



Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Why is MDT making improvements to Whitetail Road (S 399)?**

Jefferson County has identified Whitetail Road as a high priority roadway. Every year, the county spends a large portion of their road maintenance time and budget to keep Whitetail Road open. Whitetail road is a secondary highway which grants the public access to local roads and provides an alternate route between Boulder and Whitehall.
- 2. Why are maintenance costs for Whitetail Road so high?**

Whitetail Road was constructed using moisture-sensitive soils consisting mostly of silt and clay, resulting in poor drainage. Poor drainage on gravel roads causes damage to the driving surface, requiring extensive maintenance to remain open.
- 3. How will the project be funded?**

Most of the funding comes from the Surface Transportation Program — Secondary (STP-Secondary), a federal funding category for preserving or improving conditions and performance on non-National Highway System federal aid routes. Funding also comes from the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).
- 4. Will the project cause more truck traffic on Whitetail Rd once its paved?**

No. The gravel road surface, mountainous terrain and winding nature of the roadway within the Forest Service will remain unpaved and is not suitable for large commercial truck traffic.
- 5. Is MDT paving all of Whitetail road?**

No. MDT is only repaving the northern portion of the roadway near Boulder that is currently paved.
- 6. Will the project increase the speed limit on Whitetail Road?**

No, the posted speed limit on Whitetail Road (S 399) will remain at 35 miles per hour.
- 7. Will MDT need to close the road during construction?**

Yes, MDT will be required to partially or fully close the road for some construction activities. Intermittent single-lane closures will occur throughout the project area to allow the contractor to safely resurface the roadway. Full closures will occur if rock blasting work is necessary, and to replace two culverts over the Little Boulder River. MDT will notify the public prior to a full closure.
- 8. How will MDT maintain access to local roads during construction?**

Unless the public is notified of a full closure, one lane will remain open at all times. To ensure the safety of everyone involved, a pilot car will guide traffic through the construction area during working hours. Motorists can expect up to 15-minute delays.