



Primary study objective: "Identify what economic, regulatory, or operational changes would result in traffic and safety conditions that would warrant building a 4-lane roadway on the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway in Montana."

TRED Steps & Schedule

Step #1 Identify issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Stakeholder interviews ◆ Meet with elected officials ◆ Project Kickoff Meetings 	Feb / Mar 2006
Step #2 Partnering Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Canadian Transport Officials ◆ Canadian freight shippers 	May 2006
Step #3 Economic Sector Interviews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Oil and Gas ◆ Agriculture ◆ Transportation ◆ Tourism 	Mar / July 2006
Public Open House #1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Review economic findings to date ◆ Gather public input on issues to address as the study moves forward ◆ Form Expert Panel 	July 2006
Step #4 Assess Transportation and Environmental Conditions	Jul / Aug 2006
Step #5 Assess Risks: Economic and Transportation Variables	August 2006
Step #6 Analyze future travel demand based on economic development scenarios	Aug / Sept 2006
Step #7 Develop draft economic analysis/impacts	Sept / Oct 2006
Step #8 Finalize Economic Analysis Report	October 2006
Stakeholder Workshop Final check-in with industry stakeholders and expert panel.	November 2006
Public Open House #2 Present TRED study document	November 8 2006
Final Report	December 2006

For more information:

Dick Turner, MDT Project Manager
(406) 444-7289 / dturner@mt.gov

Don Galligan, HDR Project Manager
(406) 541-8132 / Donald.Galligan@hdrinc.com

Stephane Gros, HDR/HLB - Economist
(240) 485-2609 / Stephane.Gros@hdrinc.com

Project Description and Status

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) launched the US 2 / MT 16 Transportation Regional Economic Development (TRED) Study in January 2006 to examine whether four-lane highway improvements can be justified by economic and safety considerations. The study's focus is on the federally-named Theodore Roosevelt Expressway (TRE). The Montana segment of the TRE includes US 2 from the North Dakota state line to Culbertson, MT, then north on MT 16 to the Port of Raymond.

Jim Lynch, MDT director, calls the TRED study "a new approach for our agency. We need to work with businesses and the communities to link transportation improvements with economic development. We are listening carefully and working to find the best possible outcomes."

The November public meeting is the last one planned for this phase of the TRED study. The meeting will kick off a 30-day review process that will culminate in the release of a final report. If the study shows that a four-lane highway improvement is warranted, MDT will then initiate a more formal environmental impact process to seek formal approval of state and federal agencies for the improvements.

The study is focused on information about growth and opportunities gathered from local citizens and businesses in the first half of 2006. It is also examining safety issues and considering environmental constraints to widening the highway corridor to a four-lane facility. The results of this study, expected in December 2006, will help MDT make decisions about future highway improvements.

Public Open House #2

A public meeting will kick off a 30-day review process that will culminate in the release of the final report. At the meeting, the study team will present and discuss the draft study's findings.

Wednesday, November 8, 2006

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.,

**Culbertson Senior Center, 208 Broadway,
Culbertson.**

For more information about the TRED Study, or to provide comments:

Call 1-800-714-7296

or visit: www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/us2tred/





HDR Engineering, Inc.
River Quarry at Park Center
412 E. Park Center, Suite 100
Boise, ID 83706-6659

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We want to hear from you...

And soon! The study will be finalized in December, 2006.

Portions of the draft study are posted on the website for public review. Go to:

www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/us2tred/

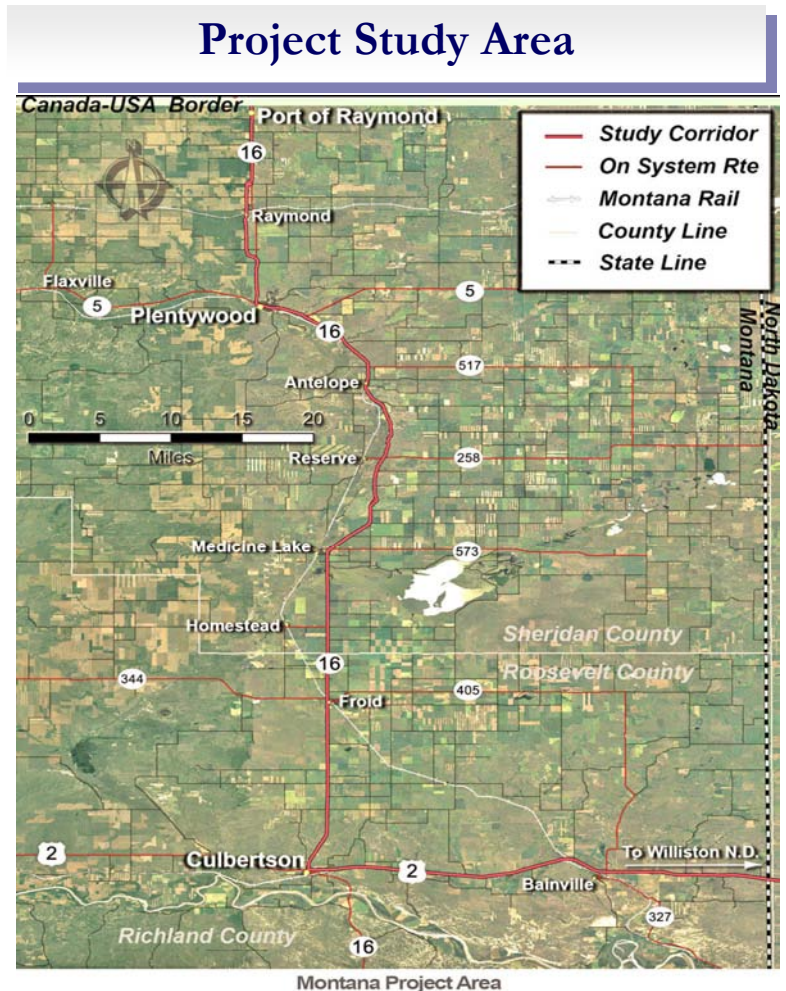
to read the draft. Then let us know what you think.

You can submit your comments online or call 1-800-714-7296.

Below are some questions that will help you to prepare for the upcoming public open house - or to provide your comments/feedback online:

- ⇒ *Does the draft include all the necessary information- or did we forget something?*
- ⇒ *Is the draft study logical?*
- ⇒ *Are parts of the draft study unclear?*

Let us know today so we can submit the best possible final plan in December!



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