



## IMPROVING COMMUTES ON ONE OF BELGRADE'S BUSIEST ROADS

Belgrade is growing faster than ever. To meet the needs and vision for development in this community, the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is widening a half-mile stretch of Jackrabbit Lane, adding new sidewalks, and constructing a railroad crossing overpass or underpass near Main Street through the Jackrabbit - Madison to Main project.



## WHEN WILL THIS PROJECT BEGIN?

Given Belgrade's rapid growth, many residents want this project to be completed yesterday. However, properly rebuilding a road takes time. Below are two major factors at play:



### FUNDING

Adding an underpass or overpass that would allow vehicles to drive under or over the train tracks without stopping required much more funding than what was originally allocated to the project. Project costs increased from \$4 million to \$10-20 million. MDT as an agency cannot bear the brunt of these costs alone, and it will take time to create partnerships with local stakeholders and gather funds. Additionally, MDT expects to receive the bulk of funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in future years. Construction funding is not expected to be available until 2026 or later.



### PROJECT SCHEDULE

Building a road is no easy feat. Crews will survey the land for potential utility issues, engineers will create project plans, and staff will negotiate with landowners on right-of-way. In addition, each project goes through extensive environmental reviews to ensure that impacts are kept to a minimum. Project plans go through multiple internal reviews prior to being implemented, and time is needed throughout this process to ensure that the public has had ample time to provide input.

## STAY IN THE KNOW



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## MONTANA

Department of Transportation

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