

Chapter 4 Corridor Needs and Objectives

Needs and objectives for the US 93 corridor within the study area were identified after a comprehensive review of existing data, plans, resource agency and TOC coordination and community input. The discussion and analysis leading to the development of these needs and objectives recognizes both MDT's concerns to enhance traffic flow and the local governments' desire to enhance livability and connectivity within the community.

The needs or objectives followed by an asterisk implies a variation on the needs or objectives contained in the 1996 FEIS fully referenced in Chapter 9 of this document. Needs and objectives without an asterisk were developed by the community and/or TOC.

4.1 Needs and Objectives:

4.1.1 Need Number 1: System Linkage and Function

Preserve functionality of US 93 as a principal arterial.

Objectives

- Maintain connections of Polson with other Montana communities.
- Maintain connections to other major highways in the corridor.

4.1.2 Need Number 2: Transportation Demand and Operation

Accommodate existing and future transportation demand on US 93 through the planning horizon of the year 2030.

Objectives

- Maintain a level of service (LOS) B or better for roadway segments along US 93 (rural principal arterial), to the extent practicable. *
- Maintain a LOS C or better for roadway segments along US 93 (urban principal arterial), to the extent practicable. *
- Acknowledge the increase in non-motorized transportation uses and provide for appropriate infrastructure, to the extent practicable.

4.1.3 Need Number 3: Roadway Geometrics

Provide a facility that accommodates the diversity of vehicle types.

Objectives

- Provide appropriate lane configuration(s) to accommodate the vehicle demand expected under existing and future conditions, to the extent practicable.
- Provide for unique turning movements and grade requirements for specialized vehicles such as semi-trucks and recreational vehicles, to the extent practicable.

- Improve the road and bridge surfacing widths to meet current MDT design criteria, to the extent practicable.
- Provide modifications to the roadway horizontal alignment and vertical alignment to meet current MDT design criteria, to the extent practicable.

4.1.4 Need Number 4: Safety

Improve the safety of US 93. *

Objectives

- Provide adequate clear zones along US 93 by identifying and removing obstacles, upgrading shoulder widths, and providing urban roadway features in accordance with MDT design criteria, to the extent practicable.
- Manage community access points and private approaches by providing appropriate features commensurate with the types and volumes of traffic encountered at each approach, and/or by consolidating or closing approaches, to the extent practicable.

4.1.5 Need Number 5: Livability and Connectivity

Reduce conflicts by enhancing connectivity and minimizing impacts within the US 93 corridor.

Objectives

- Minimize impacts to existing neighborhoods. *
- Minimize impacts to environmental, sensitive and recreational resources, including trails. *
- Be responsive to land use plans and future transportation needs. *

4.1.6 Need Number 6: Truck Traffic

Minimize the impacts of US 93 thru truck traffic.

Objectives

- Provide appropriate signage to direct thru truck traffic.
- Minimize the number of vertical grade changes for thru truck traffic.
- Provide acceptable travel times with minimal delay for thru truck traffic.

4.1.7 Other

The following are potential objectives that do not correlate to any of the five needs described above.

- Be responsive to long-term maintenance requirements. *
- Limit construction disruption as much as practicable. *
- Community preference.