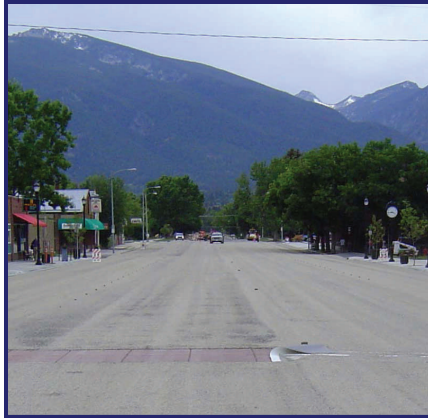


# Hamilton Area Transportation Plan (2009 Update)

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## Goals and Objectives

**Working Draft**



### Prepared For:

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City of Hamilton  
Ravalli County  
Montana Department of Transportation

### Prepared By:

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Camp Dresser & McKee (CDM) Inc.  
Helena, Montana

**CDM**

**June 29, 2009**



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Hamilton Area  
Transportation Plan  
2009 Update

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**DRAFT**

## 1.0 Introduction

The City of Hamilton, Ravalli County, and the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) have initiated a planning process to update the existing Hamilton Transportation Plan (Plan). The existing Plan was completed in 2002 and provides the basis for transportation planning activities undertaken in the last decade. The update of the transportation plan will include analysis of recent demographic data, economic data, and transportation conditions.

This Transportation Plan Update is intended to facilitate achieving community goals and improve the transportation infrastructure and services within the Hamilton area to meet the needs of current and future residents. The Plan will address all modes of transportation in a balanced attempt to meet the current and future transportation needs of the greater Hamilton area, while complying with state and federal requirements. With this background in mind, the following "Draft Goals" have been developed to guide this Transportation Plan Update.

## 2.0 Existing Transportation Plan (2002) Goals and Objectives

The 2002 Hamilton Transportation Plan's main goal was to focus on *maintaining or providing additional capacity on major streets and intersections* within the city limits and outlying suburban areas surrounding the City. Other considerations of the 2002 Plan were to:

- Address traffic safety and accident history
- Consider future development and projected growth impacts on the City street system
- Evaluate the operation and function of the City street system as a whole
- Assess the function of pedestrian and bicycle systems on major streets
- Development of general street geometric design standards

The primary objectives of the 2002 Transportation Plan were to:

- Develop a transportation system that can accommodate both current and projected growth.
- Develop a long-range improvement plan.
- Obtain appropriate dedication from developers for future transportation coordinators.
- Promote preventive maintenance by implementing timely, capacity enhancing improvements.
- Establish precedence for future transportation planning efforts.
- Create an interactive tool for infrastructure planners to reference.

### 3.0 City Growth Policy “Transportation” Goals and Objectives

The recent Hamilton Growth Policy Update (2009) included the following goals and objectives for the transportation system. These are as depicted in a recently adopted regulatory document, have been subject to public review and scrutiny, and are representative of the “state of planning” for transportation within the community.

Goal 1: Provide a safe, efficient and economical system of roads that enhances the community.

#### Objectives to attain Goal 1

- A. Adopt city design standards for construction of roads and streets in the unincorporated planning area.
- B. Ensure that roads in new development efficiently connect to the existing road network.
- C. Design access points to minimize traffic conflicts.
- D. Evaluate the impact of new development on the transportation network and require mitigation when necessary.
- E. Coordinate with local Transportation Advisory Committee, County, State and Federal agencies to implement the recommendations of the Transportation Plan and pursue funding sources.
- F. Ensure adequate right-of-way is dedicated for future improvements.
- G. Enhance east-west traffic circulation across US 93.
- H. Prioritize intersection improvements based on congestion and safety needs.

Goal 2: Transportation should be designed to improve quality of life as well as move traffic.

#### Objectives to attain Goal 2

- A. Actively pursue alternative modes of transportation such as transit and trails and provide for the connectivity of pathways and trails.
- B. Include pedestrian safety crossing features particularly on Highway 93 when making improvements to the road network.
- C. Incorporate accessibility components to accommodate disabled residents into the design of transportation features
- D. Continue to work with community groups to enhance gateway signage and landscaped areas for the entrances to Hamilton.

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- E. Control signage along Highway 93 to reduce clutter and promote clear views of the natural surroundings and enhance the community's image.
- F. Land use decisions should take into consideration impacts on the airport and be compatible with airport plans.

Goal 3: New developments should pay for the impacts of their projects on infrastructure and services.

Objectives to attain Goal 3

- A. Explore methods such impact fees, annexation policies, adequate facility ordinances and exactions to recover the cost of infrastructure upgrades caused by the need to provide service to the development.
- B. Encourage development where there is existing infrastructure or where facilities can cost effectively be expanded for new growth.
- C. Encourage partnerships and innovative approaches to improve facilities when necessary.
- D. Regularly review and update utility main extension policies for oversizing lines, cost-recovery agreements and plant investment hook-up fees.
- E. Analyze impact of new development on existing infrastructure to determine if there is capacity and examine the fiscal impact of upgrades.
- F. Use financing mechanisms such as tax increment financing, grants, and special improvement districts to fund infrastructure projects.
- G. Implement and update current impact fee system to reflect changing conditions.

Goal 4: Promote the provision of adequate infrastructure and services in support of existing and future and development in a manner that is fiscally efficient and environmentally sound.

Objectives to attain Goal 4

- A. Require developers to meet State and local sewage disposal and water supply standards for new developments.
- B. Provide incentive for owners of aging and potentially failing septic systems to either connect to public facilities or replace their individual ones.
- C. Require storm water management plans during the review phase of development projects and ensure that storm water is not degrading water quality.
- D. Upgrade water and wastewater systems as necessary to comply with environmental and health standards and provide adequate capacity.

- E. Emphasize that the waste water plant be a “good neighbor” and pay careful attention to odors, noise, night lighting, hazardous materials handling and vehicle access concerns.

## 4.0 Transportation Goals and Objectives for this Plan Update

Because the goals presented above in Section 3.0 are from a recent community planning document, and because they have been recently vetted in the public process associated with that particular project, the relevant transportation related goals and objectives from the Hamilton Growth Policy Update (2009) will be carried forward for the Hamilton Area Transportation Plan (2009 Update) project. These goals are reiterated below, noting that Goal 4 contained in Section 3.0 above has been removed, as that particular goal is relevant to water, wastewater and storm water infrastructure systems only.

Goal 1: Provide a safe, efficient and economical system of roads that enhances the community.

### Objectives to attain Goal 1

- A. Adopt city design standards for construction of roads and streets in the unincorporated planning area.
- B. Ensure that roads in new development efficiently connect to the existing road network.
- C. Design access points to minimize traffic conflicts.
- D. Evaluate the impact of new development on the transportation network and require mitigation when necessary.
- E. Coordinate with local Transportation Advisory Committee, County, State and Federal agencies to implement the recommendations of the Transportation Plan and pursue funding sources.
- F. Ensure adequate right-of-way is dedicated for future improvements.
- G. Enhance east-west traffic circulation across US 93.
- H. Prioritize intersection improvements based on congestion and safety needs.

Goal 2: Transportation should be designed to improve quality of life as well as move traffic.

### Objectives to attain Goal 2

- A. Actively pursue alternative modes of transportation such as transit and trails and provide for the connectivity of pathways and trails.
- B. Include pedestrian safety crossing features particularly on Highway 93 when making improvements to the road network.

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- C. Incorporate accessibility components to accommodate disabled residents into the design of transportation features
- D. Continue to work with community groups to enhance gateway signage and landscaped areas for the entrances to Hamilton.
- E. Control signage along Highway 93 to reduce clutter and promote clear views of the natural surroundings and enhance the community's image.
- F. Land use decisions should take into consideration impacts on the airport and be compatible with airport plans.

Goal 3: New developments should pay for the impacts of their projects on infrastructure and services.

Objectives to attain Goal 3

- A. Explore methods such as impact fees, annexation policies, adequate facility ordinances and exactions to recover the cost of infrastructure upgrades caused by the need to provide service to the development.
- B. Encourage development where there is existing infrastructure or where facilities can cost effectively be expanded for new growth.
- C. Encourage partnerships and innovative approaches to improve facilities when necessary.
- D. Regularly review and update utility main extension policies for oversizing lines, cost-recovery agreements and plant investment hook-up fees.
- E. Analyze impact of new development on existing infrastructure to determine if there is capacity and examine the fiscal impact of upgrades.
- F. Use financing mechanisms such as tax increment financing, grants, and special improvement districts to fund infrastructure projects.
- G. Implement and update current impact fee system to reflect changing conditions.