

Chris Taggart

From: Amy Aiello <amyaiello@bigskypublicrelations.com>
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 1:18 PM
To: Amy Aiello
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stevensville Safety Improvements Weekly Update: March 20-26

Good afternoon,

Construction continues on the Stevensville Safety Improvements project. The Eastside Highway remains closed to all thru traffic until Monday, March 21 at 6:00 pm. between Bell Crossing and Victor Crossing. A detour along US 93 between Bell Crossing and Victor Crossing is now in place. Thru traffic should follow all detour signs for safe travel through this area as long as the closure remains.

After the closure opens at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 21, pilot cars and reduced speeds will be utilized once again throughout the project area—the setup will look similar to how it was before the closure. Once the closure is no longer in effect, main focus of the week will be to set up for the installation of a box culvert just north of Groff Lane. Detours will be built surrounding the box culvert and crews will also be installing a dewatering system, which will effectively remove groundwater and surface water from the site. Finally, at the south end of the project site about a mile north of North Birch Creek Road and around the Double Fork Ranch, the crew will be setting a large irrigation structure with a crane. There will be no additional impact to traffic due to the use of this crane.

We have received many great questions about the closure, especially from those living within the closed area. To clarify, the Eastside Highway remains open 24/7 to residents who live within the closed roads. Local access for residents through the area will remain in place via Victor Crossing. This closure allows crews to safely and efficiently remove the existing bridge and install a culvert over Willoughby Creek at Gib Strange Lane. No weight restrictions or pilot cars are in place. We ask all residents living within the closure to please proceed with caution as you navigate the area.

Our crew thanks everyone for your patience as we make these critical improvements. Happy belated St. Patrick's Day! We wish you safe drives through the project area and beyond.

Remember the three S's of work zone safety: speed, space, and stress. Slow down when approaching work zones and follow posted speed limits. Leave adequate braking room between your vehicle and the one ahead of you. Keep your cool, pay attention, and plan for delays.

Questions or looking for additional details? Please visit the Stevensville Safety Improvements webpage at: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/southstevi/>. You can also call the project hotline at 406-207-4484, operating Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or email me at amy@bigskypublicrelations.com.

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.

Warm regards,

Amy Aiello

Big Sky Public Relations on behalf of the Montana Department of Transportation

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