

Chris Taggart

From: Becca MacLean <becca@bigskypublicrelations.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 9:05 AM
To: Becca MacLean
Subject: [EXTERNAL] US 93: Missoula to Florence Corridor Study, August 2 Update

Hello neighbors,

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) and its partners thank you for your ongoing feedback and participation as the US 93 Missoula to Florence study continues.

The study team anticipates initial findings for the Lolo to Florence Corridor will be available sometime this winter, in late 2023 or early 2024. Missoula to Lolo results will follow in approximately six months. Within this window, the study team will assess and recommend short-term and long-term measures to address needs along US Highway 93 (US 93), including specific intersections.

Separate from the Missoula to Florence study, a speed study was recently conducted between Missoula and Hamilton. Within this portion of the corridor, the speed study recommends maintaining the existing posted speed limits while adding a new 55-mph speed transition zone between the existing 65-mph speed limit and the 45-mph speed limit for northbound vehicles entering Missoula. In addition, the study recommends extending existing speed transition zones to half-a-mile in length and considering installation of traffic calming devices to encourage drivers to travel at posted speeds.

Though the Missoula to Hamilton speed study is complete, final approval has not yet been received. Following review by Missoula and Ravalli Counties and public comment, the Transportation Commission is anticipated to make its decision in a few months. Feedback submitted to the counties during this process will be considered. Our suggestion is to encourage community members to provide feedback to their county officials. We will communicate this to stakeholders interested in this US 93 study.

The Bitterroot Valley corridor is a priority for MDT. The study team recognizes the urgency for improvements.

Please let me know if you have questions, concerns, or feedback, and I will gladly share it with the team.

Have a great day!

Take care,
Becca MacLean on behalf of the project team

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