



Finding of No Significant Impact

RR Overpass - Cut Bank
Glacier County, Montana
STPS 213-1(12)0 CN 4158

July 2007



**FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

for

**Project Number: STPS 213-1(12)0
Project Name: RR Overpass – Cut Bank
Control Number: 4158**

in

Glacier County, Montana

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) and the US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have determined that the Build (Preferred) Alternative as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) dated March 2007 will have no significant impact on the human environment. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is based on the March 2007 EA. After independent evaluation of the EA, MDT and FHWA conclude that the EA adequately and accurately discusses the needs, environmental issues and environmental impacts of the proposed project and appropriate mitigation measures. The EA provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. MDT and FHWA take full responsibility for the accuracy, scope, and content of the March 2007 EA.

For purposes of compliance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) (ARM 17.4.609(3)(j) and ARM 18.2.239(3)(j)), this FONSI and conclusion that an EIS is not required should be considered part of the EA.



Montana Department of Transportation



Date



Federal Highway Administration



Date

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1.0 Coordination Process

The proposed action described in the March 2007 Environmental Assessment (EA) has been coordinated with the appropriate federal, state and local agencies to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). The Notice of Availability and Hearing for the RR Overpass-Cut Bank EA was publicized in several area newspapers and in a postcard mailer to local residents and businesses. Information was also provided regarding the public hearing for the project.

2.0 Press Release and Notice of Availability

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved the EA for distribution on March 7, 2007. Notice of Availability and Hearing display advertisements were published in the *Cut Bank Pioneer* newspaper on April 8 and April 22, 2007 and in the *Great Falls Tribune* newspaper on April 4 and April 25, 2007. A press release regarding the Notice of Availability and Hearing was distributed statewide.

Copies of the display advertisement and press release are contained in Appendix A. The public comment period began on April 4, 2007 and ended on May 7, 2007.

3.0 Availability of EA

Copies of the EA were made available for review at the following locations:

Glacier County Government/Planning Office, 512 E. Main Street, Cut Bank, MT 59427

Glacier County Court House, 1210 E. Main Street, Cut Bank, MT 59427

Cut Bank City Hall, 221 W. Main Street, Cut Bank, MT 59427

Cut Bank/Glacier County Public Library, 21 1st Avenue SE, Cut Bank, MT 59427

Copies of the EA were available upon request. The EA was also available on the MDT website at: http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/eis_ea.shtml

State and federal agencies and local entities were provided with a copy of the EA. A complete version of the EA is included in Appendix C.

4.0 Public Hearing

A public hearing was held on April 26, 2007 at the Cut Bank Civic Center from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The hearing included an open house, presentation with question and answer period, and the formal Public Hearing. The hearing was attended by approximately 60 people. Copies of the sign-in sheet are contained in Appendix B. Twenty-four individuals made verbal comments at the hearing. These comments and MDT/FHWA responses are provided in Appendix B.

Written comments were subsequently received from eight individuals and agencies during the public comment period. These comments are provided in Appendix B along with

responses from MDT/FHWA. The majority of comments submitted both verbally and in writing stated support for the Build (Preferred) alternative. Some of these comments cited the potential for safety improvements especially for emergency vehicles, and improved local mobility. Comments in opposition to the Build (Preferred) alternative cited right-of-way impacts to local residences, safety concerns for school access and potential economic impacts to businesses.

5.0 Selection of Preferred Alternative

Based on the RR Overpass-Cut Bank EA and the summary of public and agency comments and responses, FHWA has selected the Build (Preferred) alternative as described in the attached EA (refer to pages 2-5 through 2-7). Elements of the Build (Preferred) alternative include intersection improvements at U.S. Highway 2, an overpass over the existing BNSF railroad tracks, improvements to existing Skyland Road and a transition into existing S-213/Central Avenue.

The Build (Preferred) alternative achieves the purpose and need for this project as described in the attached EA.

The Code of Federal Regulations, 23 CFR 771.119 (i) states, "If, at any point in the EA process, the Administration determines that the action is likely to have a significant impact on the environment, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required." No significant impacts were identified due to the proposed project, and therefore, the Build (Preferred) Alternative was selected for this project.

Appendix A

Press Releases
and Advertisements

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Press Release Notice 1



Montana Department of Transportation

Jim Lynch, Director
Brian Schweitzer, Governor

April 2, 2007



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information:

Mick Johnson, MDT Great Falls District Administrator, (406) 454-5887
Jean Riley, PE, MDT Environmental Services Bureau Chief, (406) 444-7228
Bob Seliskar, FHWA Operations Engineer, (406) 449-5302 ext. 244
Paul Grant, MDT Public Involvement Coordinator, (406) 444-9415

**Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment and public hearing for
Railroad Overpass – Cut Bank project**

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Railroad Overpass – Cut Bank project and will conduct a public hearing on that EA. The public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, April 26, 2007, at the Cut Bank Civic Center at 800 E. Railroad in Cut Bank. A brief presentation will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by the Public Hearing starting at 6 p.m.

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide continuous and safe travel through the northern portion of Cut Bank. The following objectives have been identified to address the need to improve safety and mobility:

- Reduce potential motorist and pedestrian conflicts at railroad crossings
- Improve emergency response times
- Provide a continuous travel route through Cut Bank
- Reduce out-of-direction travel caused by trains blocking railroad tracks

The Preferred Alternative identified in the EA includes elements that best satisfy the purpose of and need for the project while minimizing impacts to the surrounding built and natural environment. The Preferred Alternative would include intersection improvements at U.S. Highway 2, an overpass over the



Montana Department of Transportation

Jim Lynch, Director
Brian Schweitzer, Governor

existing BNSF railroad tracks, improvements to existing Skyland Road and a transition into existing S-213/Central Avenue.

The EA document is available for review at the following locations:

- Glacier County Government/Planning Office, 512 E Main St., Cut Bank
- Glacier County Court House, 1210 E. Main St., Cut Bank
- Cut Bank City Hall, 221 W. Main St., Cut Bank
- Cut Bank Library 21 1st Ave. SE, Cut Bank
- Montana Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, Helena
- Online at www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/eis_ea.shtml
- For a copy, call MDT at (406) 444-7228

Community participation is a very important part of the process, and the public is encouraged to attend the Public Hearing. Oral or written opinions, comments, and concerns may be presented at the public hearing. Alternatively, written comments may be submitted to Jean Riley MDT Environmental Services, at 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620-1001, or online at http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/eis_ea.shtml. Please indicate that comments are for project A158. The public review period for the EA will conclude on May 7, 2007. **All comments are due by May 7, 2007.**

New right-of-way will be required, and MDT staff will continue to keep affected landowners advised prior to potential survey work on their property and regarding property acquisition.

MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person's participation in any service, program or activity of our department. If you require reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting, please call Paul Grant at (406) 444-9415 at least two days before the meeting. For the hearing impaired, the TTY number is (406) 444-7696 or 1-800-



Montana Department of Transportation

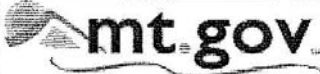
Jim Lynch, Director
Brian Schweitzer, Governor

335-7592, or call Montana Relay at 711. Alternative accessible formats of pertinent information will be provided upon request.

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Project name: RR Overpass – Cut Bank
Project ID: STPS 213-I(12)0
Control number 4158
Community of Cut Bank, Glacier County



Press Release Notice 2

| | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|---|----------------|--------------|---------|
|  Montana's Official State Website | | MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | | | |
| About MDT | Traveler Information | Public Involvement | Doing Business | Publications | Search/ |

Cut Bank - EA Notice Of Availability & Hearing - RR Overpass

April 4, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information:
Mick Johnson, MDT Great Falls District Administrator, (406) 454-5887
Jean Riley, PE, MDT Environmental Services Bureau Chief, (406) 444-7228
Bob Seliskar, FHWA Operations Engineer, (406) 449-5302 ext. 244
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- Reduce out-of-direction travel caused by trains blocking railroad tracks

The Preferred Alternative identified in the EA includes elements that best satisfy the purpose of and need for the project while minimizing impacts to the surrounding built and natural environment. The Preferred Alternative would include intersection improvements at U.S. Highway 2, an overpass over the existing BNSF railroad tracks, improvements to existing Skyland Road and a transition into existing S-213/Central Avenue.

The EA document is available for review at the following locations:

- Glacier County Government/Planning Office, 512 E Main St., Cut Bank
- Glacier County Court House, 1210 E. Main St., Cut Bank
- Cut Bank City Hall, 221 W. Main St., Cut Bank
- Cut Bank Library 21 1st Ave. SE, Cut Bank
- Montana Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, Helena
- Online at www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/eis_ea.shtml
- For a copy, call MDT at (406) 444-7228

Community participation is a very important part of the process, and the public is encouraged to attend the Public Hearing. Oral or written opinions, comments, and concerns may be presented at the public hearing. Alternatively, written comments may be submitted to Jean Riley MDT Environmental Services, at 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620-1001, or online at http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/eis_ea.shtml. Please indicate that comments are for project A158. The public review period for the EA will conclude on May 7, 2007. All comments are due by May 7, 2007.

New right-of-way will be required, and MDT staff will continue to keep affected landowners advised prior to potential survey work on their property and regarding property acquisition.

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or activity of our department. If you require reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting, please call Paul Grant at (406) 444-9415 at least two days before the meeting. For the hearing impaired, the TTY number is (406) 444-7696 or 1-800-335-7592, or call Montana Relay at 711. Alternative accessible formats of pertinent information will be provided upon request.

END

Project name: RR Overpass - Cut Bank
Project ID: STPS 213-1(12)0
Control number 4158
Community of Cut Bank, Glacier County

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Press Release Notice 3

Montana Department of Transportation
**PUBLIC HEARING**
serving you with pride

Railroad Overpass-Cut Bank Environmental Assessment

The Environmental Assessment (EA) is now available for public review and comment. The Preferred Alternative identified in the EA includes elements that best satisfy the need for the project while minimizing impacts. The Preferred Alternative includes intersection improvements at U.S. Highway 2, improvements to Skyland Rd., a transition into S-213/Central Ave. and a railroad overpass.

Review the EA at:

- Glacier County Government/Planning Office, 512 E. Main Street, Cut Bank
- Glacier County Courthouse, 1210 E. Main Street, Cut Bank
- Cut Bank City Hall, 221 W. Main Street
- Cut Bank Library, 21 1st Avenue SE
- Montana Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue., Helena
- Online at www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/eis_ea.shtml
- Call MDT Environmental Services at (406) 444-7228 for a copy

Comment period: April 4 - May 7, 2007

- Present oral or written comments at the public hearing
- Written comments to Jean Riley, MDT, PO Box 201001, 2701 Prospect Ave., Helena, MT 59620
- Online at www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/eis_ea.shtml

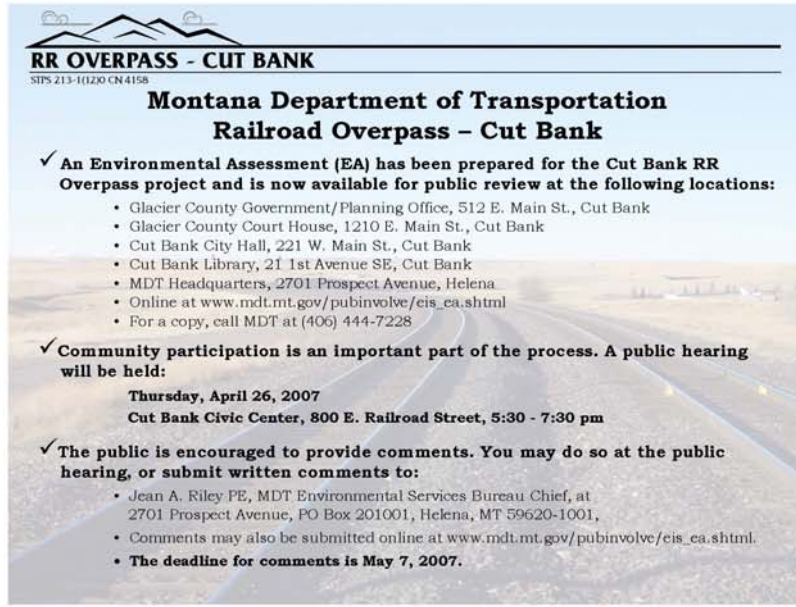
For more information:

- Jean Riley, MDT, (406) 444-7228
- Mick Johnson, MDT, (406) 454-5880

MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person's participation in any service, program or activity of our department. For reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting, call Paul Grant at (406) 444-9415 at least two days before the meeting. For the hearing impaired: TTY (406) 444-7696, (800) 335-7592, or Montana Relay at 711. Alternative accessible formats of pertinent information provided on request.

Public Hearing: Thursday, April 26, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m
Cut Bank Civic Center, 800 E. Railroad Street

Postcard



RR OVERPASS - CUT BANK
STPS 213-0(12)0 CN 4158

**Montana Department of Transportation
Railroad Overpass – Cut Bank**

✓ **An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the Cut Bank RR Overpass project and is now available for public review at the following locations:**

- Glacier County Government/Planning Office, 512 E. Main St., Cut Bank
- Glacier County Court House, 1210 E. Main St., Cut Bank
- Cut Bank City Hall, 221 W. Main St., Cut Bank
- Cut Bank Library, 21 1st Avenue SE, Cut Bank
- MDT Headquarters, 2701 Prospect Avenue, Helena
- Online at www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/eis_ca.shtml
- For a copy, call MDT at (406) 444-7228

✓ **Community participation is an important part of the process. A public hearing will be held:**

Thursday, April 26, 2007
Cut Bank Civic Center, 800 E. Railroad Street, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

✓ **The public is encouraged to provide comments. You may do so at the public hearing, or submit written comments to:**

- Jean A. Riley PE, MDT Environmental Services Bureau Chief, at 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620-1001,
- Comments may also be submitted online at www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/eis_ca.shtml.
- **The deadline for comments is May 7, 2007.**



Montana Department of Transportation
2701 Prospect Avenue
PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001

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Appendix B

MDT Public Hearing Sign-In Sheets
Comments and Responses

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Public Hearing: Thursday, April 26, 2007 Sign-in Sheet



Public Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Project name: RR Overpass ~ Cut Bank ~ Glacier County
 Project ID: STPS 213-1(12)0 ~ Control Number: CN A158/4158
 Meeting date and time: Thursday, April 26, 2007 Location: Cut Bank Civic Center, 800 E. Railroad St

Please print!

| | Name | Mailing Address | Zip Code |
|-----|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 1. | Albertsons 2033 Main Padilla | 501 West Main | 59427 |
| 2. | Deek & Marie Farmer | 144 4 th S.W. Cut Bank | ✓ |
| 3. | Jim & Joe Gorkie | 214 4 th Ave NW CB | ✓ |
| 4. | Mary Jay Powell | 123 6 th Ave NW. C.B. | 59427 |
| 5. | Mike Louis Powell | 127 6 th Ave NW CB | 59427 |
| 6. | Scott Racki | Box 1196 Cut Bank MT | 59427 |
| 7. | Martha McAdam | 443 Hwy 213 Santa Rita MT | 59427 |
| 8. | Mark Stratton | 404 Mt. View | 59427 |
| 9. | William I. McLintey | 318 1st AVE S.W | 59427 |
| 10. | Don Jensen | 20 Luedtke Road | 59427 |

Please print!



Public Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Project name: RR Overpass ~ Cut Bank ~ Glacier County
 Project ID: STPS 213-1(12)0 ~ Control Number: CN A158/4158
 Meeting date and time: Thursday, April 26, 2007 Location: Cut Bank Civic Center, 800 E. Railroad St

Please print!

| | Name | Mailing Address | Zip Code |
|-----|----------------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| 11. | Leslie Guzman | P.O. Box 1174 | 59427 |
| 12. | Joann Neidhardt | Box 274 Cut Bank MT | 59427 |
| 13. | Ralph Dempsey | 201 3rd St SW Cut Bank MT | 59427 |
| 14. | Ron Dempsey | 111 10th St E Cut Bank | 59427 |
| 15. | Shirley Bell | 1405 2nd St CB | 59427 |
| 16. | J.W. Eaton Jr. | Box 161 310 14th Ave S Cut Bank | 59427 |
| 17. | Ron Campbell | 218th Ave SE CB | 59427 |
| 18. | Donald Viki Presnell | Box 32, Cut Bank | 59427 |
| 19. | Paul Mander | 117 5th Ave NW, Cut Bank | 59427 |
| 20. | Caleb Campbell | 117 8th Ave SE | 59427 |

Please print!

Montana Department of Transportation



Public Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Project name: RR Overpass ~ Cut Bank ~ Glacier County
Project ID: STPS 213-1(12)0 ~ Control Number: CN A158/4158
Meeting date and time: Thursday, April 26, 2007 Location: Cut Bank Civic Center, 800 E. Railroad St

Please print!

| | Name | Mailing Address | Zip Code |
|-----|------------------|---|----------|
| 21. | Larry Morhardt | 402 West Main | 59427 |
| 22. | Mel Kays | 114 2 nd Av NE | 59427 |
| 23. | Jude Rafferty | 132 5 Ave NW | 59427 |
| 24. | Mark Krayf | 422 2 nd St. NW | 59427 |
| 25. | Seth Broesder | 105 Smelter ⁵⁰⁷⁰¹⁶ Ave. SE 59404 | |
| 26. | Alice Broten | 317 6 th Ave SE Cut Bank | 59427 |
| 27. | Michael O Bank | 202 1 st Av SW Cut Bank | 59427 |
| 28. | Britt Knapp | 10 N Central Ave Cut Bank | 59427 |
| 29. | Scott Robert | 413 8 th Ave S | 59427 |
| 30. | Raymond Jacobson | Cut Bank | 59427 |

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Montana Department of Transportation



Public Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Project name: RR Overpass ~ Cut Bank ~ Glacier County
Project ID: STPS 213-1(12)0 ~ Control Number: CN A158/4158
Meeting date and time: Thursday, April 26, 2007 Location: Cut Bank Civic Center, 800 E. Railroad St

Please print!

| | Name | Mailing Address | Zip Code |
|-----|---|----------------------------------|----------|
| 41. | Steph Browning | 601 W. Main, NVSC Cut Bank MT | 59427 |
| 42. | Pat Fugle | 319 1st St NW Cut Bank | 59427 |
| 43. | NOEL DURAM | 148 HWY 213, CUTBANK | 59427 |
| 44. | Johne Davg | P.O. Box 847 | 59427 |
| 45. | John Stewart | 221 W Main | 59427 |
| 46. | Jim King | 338-5th Ave. S.E. | 59427 |
| 47. | Stephan King | 338-5th Ave. S.E. | 59427 |
| 48. | Scud Ebelt | 1001 1st SE | 59427 |
| 49. | Kathleen Ebelt | 1001 1st St S.E. | 59427 |
| 50. | Quanita Tuck c/o Bank of Glacier Co. | PO Box 2000 | 59427 |

Please print!



Public Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Project name: RR Overpass ~ Cut Bank ~ Glacier County
 Project ID: STPS 213-1(12)0 ~ Control Number: CN A158/4158
 Meeting date and time: Thursday, April 26, 2007 Location: Cut Bank Civic Center, 800 E. Railroad St

Please print!

| | Name | Mailing Address | Zip Code |
|-----|----------------|----------------------|----------|
| 61. | Fitzpatrick | 601 W. MAIN | 59427 |
| 62. | Leitao | PO Box 2134 | 59427 |
| 63. | Bill BARNICK | BOX 61 CUT BANK | 59427 |
| 64. | Rick Billmer | Box 153 | 59427 |
| 65. | Proy Salas | 402 1st SW | " |
| 66. | Shirley Salas | " " | |
| 67. | Edna Pershing | Box 26 Cut Bank. | 59427 |
| 68. | Chris Barsness | 216 3ave SW | 59427 |
| 69. | Pat Compton | 50 Gunsight Cut Bank | 59427 |
| 70. | Jeanne Zingus | 302 1st Ave SE CB | 59427 |

Please print!



Public Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Project name: RR Overpass ~ Cut Bank ~ Glacier County
 Project ID: STPS 213-1(12)0 ~ Control Number: CN A158/4158
 Meeting date and time: Thursday, April 26, 2007 Location: Cut Bank Civic Center, 800 E. Railroad St

Please print!

| | Name | Mailing Address | Zip Code |
|-----|-----------------|------------------------|----------|
| 81. | John Sheffield | 324 4th Street SE - CB | 2477 |
| 82. | Kim E. Norman | PO Box 1345 | 59427 |
| 83. | Isaiah Bergeron | PO Box 1113 | 59427 |
| 84. | Steve Libby | 425 7th Ave SE | 59427 |
| 85. | Kathy Campbell | 21 8th Ave SE | 5342 |
| 86. | Gloria Schaub | 12 Luckys Rd | 59427 |
| 87. | R. Sta | 215 2nd SW CB | 59427 |
| 88. | | | |
| 89. | | | |
| 90. | | | |

Please print!

Comments 1-18 are from the April 26, 2007 Public Hearing. Comments 19-33 are public and agency comments submitted during the public comment period.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | Dick Palmer Individual 14 Fourth Ave SW | I had just a short comment here. The City of Cut Bank has the three crossings into the city limits, and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad is wanting to shut down the east crossing. If they do that, we will end up with the main crossing and the overpass is all we'll have left. | Comment noted. |
| 2 | William McCauley City Council 218 First Ave SW | <p>2a. I'm going to give you a little bit a history in the fact that everybody seems to be shooting down the Montana Department of Transportation as far as this overpass is concerned. And I guess if you want to shoot bullets, aim right here. Because I'm the guy that fought for this thing from the beginning. When we talked about coming up 213 and coming across there, we crossed the maximum amount of tracks. The height of that (bridge) is so extreme and the cost almost eight years ago was from 34 to 50 million dollars. Meeting with the commissioners and with the rest of the counties and the city at that time, we found that this was the most economical spot that we could do to give the City of Cut Bank an overpass. So, in the process of this we went through this list of the alternatives. Marvin Dye was the Director of Transportation at that time, and better than 50 of us were in Helena to meet with him when the Department of Transportation finally gave the consensus that they would look at it and start to do things with it.</p> <p>2b. The other thing that I don't understand is why we're talking about five to six years to go on with this. I was under the understanding that it was a number one priority as far as the County is concerned. We hoped that it would start in 2008 when Senator Baucus turned around and put better than 2 million dollars into the overpass situation, it would seem to me that that would be expedited quite a bit from that point.</p> | <p>2a. Comment noted.</p> <p>2b. Following approval of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) by MDT and FHWA, the project will be eligible for federal funding and construction. The project is targeted for construction to begin between 2009 and 2011, depending on the availability of funding, right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation and permitting requirements.</p> |
| 3 | Alice Brotnov City Council | <p>Alice Brotnov City Council.</p> <p>I don't like the idea of doing away with the access we have now underneath where the overpass is going. I'm wondering if we couldn't keep it?</p> | The purpose of the overpass project is to improve safety by reducing potential motorist and pedestrian conflicts at railroad crossings. Removal of the at-grade crossing of Old Country Road and the railroad tracks is consistent with this purpose. |
| 4 | Unidentified woman Individual | About 50 years ago, I was going to have twins. And we got to the track and there was a freight train there and we waited for it. And at that time it took that freight train almost twenty three minutes to get by. I kept telling my dad, 'I've got lots of time, Daddy, don't worry.' Well, when it was gone and we got to the hospital, I had twins in 10 minutes. I think that overpass, no matter where it is, is a good idea. | Comment noted. |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| 5 | Mark Krapf Individual | I think most of Cut Bank likes the whole rural idea of our town. It is a great place to raise your kids, we like the field right next door. We've had a lot of changes over the years and everybody pretty much rolls with them and a lot of them are for the better. I'm looking at this as kind of a big, concrete monstrosity as far as I'm concerned it's going to really take away from the rural atmosphere, especially in my neighborhood, and if people want that they'd move to the city. I kind of like things the way they are. | Comment noted. |
| 6 | Jonathon Bergeron Individual | I think we have to ask ourselves is it worth 50 million dollars to just overpass a ten minute wait for a train. And to take away from our scenery and just the hassle of a huge project and is it just not worth waiting for the train. It is a great convenience, but is it worth the cost? | Comment noted. The current estimated cost of the project is approximately \$12 million. |
| 7 | Gerald Ebelt Chairman of the Board of Trustees Northern Rockies Medical Center | The Board is in favor of the overpass for the primary reason of safety and having medical attention to people on the north side. We would be in favor of the overpass as it stands. | Comment noted. |
| 8 | Alice Brotnov City Council 317 Sixth Ave SE | I think the overpass is very, very necessary especially for emergency reasons. And I think a positive way to look at this is that the growth of Cut Bank may someday actually happen and it might be a good thing. And with the overpass and all of that extra highway that will be at Skyland Road, there could someday be businesses who may actually want to develop in that area. | Comment noted. |
| 9 | Stephanie King Individual 338 Fifth Ave SE | <p>9a. I worked for the Sheriff's office here for 20 years and more occasions than you would care to know about we had emergency vehicles that needed to get across the railroad tracks for people with heart attacks, gunshots, you name it. We had many, many incidences in 20 years. And for those people that lost people on the other side of the tracks because nobody could get there or nobody could get back over the tracks to get to the hospital, it's a real concern. You know, when you're losing family, I don't think there's a price tag that's going to cover that.</p> <p>9b. I understand the concerns of the people here tonight that are living over there and I think there's some solution that can be made, possibly by going out further north, straight north, and then turning off. Maybe just the one section staying there to divert the traffic that lives on the north side and then the other, heavier traffic goes straight north. That might be a solution, but there is an absolute need for emergency purposes, fire, ambulance, and sheriff to have that overpass.</p> | <p>9a. Comment noted.</p> <p>9b. A new alignment north of Skyland Road was previously evaluated (2000), but was eliminated due to extensive new right-of-way requirements and comparatively high cost due to right-of-way acquisition in comparison to the Preferred Build alternative.</p> |

| | | | |
|----|---|---|---|
| 10 | Jim Suta City of Cut Bank 215 Second Ave SW | I am the Cut Bank City Superintendent and I'd just like to say I support this overpass project. I've attended meetings over the seven years that I've served for the City of Cut Bank, including the alignment and grade meeting, and I think it is a good, a good project for the city of Cut Bank and will serve us for a lot of years to come. | Comment noted. |
| 11 | Bud Stewart Individual 302 Eighth Ave SE | I am 100% in favor of this project. | Comment noted. |
| 12 | Joan Stewart Individual 302 Eighth Ave SE | I want to go on record in full support of this project and I also want to suggest that if you're in the audience and whether you support or don't support it, please, everyone stand up. At our last hearing that we had regarding the overpass, everybody that was there was pretty much for it but nobody stood up. The only people that stood up were the 3 or 4 that were against it so it looked like from the meeting that the City of Cut Bank did not support it. So if you're here, you've taken the time to attend, please take the time to stand up and just say, 'Yes I support it' or 'No, I don't.' Thank you. (Note: 7 people remained seated and approximately 58 people stood) | Comment noted. |
| 13 | Kathy Campbell Individual 21 Eighth Ave SE | At the meeting that Bill was talking about when we went to Helena in 1999, it wasn't just community people, it was the fire chief, people from the police, people from the emergency medical services and everybody was <i>for</i> the overpass. And nobody was against the overpass until we're going to get it! Until it's 'not in my backyard' and 'I work at the shopping center...try to get to the shopping center!' However, nothing's going to get better if we don't do something. We can't just sit and not ever improve what we have and what is the cost? Is it worth fifty million dollars? If you've been on your way to the emergency room, yes, it is. From somebody that's spent a lot of time going to the emergency room. Not in an ambulance, in my own car. It's worth it to me. We need the overpass. | Comment noted. Please see Response #6 for the current estimated cost. |
| 14 | Dick Palmer Individual 14 Fourth Ave SW | I am in favor of an overpass somewhere in Cut Bank, we need one badly. The railroad is running more trains all the time and the trains are getting longer. So, the wait at the crossing is just going to increase. | Comment noted. |

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| 15 | Linda Dempsey Individual | <p>15a. My husband told me not to talk, but I'm going to anyway. I'm Linda Dempsey and I really understand the concerns of anybody that lives over there because ironically enough I drive from Glacier Motors, I take that road that he's talking about, I go out Skyland to my barn many times a day. And I know how quiet and nice it is over there and I totally understand where they're coming from, but I guess if they looked at all the alternatives, we do need an overpass, there's no doubt about that.</p> <p>15b. Maybe as this progresses MDT can work with the residents over there to show them exactly what's coming. So, you know a lot of us feel a little blindsided by some of the decisions we've made and so maybe if we can kind of show the impact it's going to have on your home, your business or whatever that would help. I think it that you know then maybe it won't be quite as bad but I understand where they're coming from with truck traffic and everything else. And maybe it might turn out the trucks won't even use that because they can still come up Central and go down Railroad Street to head west, provided we don't have any medians.</p> | <p>15a. Comment noted.</p> <p>15b. During the final design process, MDT will determine actual right-of-way impacts and coordinate with adjacent property owners on potential design elements to avoid or minimize those impacts.</p> |
| 16 | William McCauley City Council 218 First Ave SW | <p>I just have one little bit of humor to go with this meeting that we had in Helena. Marvin Dye came out and Mrs. Campbell had been to a meeting over there and had the local Catholic priest with her. And he was dressed in his garb and Marvin came out and took one look and he said, 'Now look...I will go ahead and I will talk to you people, but don't you try to be puttin' anything over on me that I don't know what's goin' on.'</p> | <p>Comment noted.</p> |
| 17 | Noel Duram Individual | <p>17a. The overpass is a great idea and it's a feasibility we looked through the lot of meetings, in the last seven years and this is, unfortunately the only option with it that that I can see. As far as privacy and sound, I think one of the sound issues [are semi trucks] especially with 68,000 pounds being the limit. The sound projects up and if there's any barrier at all it still goes up.</p> <p>17b. But the other issue is that is that on your side of the road where that corner will be pretty much eliminated, you'll have a big barricade or whatever you want to call it there. I wouldn't like that either. Unfortunately, I do agree that it's a good idea, so I wish it wasn't in your place. And, unfortunately what we see is we have that's the only place feasible when you cross six tracks. From everything that I've seen in just the 7 years that I've been looking at it, it's unfortunate this is the only one that's feasible.</p> | <p>17a. Traffic noise levels in the neighborhood and along proposed S-213 are not predicted to exceed the 66-dBA noise threshold or the 13 dBA increase criterion in the design year 2027 (see the EA Chapter 3-Noise for information on noise thresholds). Because the thresholds are not exceeded through the year 2027, no mitigation is required.</p> <p>17b. Comment noted.</p> |
| 18 | Ray Salois Former Glacier County Commissioner | <p>When I came on board as Commissioner in 2001, this program was in the works then and I support it 100% even though I don't like the location of it now, but I do support it and we do need one. And I know we're going to lose that west crossing. The county owns the east crossing down there and in just the near future we're going to lose that one, too. They came to the commissioners here about a year ago and told us. Just a matter of time.</p> | <p>Comment noted.</p> |

19 Patricia Fugle Individual



Comment form

Project name: RR Overpass - Cut Bank Title: County
 Project #: STPS 213-1(12)0 Control Number: CN 4158/4158
 Meeting date and time: Thursday, April 26, 2007 Location: Cut Bank Civic Center, 800 E. Railroad St

You are invited to make your comments on this form and leave it with the meeting officials or take it with you and mail it to: **MDT Environmental Services**, at 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620-1001. Comments may also be submitted by fax to (406) 444-7245 or online at www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/eis_ea.shtml. The deadline for comments is **MAY 7, 2007**.

Please indicate your name, address and affiliation (if any) below. Thank you for your interest in and comments about this project. Please use the back and/or additional sheets of paper if necessary.

Name and address: _____
Patricia Fugle
319 1st Street NW
Cut Bank, MT 59427


19a. Comments: *I am in favor of an overpass.*
a pedestrian access such as stairs
19b. *near the track would be great*
for many people from the north side
who walk to the shopping center.
There is an existing sidewalk along
part of the way along the track near
the planned overpass on the north side.

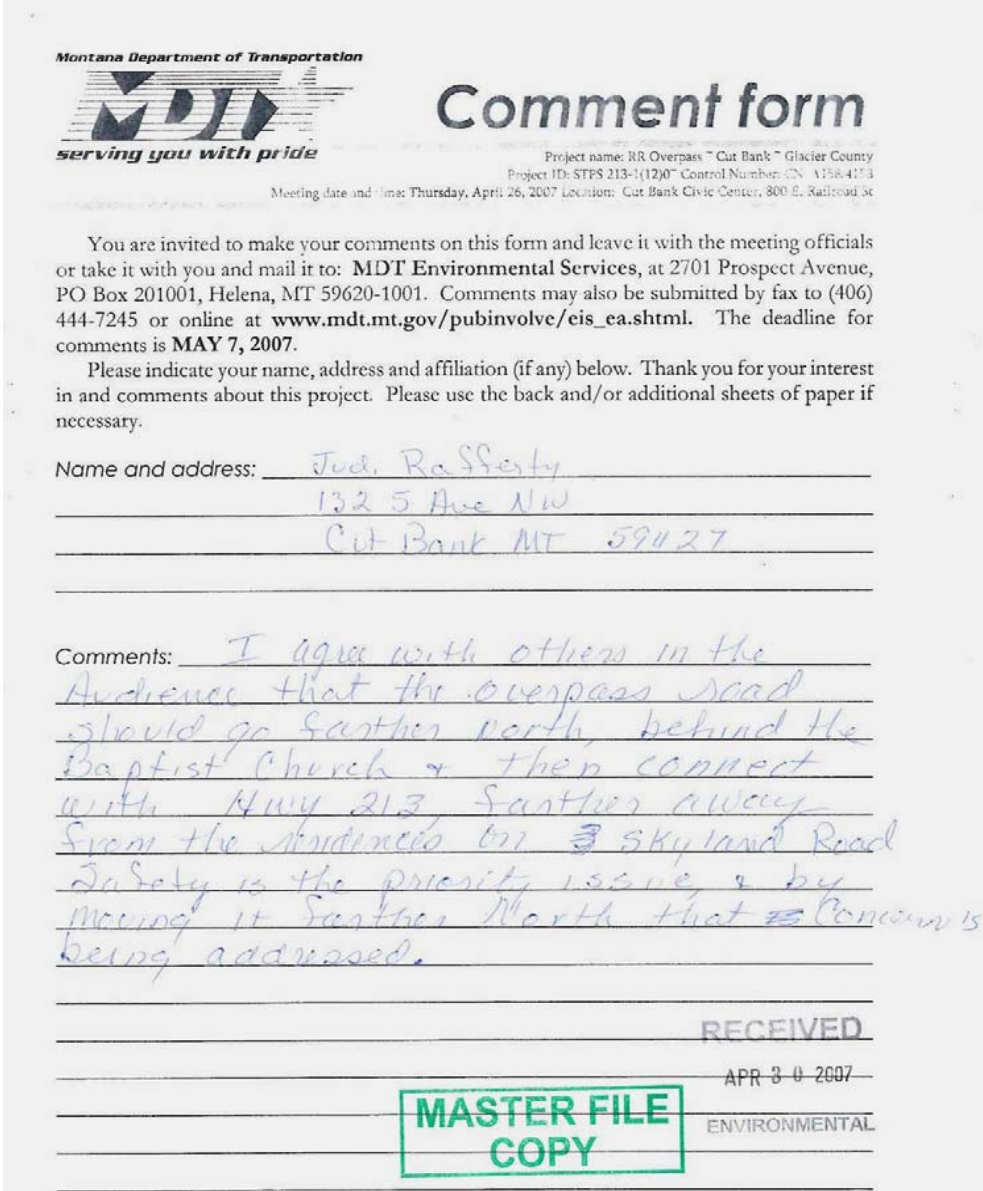
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19a. Comment noted.

19b. The proposed S-213 roadway typical section includes a 1.6m (5.2') sidewalk on the south side of the roadway from the intersection of US2/S-213, extending east over the bridge to the city limits near Soroptomist park.

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| <p>20</p> <p>Sharon Wollan Individual</p> | <p>04/30/2007 08:14 4068733133 NRMC MEDICAL RECORDS PAGE 01/01</p> <div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> MASTER FILE COPY </div>  <h2 style="text-align: center;">Comment form</h2> <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;"> Project name: RR Overpass - Cut Bank - Glacier County Project ID: STPS 213-1(12)0 Control Number: CN 4158-4158 Meeting Date and time: Thursday, April 26, 2007 Location: Cut Bank Civic Center, 800 E. Railroad St </p> <p> You are invited to make your comments on this form and leave it with the meeting officials or take it with you and mail it to: MDT Environmental Services, at 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620-1001. Comments may also be submitted by fax to (406) 444-7245 or online at www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/cis_ea.shtml. The deadline for comments is MAY 7, 2007. </p> <p> Please indicate your name, address and affiliation (if any) below. Thank you for your interest in and comments about this project. Please use the back and/or additional sheets of paper if necessary. </p> <p> Name and address: <u>Sharon Wollan</u> <u>Box 854</u> <u>Cut Bank MT</u> </p> <p> Comments: <u>I WAS BORN, RAISED - EDUCATED</u> <u>AND RETIRED IN CUT BANK. THE RAILROAD</u> <u>OVERPASS HAS BEEN SUGGESTED - PREPARED AND</u> <u>DIFFERENT LOCATIONS CONSIDERED FOR THE LAST</u> <u>50 YEARS.</u> <u>OUR CITIZENS ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE</u> <u>TRACK AND OUR RURAL POPULATION HAVE</u> <u>ALWAYS DESIRED AN OVERPASS, NOT ONLY FOR</u> <u>EMERGENCIES, BUT FOR AN EASY ACCESS TO THE</u> <u>MAIN PART OR BUSINESS DISTRICT OF THE TOWN.</u> </p> | <p>Comment noted.</p> |
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| <p>21</p> | <p>Judi Rafferty Individual 132 Fifth Ave NW</p> |  <p>Montana Department of Transportation MDT <i>serving you with pride</i></p> <h2>Comment form</h2> <p>Project name: RR Overpass - Cut Bank - Glacier County Project ID: STPS 213-1(12)0 - Control Number: CN 4158-4153 Meeting date and time: Thursday, April 26, 2007 Location: Cut Bank Civic Center, 800 E. Railroad St</p> <p>You are invited to make your comments on this form and leave it with the meeting officials or take it with you and mail it to: MDT Environmental Services, at 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620-1001. Comments may also be submitted by fax to (406) 444-7245 or online at www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/eis_ea.shtml. The deadline for comments is MAY 7, 2007.</p> <p>Please indicate your name, address and affiliation (if any) below. Thank you for your interest in and comments about this project. Please use the back and/or additional sheets of paper if necessary.</p> <p>Name and address: <u>Judi Rafferty</u> <u>132 5 Ave NW</u> <u>Cut Bank MT 59427</u></p> <p>Comments: <u>I agree with others in the</u> <u>audience that the overpass road</u> <u>should go further north, behind the</u> <u>Baptist Church & then connect</u> <u>with Hwy 213, further away</u> <u>from the audience on Skyland Road</u> <u>Safety is the priority issue & by</u> <u>moving it further north that concern is</u> <u>being addressed.</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;">RECEIVED APR 30 2007 ENVIRONMENTAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MASTER FILE COPY</p> | <p>A new alignment north of Skyland Road was previously evaluated (2000), but was eliminated due to extensive new right-of-way requirements and comparatively high cost due to right-of-way acquisition in comparison to the Preferred Build alternative.</p> |
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22 Merle Shortman Individual



Comment form

Project name: RR Overpass - Cut Bank - Glacier County
Project ID: STPS 213-1(12)0 Control Number: CN A158/4158

Meeting date and time: Thursday, April 26, 2007 Location: Cut Bank Civic Center, 800 E. Railroad St

You are invited to make your comments on this form and leave it with the meeting officials or take it with you and mail it to: **MDT Environmental Services**, at 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620-1001. Comments may also be submitted by fax to (406) 444-7245 or online at www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/eis_ea.shtml. The deadline for comments is **MAY 7, 2007**.

Please indicate your name, address and affiliation (if any) below. Thank you for your interest in and comments about this project. Please use the back and/or additional sheets of paper if necessary.

Name and address: Merle Shortman
119 6th Ave NW
Cut Bank MT. 59427

Comments: I'm all for the over pass.
But your taking the view from
6th Ave. and snow drifting is
something you can't stop it was
very bad before. The trash is
going to be bad. Noise is
going to increase as well.

22a.
22b.
22c.

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22a. The proposed project would not change the overall character of the visual environment from the existing residential and commercial uses. The aesthetics of the retaining wall design such as color, texture etc. will be considered during final design. Please see Chapter 3-Visual Impacts for more information.

22b. Maintenance such as snow plowing and trash removal will continue to be the responsibility of the City. During final design MDT will evaluate the effectiveness of measures such as a living snowfence to address snow drifting issues.

22c. Please see Response #17a regarding noise.

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| 23 | Wade Johnson Superintendent Cut Bank Schools | <div style="text-align: center;"> <h2>Cut Bank Public Schools</h2> <p>SCHOOL DISTRICT 15 – GLACIER COUNTY</p> <p>101 Third Avenue SE Cut Bank, Montana 59427 (406) 873-2229 FAX (406) 873-4691</p> <p>RECEIVED MAY 07 2007 ENVIRONMENTAL</p> <p>COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE</p> <p>MASTER FILE COPY</p> </div> <p>Jean A. Riley, PE MDT Environmental Services Bureau Chief Montana Department of Transportation 2701 Prospect Ave PO Box 202001 Helena, MT 59620-1001</p> <p>4-2-07</p> <p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>As Superintendent of Schools for Cut Bank Public Schools in Cut Bank, Montana, the idea of an overpass for Cut Bank is an idea that I strongly support. Our bus barn is on the North side of the railroad tracks and two of our schools are on the South side of the tracks. In the interest of safety alone, I encourage MDT to complete this project as outlined as soon as possible. With this overpass in place, school busses will cross railroad tracks much less frequently creating a safer, more reliable school transportation system.</p> <p>Please take action and complete the railroad overpass in Cut Bank as soon as possible. I can be reached for further comment at 406-873-2229.</p> <p>Sincerely, <i>Wade Johnson</i> Wade Johnson, Superintendent Cut Bank Schools</p> | Comment noted. |
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| <p>24</p> | <p>Melvin "Mel" M. Kays Individual 114 Second Ave NE</p> | <p>Jane Boand</p> <hr/> <p>From: Mel Kays [mekays@northerntel.net] Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2007 8:59 PM To: mdtcommentscutbankea@mt.gov Cc: Jane Boand; Larry Olson Subject: Comment on RR Overpass - Cut Bank EA</p> <p>Having lived in Cut Bank on the northside of the railroad for 69 years I think it is high time that we had an overpass.I have never seen a dire emergency that the railroad wasn't pretty accommodating and would break a train if it was necessary. This doesn't help when thousands of hours of man hours have been wasted over the years waiting for the many freight trains on the crossings which are increasing in number much faster than anyone that hasn't seen it would believe, not to mention the switch engines that seem to block the crossing when everyone wants to get somewhere to eat lunch. This would be a little funny if it were only one train blocking the crossing but I can say the time is coming very soon when there may be more than two trains across the crossing as the railroad will increase the traffic as much as is possible because they are in the business of moving freight. We really need an over pass and the sooner the better. They have been talking about this since WW2 and I would like to live to see it really happen.</p> <p>Melvin M. Kays 114 @ Av. NE Cut Bank, Montana 59427</p> | <p>Comment noted.</p> |
| <p>25</p> | <p>Melvin "Mel" M. Kays Individual 114 Second Ave NE</p> | <p>Jane Boand</p> <hr/> <p>From: Mel Kays [mekays@northerntel.net] Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2007 8:47 PM To: mdtcommentscutbankea@mt.gov Cc: Jane Boand; Larry Olson Subject: Comment on RR Overpass - Cut Bank EA</p> <p>I have lived in Cut Bank for 69 years on the north side of the tracks. I have never seen a time when the railroad wouldn't break a train in a dire emergency. However, I have seen may thousands of man hours wasted waiting for freight trains on the crossing not to mention switch engines moving local freight. The future plans of the railroad seem to indicate a lot more traffic, and the crossings will be blocked a lot more, We really should have an overpass.</p> <p>Melvin Kays 114 2nd Ave NE Cut Bank, Mt. 59427</p> | <p>Additional comment noted.</p> |

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| <p>26</p> | <p>Mark J. Krapf Individual 422 Second Street NW PO Box 895</p> | <p>Jane Board</p> <p>From: kmshop@sofast.net Sent: Monday, May 07, 2007 10:10 PM To: mdtcommentscutbankea@mt.gov Cc: Jane Board; Larry Olson Subject: Comment on RR Overpass - Cut Bank EA</p> <p>Mark J. Krapf 422 2nd Street NW PO Box 895 Cut Bank, MT 59427</p> <p>(406) 873-5310 Home (406) 873-2361 Work</p> <p>kmshop@sofast.net Email</p> <p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>My name is Mark Krapf. I live on the corner of 5th Ave. NW and 2nd St. NW in Cut Bank, MT. This area is within the corridor of the proposed (and preferred build) overpass. In looking at the environmental assessment for this overpass, it is expected to pass within 40 feet of my property. Not only am I very concerned with my property and its value, the noise pollution, air pollution, and eyesore that this overpass will cause, but I am also concerned with the possible safety issues this overpass would create by placing a highway in the middle of a residential area, which includes a park and elementary school. (You need to go quit a bit further north.) Cost should not be the issue when safety is in question.</p> <p>I am also concerned with vehicles coming in from the north on Highway 213. The natural route will be to take the overpass; cars will be required to all but stop and take a left to access Central Ave. This means that out of the 4,500 cars, the majority of them will stay on the overpass road and travel through a residential area. Additionally, accessing Highway 213 from the south would require stopping on a hill. Our traffic coming from the north typically consists of farmers, Canadians, people traveling to Glacier National Park, or other tourists. With this overpass, the possible consumers would likely bypass the Central Avenue business district.</p> <p>Twenty years ago, our shopping center went in. Since then, the only new commercial development in our town has occurred on the west side, which also caused half of the downtown businesses to close. This has divided Cut Bank from east to west. However, we have recently filled a few of the downtown businesses, which could be at risk of failure do to the lack of traffic on Central Avenue, if this overpass goes in as proposed.</p> <p>Additionally, this will likely cause a large increase in congestion due to the traffic on US Highway 2 (Main Street), Railroad Street, and the proposed overpass, which are all within a few hundred feet of each other and surrounded by numerous businesses, including a tire shop, diesel repair shop, casinos, the Northern Village Shopping Center, Albertsons, McDonalds, Pizza Hut, the Town Pump Travel Plaza, the Super 8 Motel, and several residences. This situation seems to be an accident waiting to happen and could make for some very unsafe traffic situations.</p> | <p>26a. The distance between the overpass and your property is expected to be greater than 40 feet. Preliminary design shows the alignment shifting approximately 12 feet north of the existing alignment. As a result, the distance between your property and the roadway is expected to increase with the proposed project. Please see Response #15b regarding right-of-way for additional information. Please see Response #17a regarding noise. The project is not expected to result in decreased air quality. Please see Chapter 3-Air Quality for more information. Please see Response #22a regarding aesthetics.</p> <p>The alignment of proposed S-213 would be shifted slightly to the north, away from existing residential properties. The intersection of 5th Ave. NW and 2nd St. NW would be reconfigured to eliminate the intersection with Skyland Road, but the intersection would remain in place to provide circulation and emergency vehicle access within the neighborhood.</p> <p>One of the key purposes of the project is to address overall safety concerns with the northeast Cut Bank area by reducing vehicular/train conflicts. In recognition of the residential character of the area, the Preferred Build alternative includes a sidewalk on the south side of Skyland Road/proposed S-213 to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists.</p> <p>26b. The projected traffic volume on Skyland Road/proposed S-213 is approximately 2,900 vehicles per day in the year 2027. Southbound traffic on Skyland Road/proposed S-213 will be regulated by a new traffic signal at US</p> |
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| <p style="text-align: center;">26e.</p> | <p>Why would you not want to go east to Alternate #5? However more costly, it could help create possible development on the east side of Cut Bank. Additionally, alternate #6, as stated in the environmental assessment, would cause the least disruption to the existing land, has an acceptable grade, and has the least cost of all the alternatives. With an overpass on the east side of town, future industry could be developed, creating a more symmetric balance to our community as a whole.</p> <p>For my situation and our neighborhood, the 2000 new alignment would be better for the whole northwest side residential and school area.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>The overpass ordeal started out as a safety issue. Its main purpose was to create unhindered access to the properties north of the railroad tracks for emergency vehicles (police, fire department, and medical services.) As far as these emergency vehicles are concerned, the fire department, police department, hospital, and clinic are all situated on the east side of Cut Bank, making Alternates #5 or #6 prime candidates for the overpass.</p> <p>I have been a resident of Cut Bank for my entire life. Not only do I own a home at my current address, but I own and operate a machine shop on North Central Avenue. After speaking with many residents of the northwest side of town and business owners on Central Avenue, we don't think the proposed overpass would benefit our situation. Even though these residents may not want to speak out publicly, I think their voice should be heard. You have turned a simple bridge into a big city fiasco, and I don't know if that is what is best for our community.</p> <p>I could go on for hours, but that is not what this is about. I would be more than happy to visit with anyone who would like to talk about the overpass situation. You can reach me at the above address and phone number.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Mark J. Krampf</p> | <p>2/Main Street. Northbound traffic on Skyland/ proposed S-213 will be freeflow from Main Street/US 2, and will not be required to stop on the overpass. The gradient over the bridge is a maximum of 5 percent, and a maximum of 3 percent at the Main Street/US 2 intersection. These low gradients do not impact travel sight distances or speeds.</p> <p>Signage will be installed to direct southbound S-213 travelers to the Cut Bank city center via Central Avenue and the new overpass.</p> <p>26c. Plans for any future development in the City of Cut Bank are unknown at this time. The degree to which commercial services grow is often linked to the population growth of the city and county. The project would not be anticipated to change the total volume of sales for the regional or local economy. Overall, the project is expected to have positive effects on community resources due to improved travel efficiency and safety for motorists and pedestrians.</p> <p>26d. Traffic control measures are included to enhance safety, including turn lanes, traffic signals and incorporation of medians to be constructed in the Cut Bank west roadway project. Old County Road will provide an alternate access from US 2/ Main Street to the Albertsons parking and truck unloading area. MDT will also coordinate with adjoining property owners during final design to discuss issues and identify access plans.</p> <p>26e. Alternative 5 was located considerably farther east of the desired Skyland location and would not improve safety or mobility in the more heavily</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">26f.</p> | | |

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| | | | <p>traveled western portion of Cut Bank. Alternative 6 provided a poor connection to the existing street system on the north side of the RR tracks, and was located 3,600 feet east of the optimal crossing location. The 2000 study concluded that the Skyland Road alignment was the preferred alignment. This alignment minimized right-of-way requirements, met MDT design criteria for grade and turning radii and was a lower cost than a new alignment north of Skyland.</p> <p>26f. The public has had opportunity to comment verbally or in writing at the public meetings held in March 2003 and April 2007, and by mail or email to the MDT. Mailing addresses for written comments were provided in public news releases, postcard mailers and on the MDT website.</p> |
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27 Gerald Ebelt
 Chairman of
 the Board of
 Trustees
 Northern
 Rockies
 Medical
 Center
 1001 First St
 SE

Montana Department of Transportation

servicing you with pride

Comment form

Project name: RR Overpass - Cut Bank - Glacier County
 Project ID: STPS 213-1(12)0 - Control Number: CN A158/4158
 Meeting date and time: Thursday, April 26, 2007 Location: Cut Bank Civic Center, 800 E. Railroad St

You are invited to make your comments on this form and leave it with the meeting officials or take it with you and mail it to: MDT Environmental Services, at 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620-1001. Comments may also be submitted by fax to (406) 444-7245 or online at www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/eis_ea.shtml. The deadline for comments is **MAY 7, 2007**.

Please indicate your name, address and affiliation (if any) below. Thank you for your interest in and comments about this project. Please use the back and/or additional sheets of paper if necessary.

Name and address: Gerald Ebelt 1001 1st St SE Cut Bank, MT.
Rep. Northern Rockies Medical Center. Chairman of
The Board of Trustees.

Comments: The Northern Rockies Medical Center is beginning
a feasibility study to determine the future of the
hospital. We must either remodel or rebuild within
2-3 yrs. If it is necessary to rebuild a northside
location might be chosen. In this case an overpass
will become vital to the majority of the town's
population & businesses.

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Comment noted. Multiple other public and private projects are planned or underway in the project area (see Chapter 3-Secondary and Cumulative Impacts). This project, when added to the other planned projects, is not expected to contribute to cumulative negative social, community or economic impacts.

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| <p>28</p> | <p>Scott Jackson US Fish and Wildlife Service 585 Shepard Way Helena, MT 59601</p> | <p>-----Original Message----- From: Scott Jackson@fws.gov [mailto:Scott_Jackson@fws.gov] Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2007 10:10 AM To: Riley, Jean Cc: Anne_Vandehey@fws.gov Subject: Cutbank RR overpass EA</p> <p>Hi Jean,</p> <p>Thank you for the chance to review the EA for the RR Overpass in Cutbank (STPS 213-1(12)0; CN 4158). I have looked it over and have no substantive comments. In a letter to MDT's consultant dated 3/18/03, FWS indicated that no threatened or endangered species or their habitat are likely to be present in the project area, and the EA indicates that the preferred alternative would have no effect on listed species. Therefore, no ESA S.7 consultation is required for this project. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.</p> <p>Scott Jackson, Fish and Wildlife Biologist U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Montana Field Office 585 Shepard Way Helena, Montana 59601 (406)449-5225, extension 201 (406)449-5339 (fax) scott_jackson@fws.gov</p> | <p>Comment noted.</p> |
| <p>29</p> | <p>Rachelle Fitzpatrick Individual Home: 401 Skyland Rd Work: 601 West Main</p> <p>29a.</p> <p>29b.</p> | <p>-----Original Message----- From: Dennis Fitzpatrick [mailto:fitzcrew4@yahoo.com] Sent: Friday, April 27, 2007 3:13 PM To: MDT Comments - Cut Bank RR EA Subject: Jebo@deainc.com</p> <p>29</p> <p>← Hello, ash</p> <p>I am a resident of Cut Bank. My home is located at 401 Skyland Road; one of the residences listed as a possible relocation site. My husband Dennis and I have four children. We are just requesting that if relocation is to occur for us, we would like ample time to make the necessary arrangements. Please notify us as soon as possible once more is known about boundaries and dates.</p> <p>Our second concern is our business. We have a business located in the Northern Village Shopping Center. Our business is "A Buck or \$2.00". We are very much concerned about the road on the West project and are against any type of restriction of motorists turning into the current southeast entrance of the mall from the East or the West.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Rachelle Fitzpatrick A Buck or \$2.00 601 West Main Cut Bank, MT 59427 406.873.2949</p> | <p>29a. Please see Response #15b regarding right-of-way.</p> <p>29b. Restricted movement into Albertsons will be included in either project (the medians will be painted or raised) for safety.</p> |

30 Rick and
Glenda
Billman
Individuals
PO Box 153
313
Thirteenth
Ave SE
Cut Bank,
MT

MAY-08-2007 12:08 AM

P. 02

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Comment form

Project name: RR Overpass - Cut Bank - Glacier County

Project ID: STPS 213-1(12)0 Control Number: CN A158/4158

Meeting date and time: Thursday, April 26, 2007 Location: Cut Bank Civic Center, 800 E. Railroad St

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Please indicate your name, address and affiliation (if any) below. Thank you for your interest in and comments about this project. Please use the back and/or additional sheets of paper if necessary.

Name and address: Rick & Glenda Billman
PO Box 153
313 13th Ave SE
Cut Bank MT 59427

Comments: We have lived in Cut Bank over 45 years & have always thought an overpass would be beneficial. With one elementary school on the north side it has always been a worry with children riding their bikes across the tracks & trying to "beat" the train. With the numerous farmers & oilfield workers who go back & forth several times daily it would be way more beneficial to not spend so much time waiting for a train. We have grandchildren in daycare and when transporting them to & from daycare we wait for a train at least once per trip.

Rick & Glenda Billman

Comment noted.

| | | |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| <p>31</p> <p>Rick and Glenda Billman Billman's, Inc. 133 W. Railroad St</p> | <p>MAY-08-2007 12:08 AM</p> <div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> P: 01 MASTER FILE COPY </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Comment form</h2> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;"> Project name: RR Overpass ~ Cut Bank ~ Glacier County Project ID: STPS 213-1(12)0 ~ Control Number: CN A158/4158 Meeting date and time: Thursday, April 26, 2007 Location: Cut Bank Civic Center, 800 E. Railroad St </p> </div> </div> <p>You are invited to make your comments on this form and leave it with the meeting officials or take it with you and mail it to: MDT Environmental Services, at 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620-1001. Comments may also be submitted by fax to (406) 444-7245 or online at www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/eis_ea.shtml. The deadline for comments is MAY 7, 2007.</p> <p>Please indicate your name, address and affiliation (if any) below. Thank you for your interest in and comments about this project. Please use the back and/or additional sheets of paper if necessary.</p> <p>Name and address: <u>Billman's Inc</u> <u>133 W. Railroad St</u> <u>Cut Bank MT 59427</u> <u>(Rick/Glenda Billman)</u></p> <p>Comments: <u>As business with trucks doing deliveries, employees who commute across the tracks we are in full support of this overpass. It is very important to the Cut Bank economy. Our staff is also supporting the construction of an overpass. The hours wasted while waiting for trains add up quickly.</u></p> | <p>Comment noted.</p> |
|---|---|-----------------------|

32 Rick and Glenda Billman Billman's Home Décor 18 First Ave SW

MAY-08-2007 12:08 AM

MASTER FILE COPY



Comment form

Project name: RR Overpass - Cut Bank - Glacier County Project ID: STPS 213-1(12)0 Control Number: CN 4158/4158 Meeting date and time: Thursday, April 26, 2007 Location: Cut Bank Civic Center, 800 E. Railroad St

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Please indicate your name, address and affiliation (if any) below. Thank you for your interest in and comments about this project. Please use the back and/or additional sheets of paper if necessary.

Name and address: Billman's Home Décor 18 1st Ave SW Cut Bank MT 59427

Comments: We support building an overpass in Cut Bank as soon as possible. Our store delivers and our delivery guys waste lots of time sitting at the crossing. It has always been a concern when either the ambulance or fire truck or law enforcement is stalled at the tracks.

Comment noted.

33 Helen Y. McCauley Individual 318 First Ave SW

04/27/2007 12:53 4068734423

CUT BANK BLDG SER

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Comment form

Project name: RR Overpass - Cut Bank - Glacier County
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Please indicate your name, address and affiliation (if any) below. Thank you for your interest in and comments about this project. Please use the back and/or additional sheets of paper if necessary.

Name and address: Helen Y. McCauley
318 1st Ave SW
Cut Bank, MT

Comments: I am in favor of the
RR overpass from the safety
area for both the young and old &
I know that time will be saved.
I hope that in the future, the
business area will expand more to
the east and without the overpass,
that might not happen.

Comment noted.

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Appendix C

Environmental Assessment

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MDT attempts to provide accommodation for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in any service, program or activity of the Department. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request. For further information, call 406.444.7228 or TTY (800.335.7592) or call Montana Relay at 711.