

US 93 POLSON-SOMERS CORRIDOR STUDY

NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES

Technical Memorandum

September 5, 2024



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1.0. CORRIDOR NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is developing a corridor study of US Highway 93 (US 93) between Polson and Somers, Montana. The purpose of the *US 93 Polson-Somers Corridor Study* is to develop a comprehensive long-range plan for managing the corridor and determining what improvements can be made to address identified needs while considering public and agency input, environmental constraints, access management, and financial feasibility. The study is a collaborative process with MDT, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT), local jurisdictions, resource agencies, and the public to identify transportation needs and potential solutions.

Needs and objectives for the *US 93 Polson-Somers Corridor Study* were developed based on a review of local plans, input from resource agencies, stakeholders, and the public, and social, environmental, and engineering conditions described in the *Environmental Scan* and *Existing and Projected Conditions Report*. Needs and objectives provide statements to guide the improvement options development and evaluation process. Improvement options identified in this study attempt to address the needs and objectives to the extent feasible within the other limiting considerations listed below. As projects are advanced from this study, needs and objectives may be incorporated in purpose and need statements for future National and Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA/NEPA) documentation.

Need 1: Improve Corridor Safety

Objectives

- Reduce fatalities and serious injuries in support of Vision Zero.
- Reduce animal-vehicle conflicts.
- Reduce roadside hazards.
- Reduce vehicle conflicts.

Need 2: Improve Corridor Operations

Objectives

- Accommodate existing and future travel demands.
- Maintain reasonable access to adjacent lands.
- Improve non-motorized mobility and accessibility.

Other Considerations

- Environmental resource impacts
- Social and cultural resource impact and transportation equity
- Construction feasibility and impacts
- Local, Tribal, State, and Federal interests
- Corridor context, function, and use
- Funding availability
- Maintenance operations, responsibility, and costs