MONTANA
Department of Transportation

Montana Department of Transportation

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Highway 43 construction between Chief Joseph Pass and Wise River complete

WISDOM – The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) has completed construction on several Highway 43 projects.

"MDT and our contracting partners really appreciate the public's patience with construction over the past two seasons," said MDT Engineering Project Manager Jeff Harrison. "These projects will ensure a safe and smooth driving surface for motorists while reducing long-term bridge maintenance needs."

Work completed in 2022 includes:

- Topsoil and seeding work throughout the project areas.
- Bridge end preservation milling and paving between Chief Joseph Pass and Wisdom.
- Chip sealing the roadway between Big Hole Bitterroot Road and Wisdom.
- Chip sealing the roadway between the Sportsman's Fishing Access Site and Wise River.
- Adding final striping (paint) and pavement markings.

Work completed in 2021 included replacing two bridges over Trail Creek, resurfacing approximately 35 miles of pavement, repairing the bridge deck over the Big Hole River near Wisdom, repairing deteriorated pavement near the Ruby Creek Bridge, and upgrading guardrails, roadside markers (delineators), and signs. For more information about the Highway 43: Chief Joseph Pass to Wise River projects, visit: https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/hwy43/

Safety is Always in Session: Back-to-School Reminders for Motorists

Montana's schools are back in session, which means many children are walking, bicycling, or riding a school bus to and from their destination. MDT would like to remind motorists to always be attentive and alert while driving, to share the road, and to obey all traffic laws as school days bring school buses and increased traffic during school start and end times. Make sure you understand and follow Montana's school bus laws. Yellow flashing lights indicate children are preparing to load or unload, and motorists should be prepared to stop. Red flashing lights indicate children are loading or unloading, and motorists MUST stop at least 30 feet from the school bus and wait until red lights are no longer flashing. Together, we can help keep our students safe on their journey!

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Learn more about the goal of Vision Zero and school bus safety here: Vision Zero | Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) (mt.gov)

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