

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Courtenay Sprunger
Big Sky Public Relations
courtenay@bigskypublicrelations.com
(406)-261-7665

‘We’ve got to come together if we’re going to fix the intersection at Batavia Lane’

MDT welcomes the community to an open house on March 10 at Smith Valley School

KALISPELL, Mont. (March 5, 2020) – The risk of severe crashes at the intersection of Batavia Lane and Highway 2 West is high; the Montana Department of Transportation is inviting area community members to discuss how to make this intersection safer and more efficient for all users.

This Tuesday, March 10 from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., the Montana Department of Transportation will host an open house at the Smith Valley School Gymnasium for the Batavia Intersection Improvements project. The goal of the open house is to provide a direct line for those with interest in the project to connect directly with Montana Department of Transportation team. Attendees are encouraged to share ideas, voice concerns, provide input, and discuss the feasibility of potential solutions.

The Batavia Intersection Improvements project is in the earliest phase of development when study centers on assessing the practicality and effectiveness of all possible options. It is an optimal time for community members to provide information and concerns relevant to a possible future project.

“We’ve got to come together if we’re going to fix the intersection at Batavia Lane and Highway 2,” said Montana Department of Transportation Missoula District Administrator, Bob Vosen. “We’ve heard a lot of conflicting opinions within the community about the best way to address this intersection but for the most part, we all agree on one thing – it’s is not safe, and something needs to be done.”

Montana Department of Transportation, along with its design team, Robert Peccia & Associates, have been conducting outreach in the community for several months. The open house on March 10 will serve as a key opportunity for conversation prior to narrowing the field of possible solutions. By the summer of 2020, Robert Peccia & Associates hopes to present the community with its findings and recommendations, while gathering final input. Once a preferred solution is identified, Montana Department of Transportation will move forward with the project if funding can be secured.

“I can promise you the team at MDT is listening and we do care. We’re going to do everything we can to collaborate with the community,” said Vosen. “While I know that in the end, not everyone will fully agree, it is my belief that together, we can find the common ground necessary to make this intersection safer for our friends, neighbors, and the kids crossing the road every day on their way to school.”

To ask questions, sign up for updates, or provide input for the Batavia Intersection Improvements project, contact Courtenay Sprunger at courtenay@bigskypublicrelations.com or 406-261-7665. Information is also available on the project web page, <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/batavia> and will be revised throughout the course of the study as progress occurs.

###

The Department of Transportation will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this open house or need an alternative accessible format of this notice. If you require an accommodation, contact the Department of Transportation no later than March 4 to advise us of the nature of the accommodation that you need. Please contact Alice Flesch, Human Resources and Occupational Safety Division, P.O. Box 201001, Helena, Montana 59620; telephone (406) 444-9229; TTY 1(800)335-7592; facsimile (406) 444-7243; or e-mail to aflesch@mt.gov.