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**Big Mountain Road pavement preservation project resumes**

*MDT announces start date for 2024 construction*

WHITEFISH, Mont. – (May 3, 2024) – The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), in partnership with Knife River, is resuming construction on Big Mountain Road north of Whitefish. Last summer, crews dug out the top layer of the roadway on two targeted segments of Big Mountain Road. This year, work will occur between Smith Road and Glades Drive and include pavement overlay activities and additional digouts for sections of the road that are in need of repair. Construction is expected to begin in early June and continue through the fall.

“As we improve Big Mountain Road with a larger pavement overlay, we appreciate your continued understanding and patience during construction,” said Bob Vosen, MDT Missoula District Administrator. “Keeping everyone safe is our top priority as we work to complete construction on this highly traveled roadway.”

Pavement overlay is a road maintenance technique that involves applying a new layer of asphalt over the existing pavement. Digouts are a localized repair that involves digging out an area of damaged pavement. Additional work will include digging out the top layer of roadway, grading and repairing select areas of the roadway identified as needing additional structural support to extend its service life.

Travelers will be directed to one-lane traffic via flaggers and pilot cars. Expect reduced speeds and delays. Cyclists and motorcyclists are encouraged to use extreme caution.

“MDT and Knife River are committed to another safe and successful construction season on the Big Mountain pavement preservation project,” Kurtis Paulson, from Knife River, stated. “We encourage drivers and cyclists to stay alert when traveling through active work zones.”

This pavement overlay process aims to extend the roadway’s service life for years to come, keeping good roads good.

For more information about the Big Mountain Road project, including construction schedules and updates, visit the project webpage at <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/bigmountain/>.

Big Sky Public Relations will provide project updates to keep the public engaged throughout construction. Those interested in receiving this information are encouraged to contact Dawn May at [dawn@bigskypublicrelations.com](mailto:dawn@bigskypublicrelations.com) or call the project hotline at 406-207-4484, Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can also sign up for text updates by texting BIGMTN to 41411.

*Message and data rates may apply. Message frequency may vary. Text STOP to cancel. Texting alerts are not managed by MDT and may have different privacy and security policies. For more information, see <https://smstc.us/t41411/>.*

**About MDT:**

We are **B.U.I.L.D.E.R.S.** At MDT, our mission is to plan, build, operate, and maintain a safe and resilient transportation infrastructure to move Montana forward by setting the gold standard for a highly effective, innovative, and people-centric department of transportation. For more information about MDT and the work we do on behalf of Montana's traveling public, visit <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/>.

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