



For Immediate Release

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Montana Department of Transportation to present Batavia Lane, Highway 2 West intersection alternatives

Four safety options will be shared September 15, and 16 at Hampton Inn Kalispell

KALISPELL, Montana - (September 8, 2020) – On Sept. 15 and 16, the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) will host an open house to update Flathead Valley residents on the four proposed alternatives of the Batavia Lane and Highway 2 West intersection. Each intersection alternative has been developed to enhance safety and traffic operations. At the open house, the project team will continue to gather input on each of the four alternatives from residents, commuters and community members prior to MDT’s selection of a final recommendation.

“We recognize that this project has a lot of moving parts and the community is passionate about possible solutions,” Montana Department of Transportation Missoula District Administrator, Bob Vosen, said. “We want people to come, learn about the options, and take part in the conversation. Working together, our goal is getting our neighbors, kids, and friends home safely every night.”

In order to adhere to COVID-19 guidance provided by both Governor Bullock and the Flathead County Health Department, MDT will take all appropriate precautions to ensure the public’s safety. To facilitate a safe environment for all, this open house will be held in-person, with one-to-one meetings for groups of three or fewer. These one-to-one meetings must be scheduled in advance and MDT encourages attendees to wear face coverings.

- **One-to-one meetings will be held on September 15, and 16 from 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Hampton Inn in Kalispell. Appointment reservations are required for one-to-one meetings. Please reserve your spot no later than Monday, September 14. To register, call 406-207-4484 or email kristine@bigskypublicrelations.com.**

In addition to in-person meetings, **a virtual open house for this project will be held in late-September.** Registration is required to receive access to the virtual open house. For more information or to register, visit mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/batavia.

The Montana Department of Transportation and the design team from Robert Peccia & Associates are gathering input on the four options and learn which aspects of alternatives are

most important to the community. Once the preferred intersection alternative is identified, the Montana Department of Transportation will move forward to advance this alternative into construction. At this time, the project does not yet have a funding solution identified and the soonest the intersection would advance to construction is 2024.

The upcoming open house is another outreach opportunity, part of a larger series to gain the public's feedback at every project milestone. In 2018, MDT gathered diverse focus groups to conduct qualitative outreach centered on potential improvements at the intersection of Batavia Lane and Highway 2 West. Their team carefully examined this data along with other sources of public input, including the open house on March 10, to narrow several options down to four. The upcoming open house will give the Montana Department of Transportation another opportunity to gather public input before a final solution is identified.

Those who cannot attend an open house may still provide comments to Kristine Fife at kristine@bigskypublicrelations.com or by calling the project hotline at 406-207-4484 during business hours. For more information about the project, visit mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/Batavia.

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The Department of Transportation will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in the Batavia Intersection Improvements Open House or need an alternative accessible format of this notice. If you require an accommodation, contact the Department of Transportation no later than 5 p.m. on September 10, 2020 to advise us of the nature of the accommodation that you need. Please contact Matt Maze, Office of Civil Rights, P.O. Box 201001, Helena, Montana 59620; telephone (406) 444-5416; Montana Relay 711; facsimile (406) 444-7243; or e-mail to mmaze@mt.gov.