



WEST OF DIVIDE

Welcome

The Montana Department of Transportation is sharing this information to educate the public and gather input about the project.

Thank you for joining us!



VISION ZERO

zero deaths · zero serious injuries

MONTANA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION

Project Team

- **Rod Nelson**, MDT District Administrator, Billings District
- **Mike Taylor**, MDT District Preconstruction Engineer
- **Jacob Brotzler**, MDT Design Project Manager
- **Michael Fabricius**, MDT Right of Way
- **Joey Beran**, MDT Design Civil Engineering Specialist
- **Lisa L Gray**, HDR, Public Involvement Lead



Vision Zero

- Eliminate all traffic fatalities and serious injuries
- Increasing safe and healthy mobility for all
- We need EVERYONE to do their part
 - Drive attentive
 - Drive sober
 - Drive to the conditions and do not speed
 - Wear your seatbelt
- Together, we can save lives

Learn more about Vision Zero at
WWW.MDT.MT.GOV/VISIONZERO



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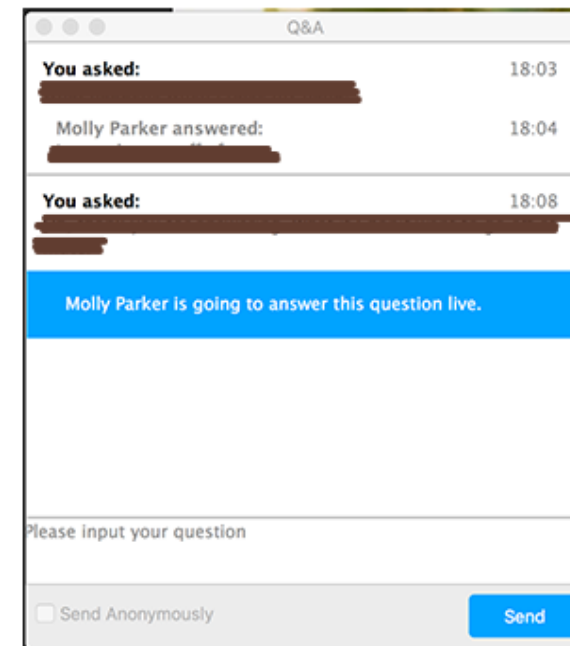
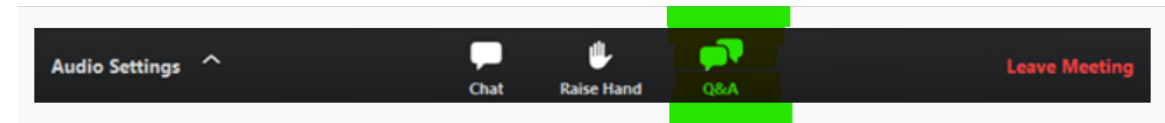
**MONTANA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION**

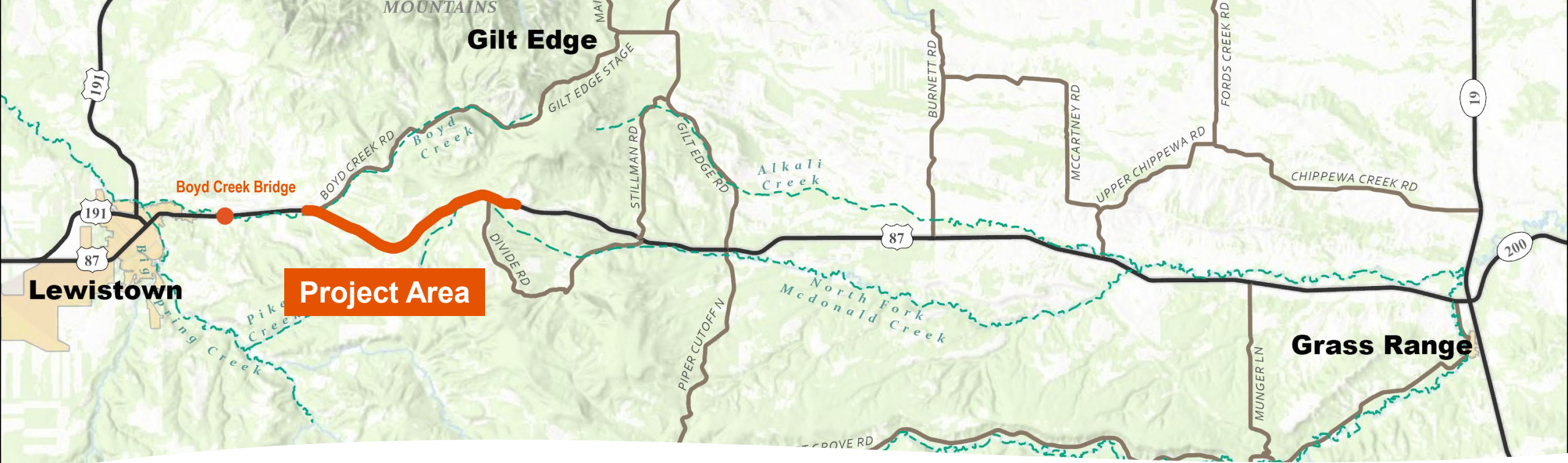


WEST OF DIVIDE

How to Use Zoom's Question/Answer

- Use the Q/A button
- Write your question at any time
- We will respond at the end of the presentation





Project Area

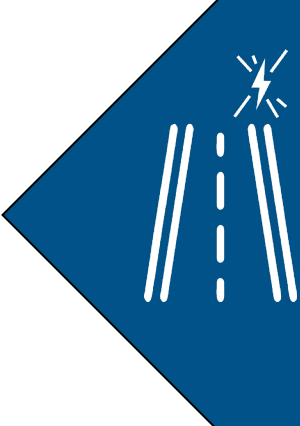
- The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is planning highway improvements to approximately five miles of US 87 in Fergus County, Montana, east of Lewistown
- The project also includes replacement of two bridges over Boyd Creek. One bridge is located within the project area and the other bridge is located outside the road reconstruction area and closer to Lewistown



Project Overview

The project area was originally built in the 1930s and 1940s and is being designed to improve safety features. The early design phase includes:

- Widen the highway and shoulders
- Replace two timber bridges and two stock passes
- Straighten curves, flatten hills, and realign the current roadway
 - Realigning the current roadway where it crosses the abandoned railroad tunnel allows MDT to eliminate the collapsed tunnel sections as well as clean up the area
- Drainage improvements
- New signage and guardrail, as necessary
- Centerline and shoulder rumble strips will be added to improve safety



Rumble Strips! Did you know...

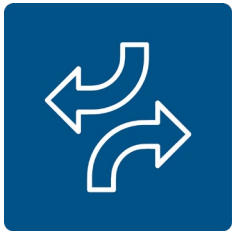
- The use of rumble strips reduces the number and severity of roadway crashes.
- Shoulder rumble strips reduce the number of run-off-the-road crashes.

The graphic shows a stylized road with a dashed centerline and solid shoulder lines. A lightning bolt strikes the centerline, symbolizing a crash or hazard.

Project Details



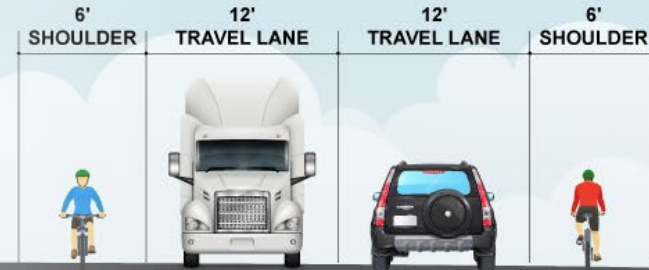
Intersection Improvements: Intersections receiving improvements will include Boyd Creek Road and both Divide Road approaches to improve driver visibility



Climbing and Turning Lanes: A 12-foot-wide truck climbing lane may be included for eastbound traffic west of the divide. Turning lanes are being analyzed and will be added where appropriate

Road Width Details

PROPOSED ROAD WIDTH



EXISTING ROAD WIDTH



Bridges, Stock Passes and Culverts



Bridges: The timber bridges crossing Boyd Creek were both originally built in 1942 and will be replaced. Work is currently being done to determine the best bridge designs for each location



Stock Passes: Two timber stock passes are within the project limits. MDT will work with the landowners regarding the replacement of the stock passes



Culverts: Existing culverts will be replaced as necessary and existing drainage patterns will be maintained to the extent practicable



Irrigation: We are not currently aware of any irrigation facilities within the project limits

Right of Way



WEST OF DIVIDE

- Right-of-way acquisition is anticipated throughout the project
- Right-of-way impacts will be determined as the design phase progresses
- Mailbox turnouts and design will be evaluated
- Existing right-of-way fencing will be removed, and new right-of-way fencing installed at the new right-of-way line
- Existing snow fence will be replaced to meet current standards, and new snow fence will be added where warranted



Environmental



- Wetland impacts are anticipated and will be determined as the project design progresses
- Wetland impacts will be minimized where possible and mitigated where impacts will occur
- Impacts to wildlife are anticipated and will be minimized and mitigated where possible
- Wildlife friendly fencing to improve safety is being considered
- The proposed alignment crosses the abandoned New Rockford Cutoff West Tunnel
- Impacts to cultural and historic resources will be determined and minimized as the project design progresses





Previous Public Outreach

From the 2003 Environmental Assessment, MDT is aware of several issues important to residents and drivers along this route. They include the following:

- Impacts to farmland, fencing, property value, water, and other right-of-way impacts
- Study passing lanes, intersections, approaches (driveways), curves and other blind spots, shoulders width, and limited pull-off space
- Local concerns for wetlands/habitat preservation and cultural impacts
- Address vehicle/animal impacts, and snow, ice, and ponding water on roadways



MDT wants to hear your comments and concerns throughout the development of the project.



Project Schedule





How to Contact Us and Stay Involved

Website: <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/dividewest/>

Email: lisa.gray@hdrinc.com

To check out MDT Active Projects go to:

www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/map-gallery.shtml



Thank you for joining us!