MDT will attempt to provide meaningful avenues for resource agencies, stakeholders, and community members to participate throughout the corridor planning process.

2.0 INVOLVEMENT PROCEDURES

2.1 Study Contacts

Contact information for MDT and the Consultant will be provided in all published materials and is also listed below.

Gary Neville, MDT Billings District Engineer

Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
Billings District Office
424 Morey St.
PO Box 20437
Billings, MT 59104-0437
406.657.0232
gneville@mt.gov

Sarah Nicolai, Consultant Project Manager

DOWL HKM
P.O. Box 1009
Helena, MT 59624
406.442.0370
snicolai@dowlhkm.com

Tom Kahle, MDT Project Manager

Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
Statewide and Urban Planning
2960 Prospect Avenue
PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001
406.444.9211
tkahle@mt.gov



2.2 Print Media

Meeting announcements will be developed by DOWL HKM and advertised by MDT at least two weeks prior to informational meetings. Advertisements will announce the meeting location, time, and date; the format and purpose of the meetings; and the locations where documents may be reviewed (if applicable). The following print newspapers may carry the display advertisements:

- Billings Gazette
- Billings Outpost
- Yellowstone County News
- The Billings Times

2.3 Radio and Television

MDT may announce informational meetings on local radio and television stations. Specific media outlets will be identified over the course of the study, as appropriate.

2.4 Document Availability

2.4.1 Newsletters and Meeting Materials

DOWL HKM will develop two newsletters over the course of the study. The first newsletter will be issued at the time of the first informational meeting and will introduce the study and describe its purpose, illustrate the study area and study components, and describe key findings from the Existing and Projected Conditions Report. The second newsletter will be distributed at the time of the second informational meeting and will present recommendations from the Draft Corridor Study Report, including proposed improvement options within the Interstate corridor. DOWL HKM will also develop meeting materials for each informational meeting, including agendas, static exhibits, and other presentation materials. Print copies of newsletters and meeting materials will be available at each of the two informational meetings hosted for this study. MDT will publish electronic versions of newsletters and meeting materials on the study website. Print copies of newsletters may also be mailed to a limited distribution.

2.4.2 Reports

MDT will publish electronic versions of reports on the study website. Print copies of the Existing and Projected Conditions Report and the Draft Corridor Planning Study Report will be available at the MDT Statewide and Urban Planning Section Office (2960 Prospect Avenue; Helena, MT). It is anticipated that print copies of these reports may also be made available at the following locations.



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- MDT Billings District Office (424 Morey Street; Billings, MT)
- City of Billings Planning & Community Services Planning Division (510 N. Broadway; Billings, MT)
- City of Billings Public Works Engineering Division (2224 Montana Avenue; Billings, MT)
- Yellowstone County Public Works Dept. (217 N. 27th Street; Billings, MT)
- Parmly Billings Library (510 N. Broadway; Billings, MT)

2.5 Meetings

2.5.1 Work Group Meetings

Work group meetings will be scheduled every two weeks for the duration of the 12-month study period. Meeting participants will discuss study progress, analysis methodologies, and any issues or concerns that arise over the course of the study. The work group will serve in an advisory role and will review study documentation prior to publication. The individuals listed below will be invited to participate in the work group.

Table 2.1 Work Group Members

Name	Affiliation	Phone Number	Email
Bob Burkhardt	FWHA	406. 441.3907	bob.burkhardt@fhwa.dot.gov
Alan Woodmansey	FWHA	406. 441.3916	alan.woodmansey@dot.gov
Brian Andersen	MDT	406.444.6103	brandersen@mt.gov
Debi Meling	City of Billings	406.657.8231	MelingD@ci.billings.mt.us
Gary Neville	MDT	406.657.0232	gneville@mt.gov
Jean Riley	MDT	406.444.9456	jriley@mt.gov
Jeff Olsen	MDT	406.444.7610	jolsen@mt.gov
LeRoy Wosoba	MDT	406.444.1280	lwosoba@mt.gov
Mike Black	Yellowstone County	406.256.2735	mblack@co.yellowstone.mt.gov
Scott Walker	City of Billings	406.247.8661	WalkerS@ci.billings.mt.us
Thomas Gocksch	MDT	406.444.9412	tgocksch@mt.gov
Tim Miller	Yellowstone County	406.256.2735	tmiller@co.yellowstone.mt.gov
Tom Kahle	MDT	406.444.9211	tkahle@mt.gov
Zia Kazimi	MDT	406.444.7252	zkazimi@mt.gov



2.5.2 Informational Meetings

Two informational meetings will be held over the course of the study.

The first informational meeting will be held part-way through the planning process after the Consultant has evaluated environmental, social, and land use conditions and conducted geometric, crash, and operational analyses of the Interstate corridor. During the first meeting, the Consultant will introduce the study, present findings from the Existing and Projected Conditions Report, and solicit feedback about issues and concerns in the corridor.

The second informational meeting will occur toward the end of the study process. Community members will be asked to provide feedback on recommended improvement options presented in the Draft Corridor Study Report.

Comments will be considered throughout the course of the planning process.

2.5.3 Resource Agency Meeting

At the time of the first informational meeting, the Consultant will facilitate a resource agency meeting to discuss natural resources occurring within the Interstate corridor, anticipated impacts that could result from improvement options, and potential mitigation strategies.

2.6 Consideration of Traditionally Underserved Populations

MDT will attempt to involve traditionally underserved segments of the population in the corridor planning study process through the following measures:

Plan Meeting Locations Carefully

- MDT will host informational meetings in locations that are accessible and compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Seek Help from Community Leaders and Organizations

- MDT and the Consultant will confer with community leaders and representative organizations about how best to involve traditionally underserved populations.



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Be Sensitive to Diverse Audiences

- MDT and the Consultant will attempt to communicate as effectively as possible during informational meetings by avoiding technical jargon and exercising appropriate conduct and judgment. Alternative accessible formats of study materials will be provided upon request.

2.7 Study Schedule

The Billings Area I-90 Corridor Planning Study began on March 17, 2011 and is expected to be completed by March 2012. Figure 2-1 illustrates the study schedule in more detail.



Figure 2-1 Billings Area I-90 Corridor Planning Study Schedule

