

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

**STANTON —  
ESSEX**



## What is the Stanton – Essex Pavement Preservation Project?

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), in partnership with Schellinger Construction, will begin roadway improvements on approximately 12 miles of U.S. Highway 2 (US 2) near Essex in June 2026. The project begins near Stanton Creek and extends southeast to just beyond the Middle Fork Flathead River bridge.

Work is designed to preserve and improve the existing roadway, extend pavement life, and enhance safety for travelers.

## What work will take place during the project?

Construction activities will include:

- Milling and replacing asphalt
- Applying seal and cover (chip seal)
- Installing rumble strips
- Completing bridge repairs
- Updating pavement markings
- Upgrading guardrail

## Why is this project needed?

Pavement preservation projects enhance safety and maintain reliable roadways while reducing long-term repair costs and impacts over time. By addressing roadway conditions now, MDT can extend the life of the highway and improve driving conditions with minimal disruptions for residents, commuters, freight traffic, and visitors traveling through the project corridor.

## When will construction begin and how long will it last?

Construction is expected to begin in June 2026 and continue for approximately six months, weather and other factors permitting. Crews are anticipated to work primarily during daytime hours Monday through Friday, although schedules may vary depending on construction needs and weather conditions.

## Will traffic be impacted?

Yes. Motorists should expect single-lane closures, reduced speed limits, and brief delays in active work zones. Travelers are encouraged to plan ahead and allow additional travel time during construction.

MDT and Schellinger Construction also ask that travelers watch for crews and equipment, including vehicles entering and exiting the roadway.

## How could this project affect travel to Glacier National Park?

Because US 2 is a major route for visitors traveling to and from Glacier National Park, motorists going through the Essex corridor during peak summer tourism season may experience delays.

Park visitors and other travelers should plan ahead and check roadway conditions before traveling. Current construction information, restrictions, and road conditions can be found at [511mt.net](https://www.511mt.net).

MDT is working to minimize disruptions as much as possible while completing critical roadway improvements safely and efficiently.

To request an alternative accessible format of this document, please contact MDT's ADA coordinator at 406-444-5416, Montana Relay Service at 711, or by email at [mdtaccessibilityrequest@mt.gov](mailto:mdtaccessibilityrequest@mt.gov).

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## Will businesses in Kalispell, Whitefish, Columbia Falls, and surrounding areas be impacted?

Businesses that rely on tourism, seasonal visitation, freight movement, or commuter traffic may notice temporary travel impacts during construction. MDT will work with businesses to maintain access and minimize disruptions. The project team will coordinate with individual stakeholders and provide the public with updates throughout the project.

## Will access to local businesses, campgrounds, and recreation areas remain open?

Yes. Access will remain open throughout construction, although temporary delays may occur in active work zones. Motorists should follow posted signage and use caution when traveling through the project corridor.

## How will emergency services be handled during construction?

MDT and Schellinger Construction will coordinate closely with emergency responders throughout the duration of the project to maintain emergency access through the corridor during active construction.

## How can the public stay informed during construction?




Construction updates will be shared regularly through:

- The MDT project webpage at [mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/stantonessex](http://mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/stantonessex)
- Local media outlets
- Email and text message updates

The public is encouraged to sign up for project notifications to receive the latest information about traffic impacts, schedules, and roadway conditions. To subscribe to email and text updates, visit the project webpage.

## Who can I contact with questions?

For more information, to sign up for updates, or to ask questions, please:

-  Visit: [mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/stantonessex](http://mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/stantonessex)
-  Email: Stephanie Sampson at [stephanie@bigskypublicrelations.com](mailto:stephanie@bigskypublicrelations.com)
-  Call: 406-207-4484, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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more information!**



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