



Newsletter

Spring 2007

Corridor Planning Study Information

- MDT's study will examine roadway deficiencies, design issues, financial feasibility, environmental issues, and capacity needs.
- Planning will prioritize the protection of environmental resources. Environmental resources unique to the project area include the following:
 - Grizzly Bear habitat conservation area.
 - Bull trout conservation area.
 - Lynx, wolf, native plants preservation area.

Schedule:

Step 1: Identify Issues; June-Aug. 2006

Step 2: Collect existing data and conduct a field review; Aug-Oct. 2006

Public Information Meeting Oct. 17

Step 3: Draft existing conditions report; Oct.-Nov 2006

Step 4: Identify potential improvement options; Nov-Jan 2007

Step 5: Draft Corridor Study Report (CSR); April 2007

Public Information Meeting –to review CSR; May 2007

Step 6: Final CSR; June 2007

We want to hear from you any:

- **Issues, concerns and questions... you may have about this roadway**

Key Contacts

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Ron Clegg- PB Project Manager
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Web site: <http://www.mdt.mt.gov>

What is the purpose of this Corridor Planning Study?

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the existing conditions and determine if transportation improvements are needed to HWY 567 also known as Pipe Creek Road. The planning process will consider the needs of local residents in Libby, Yaak, along with property owners in the area and the traveling public. Part of the planning process entails an assessment of the sensitive environmental surroundings of this road as well as user safety, current condition, use and function, wildlife crossings, current and future traffic volumes, and speed. These findings will help determine any roadway deficiencies and guide the identification of any corridor improvements. This study will evaluate and recommend improvements if any are found to be needed.

What is the study area? (see map on the second page)

The study area encompasses the Hwy 567 between Bobtail Cutoff road and Turner Mountain Road, approximately mile post 6.1 to 20.1. This road is a primary access between Libby and Yaak.

How can the public/community contribute to the study?

The General Public is invited to participate in the process through public information meetings (see schedule to the left and below) and ongoing project information review and input. A project web site has been developed to provide on-line opportunities to comment on issues of HWY 567. Dates, times, and locations will be announced prior to the events through the local media and the project web site: <http://www.mdt.mt.gov>.

Those with a specific interest in the project are encouraged to join the project mailing list. They can do so by submitting their name and contact information to Tom Kahle at the address or email shown, calling the recorded comment line at (800) 714-7296, or completing the comment form available on the web site.

To keep the public informed about the study, project information is being published on the project web site, in local media venues, and in newsletters like this. The public may also provide input or questions by contacting any of the **Key Contacts** in the column to the left.

A public information meeting was held October 17, 2006. We are in the planning stages for the May public information meeting. Please check the project website, <http://www.mdt.mt.gov> for the latest updates.

HWY 567 / PIPE CREEK ROAD



Libby North

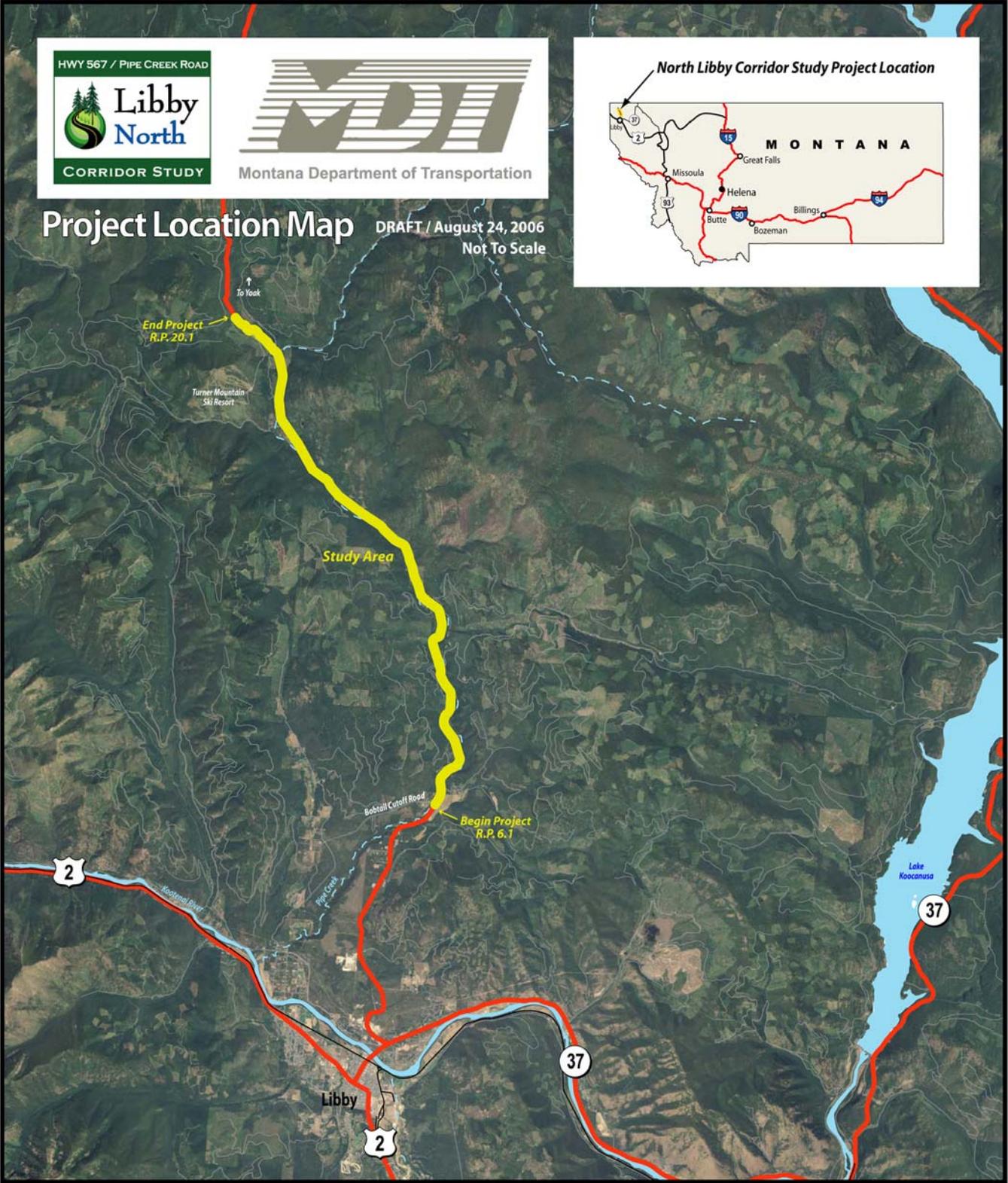
CORRIDOR STUDY



Montana Department of Transportation



Project Location Map DRAFT / August 24, 2006
Not To Scale



Montana Department of Transportation



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