

## Chris Taggart

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**From:** Becca MacLean <becca@bigskypublicrelations.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 5, 2022 10:05 AM  
**To:** Becca MacLean  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Lolo to Florence Study, August 5 Update

Hello neighbors,

Happy Friday! This email is regarding a study taking place between Lolo and Florence by RPA and the Montana Department of Transportation. You were included on this email list due to your interest in other local projects or role in the community. If you would like to be removed from this list, please let me know.

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Thousands of travelers commute to and from the Bitterroot Valley and Missoula every day. Specifically, the corridor between Lolo and Florence has seen steadily increasing traffic through the years. These traffic volumes create a need for an improved and safer roadway.

With this in mind, Robert Peccia & Associates (RPA), in partnership with the Montana Department of Transportation, are beginning a study of the roadway between Lolo and Florence on US Hwy 93 south of Missoula.

The study will take place during 2022 and 2023. Crew members will be surveying traffic volumes, completing the crash analysis, and meeting with stakeholders along the corridor to gather insight on the current state of the roadway. In addition, environmental research and attention to emergency access and alternative modes of transportation will be considered.

This area was studied previously in 2008 to consider the expanded capacity of the roadway, multi-modal transit options, improved pedestrian crossings and more. At the time, it was determined that an extensive construction project would need to occur, limiting major roadway access and causing delays on this busy thoroughfare. Due to project costs and incurred traffic disruption, this 2008 study was tabled until future funding or additional resources could be secured.

Now, MDT and RPA are returning to continue this research to determine a solution that incorporates public feedback and benefits the area while eliminating extensive traffic interruptions.

Study results will identify long-term corridor solutions that may include an expansion of the roadway, turn lanes, and/or changes to intersections. Construction would not occur for many years due to the extensive design process and large construction cost.

Drivers and residents may notice crew members on the side of the roadway setting up minor equipment, taking photos, and observing the area as the study begins. No direct impacts to traffic will take place as the investigation is completed.

Stakeholder meetings will be requested, and a public meeting will be scheduled towards the end of summer 2022.

Questions? Call 406-207-4484 or email me at [becca@bigskypublicrelations.com](mailto:becca@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.

Take care

Becca MacLean on behalf of the Montana Department of Transportation

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**Becca MacLean** *(she/her/hers)*

Account Executive

Big Sky Public Relations

(406)-499-6921

[becca@bigskypublicrelations.com](mailto:becca@bigskypublicrelations.com)

[www.bigskypublicrelations.com](http://www.bigskypublicrelations.com)

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