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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Montana Department of Transportation announces state's first Diverging Diamond Interchange for the Billings Bypass

The Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) has been selected as the best alternative for the Johnson Lane Interchange segment of the Billings Bypass.

While this will be Montana's first DDI, there are currently over 80 DDIs operational in the United States. This interchange configuration is growing in popularity due to its safety and operational benefits over traditional interchanges.

Safety benefits of the DDI include:

- Fewer conflict points (14 for DDI, 26 for conventional)
- Conflict points are more spread out through interchange
- Better sight distance for turning vehicles
- Traffic calming features when desired
- Wrong way entry to ramps extremely difficult
- Pedestrian crossings are shorter

Operational benefits of the DDI include:

- "Free" or simple left and right turns from all directions
- Increases left turn lane capacity without needing more lanes
- Only two signal phases with shorter cycle lengths
- Better vehicle storage between the ramp terminals
- More functional during a power outage
- U-turns from highway are accommodated well
- Better signal network synchronization

"MDT is excited to implement a new, proven interchange system at Johnson Lane Interchange in Lockwood," said MDT Billings District Administrator Stefan Streeter. "The incorporation of a DDI with the Billings Bypass presents an opportunity to more efficiently move vehicles and pedestrians while increasing safety, which is amongst our highest priorities. We believe the interchange will not only provide a safer experience but also be seamless and easily navigable for the many users."





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The project's engineering team, led by DOWL, developed two simulations demonstrating the traffic flows of a DDI. The morning and evening commute simulation scenarios can be found at:

<https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/billingsbypass/links.shtml/>

For more information visit: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/billingsbypass/>.

Comments, questions or concerns can be directed to billingsbypass@dowl.com or by calling the Billings Bypass Public Involvement team at (406) 294-9668.

Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request by contacting the Office of Civil Rights, P.O. Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620; (406) 444-9229; fax (406) 444-7243, or e-mail to aflesch@mt.gov. Those using a TTY may call (800) 335-7592 or through the Montana Relay Service at 711.

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