

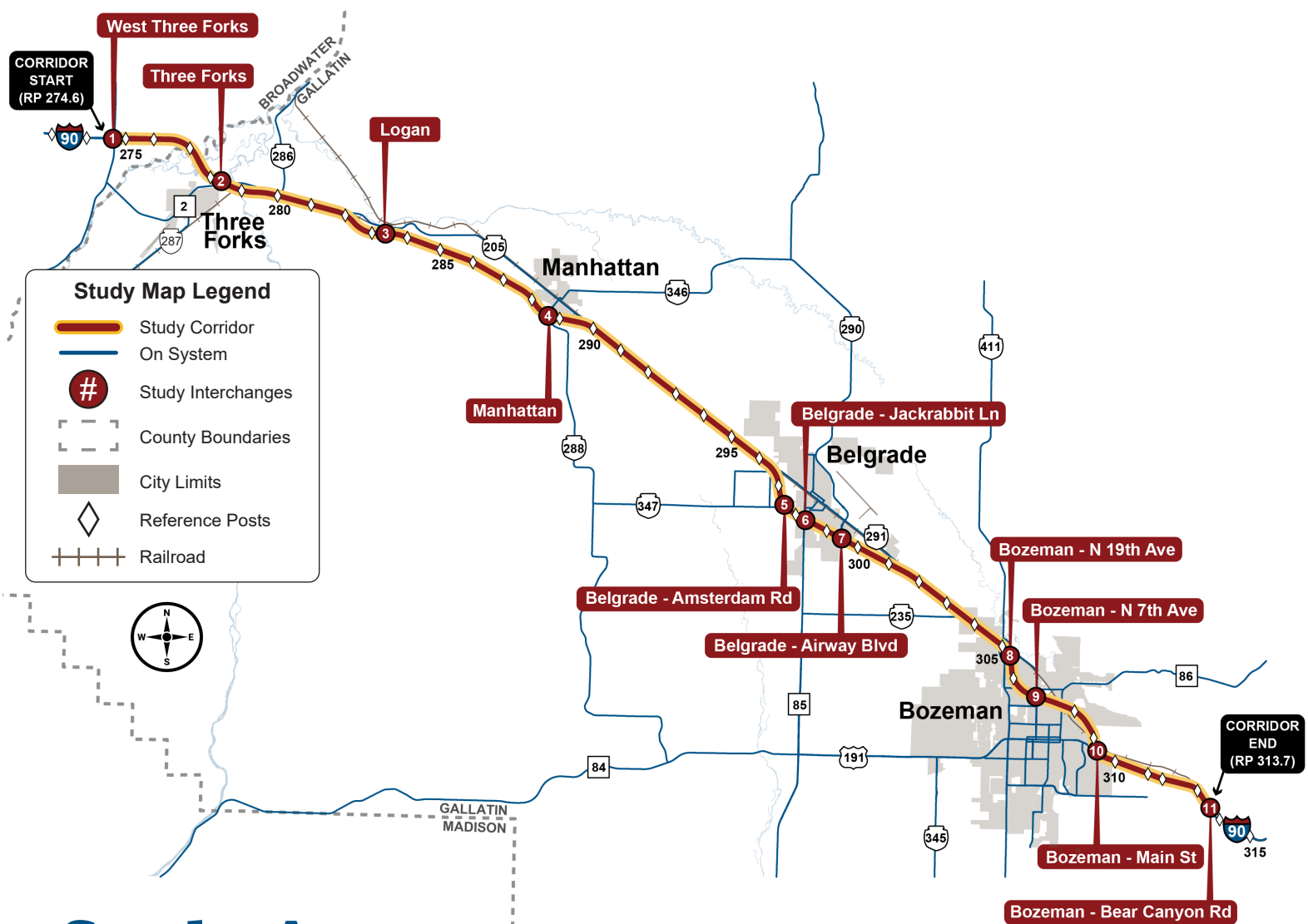
90 CORRIDOR STUDY

West Three Forks to Bear Canyon

Newsletter #1
August 2026

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is developing the *I-90 West Three Forks to Bear Canyon Corridor Study* to provide a comprehensive long-range plan for managing the Interstate 90 (I-90) corridor through the growing Gallatin Valley. The study will identify improvements to address transportation needs while considering public input, environmental constraints, and financial feasibility.

The goal of the study is to identify potential short- and long-term improvements to address traffic operations, safety, roadway geometrics, and environmental concerns. The study will help ensure an efficient transition from transportation planning to future project development as funding becomes available. **This planning study is not a design or construction project.**



Study Area

The study area includes a section of I-90 extending from the West Three Forks Interchange in Broadwater County at reference post (RP) 274.6 and continues across Gallatin County to the Bear Canyon Road Interchange at RP 313.7, passing the communities of **Three Forks, Logan, Manhattan, Belgrade, and Bozeman**. This section of I-90 serves as a vital local and regional transportation facility, accommodating daily commuter travel and providing **access to jobs, schools, commercial areas, and essential services**. In addition, the corridor functions as a **national freight route** that must operate reliably year-round to support commerce.

Key Findings

As an initial step in the planning process, a comprehensive baseline analysis of conditions within the corridor has been conducted. This analysis helps the planning team identify potential constraints, corridor needs, and issues to be addressed. Public and agency outreach is underway to share key findings and gather input on community concerns. In the coming months, the planning team will synthesize findings and feedback to help identify improvement options and strategies to address corridor needs. The following planning-level topics have been investigated.



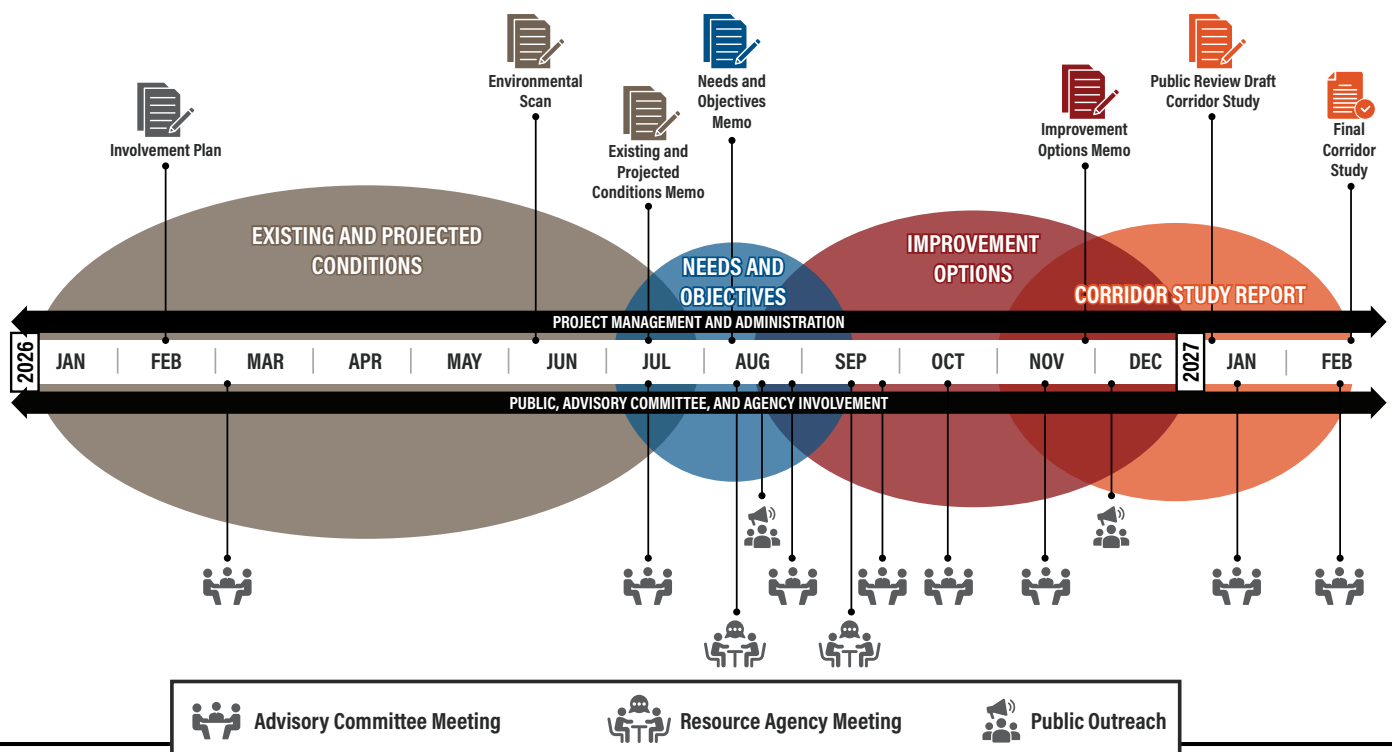
- Population, demographics, and economic conditions
- Physical and biological environment
- Physical roadway features and characteristics



- Recreational, cultural, and visual resources
- Geometric roadway design features
- Traffic operations
- Crash history and other safety trends

Schedule

The corridor study effort kicked off in January 2026 and is expected to be completed within a 14-month time frame. A public draft of the *I-90 West Three Forks to Bear Canyon Corridor Study* is anticipated by January 2027, with a formal public and agency review period to follow. All work is anticipated to be completed by the end of February 2027.



Get Involved

To submit comments:

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Department of Transportation

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For more information, visit the study website at:

mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/i90wthreeforks

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