

E of Zurich to Harlem

2

US 2 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) will reconstruct seven miles of US Highway 2 (US 2) between Zurich and Harlem to enhance roadway safety features and provide a smoother driving surface.

The project begins at Eight Mile Road, two miles east of Zurich, and ends just west of Harlem at Thirty Mile Road.

These improvements will improve access to local communities and industries, including agriculture, industry, and commerce, along US 2.



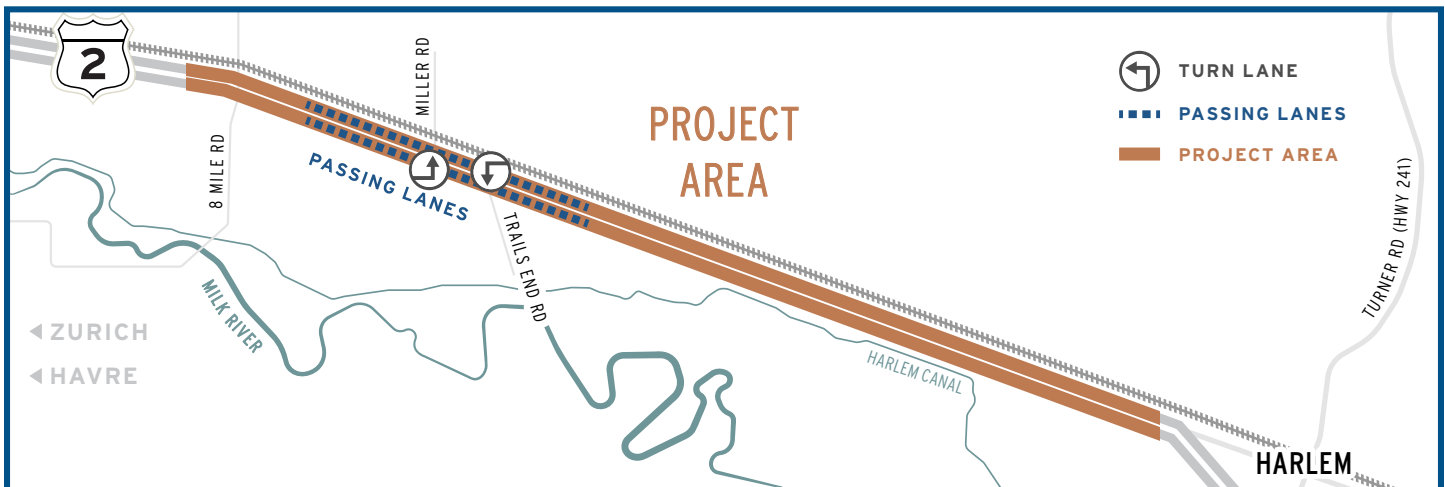
DESIGN ELEMENTS

MDT is planning to widen this seven mile stretch of US 2 to achieve a modern, 40-foot top width roadway, which will include 12 foot travel lanes and eight foot shoulders.

The project will also add a two-mile stretch of passing lanes in both directions, install new culverts, and adjust side slopes and ditches.

IMPACTS TO THE PUBLIC

During the design and right-of-way phases, impacts to the public will be minimal. Motorists may see periodic traffic control with reduced speeds and flaggers during field and survey work and staking of proposed right-of-way lines.






PROJECT BENEFITS

- Enhancing safety features to reduce the probability and severity of crashes.
- Widening the roadway to allow for increased travel capacity.
- Improving access to local communities and industries, including agriculture, commerce, and tourism.

WORK ZONE SAFETY

When traveling during construction season, watch for the “cone zone” and for workers on the highway. These workers spend their days working a short distance from fast moving vehicles, and while they make every effort to work safely, they are counting on you to pay attention, slow down and be careful as you pass through a work zone.

Remember the Three S's of work zone safety: speed, space and stress.

-  Manage your speed.
-  Manage your space.
-  Manage your stress.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

The East of Zurich to Harlem project is located on the Milk River floodplain. MDT is incorporating context-sensitive design to ensure that highway reconstruction is environmentally friendly. The capacity of culverts and ditches will be increased to promote positive drainage. MDT Hydraulics is working closely with the Blaine county floodplain administrator to ensure the project does not impact the mapped floodplains. Roadside slopes were steepened by about 17% compared to normal design values to reduce right of way requirements and impacts on the canal and railroad, as well as saving almost an acre of wetlands.



Speeding and other reckless driving behaviors create unsafe conditions for you and others traveling Montana's roads. Even if you are abiding by posted speed limits, you can still be traveling too fast for safety – particularly in inclement weather, low/ no light conditions, or around emergency response or work zone sites.



One simple and effective way to protect all roadway users is to lower your speed when driving a motor vehicle. In the event of a crash, the higher the speed of the vehicle(s) involved, the more deadly the collision – especially when a vulnerable roadway user is involved (pedestrian, bicyclist, motorcyclist, etc.).



While driving a motor vehicle, remember to always follow posted speed limits, adjusting your speed as needed for current conditions, and keep your focus on the road ahead and the task of driving to help ensure we all reach our destinations safely. To learn more about safe driving behaviors and how you can help Montana reach the goal of Vision Zero, visit <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/people/>.



Receive project updates, text “zurichtoharlem” to 406-226-1603 or email ellac@strategies360.com*

*Texting alerts are not managed by MDT and may have different privacy and security policies. For more information, see <https://simpletexting.com/privacy-policy/>

Questions? Contact us! ELLA CURRIER, Strategies 360: 406-465-7198 | ellac@strategies360.com

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