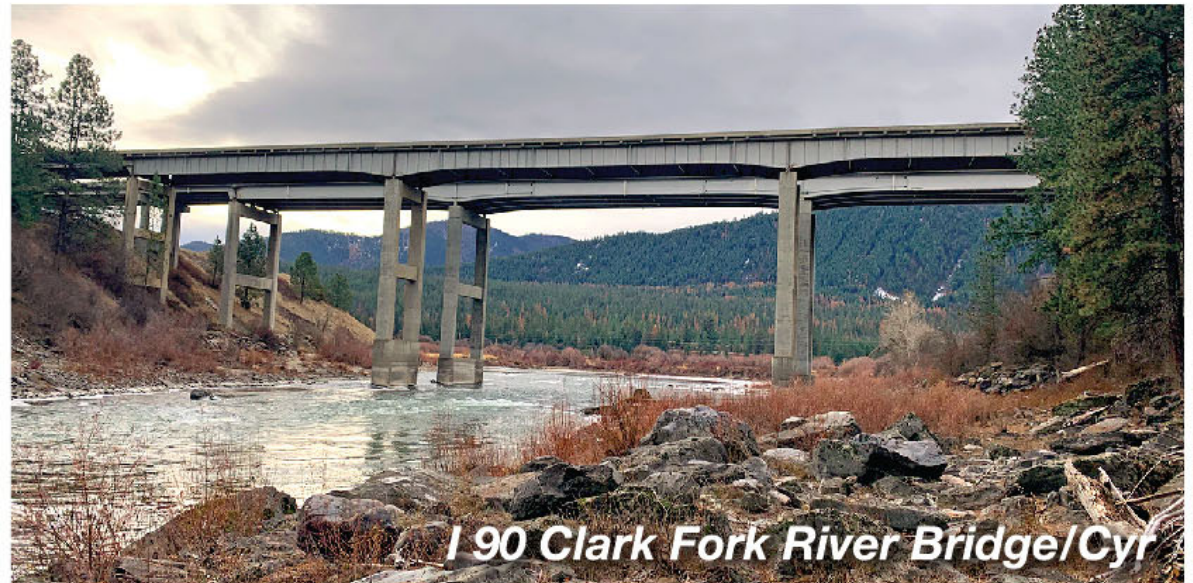


# Welcome

Thank you for joining the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) for the I 90 Bridges – West of Alberton public meeting.

The purpose of today's meeting is to:

- Introduce the multi-year project planning and development process
- Share the proposed improvements for each bridge
- Discuss the next steps in the project development process



# Project Team

## Introductions



# Bridge Management Process

**The MDT Bridge Bureau is tasked with keeping Montana's bridges safe, resilient, economical, and reliable.**

The Bridge Bureau has two sections: Bridge Management and Bridge Design.

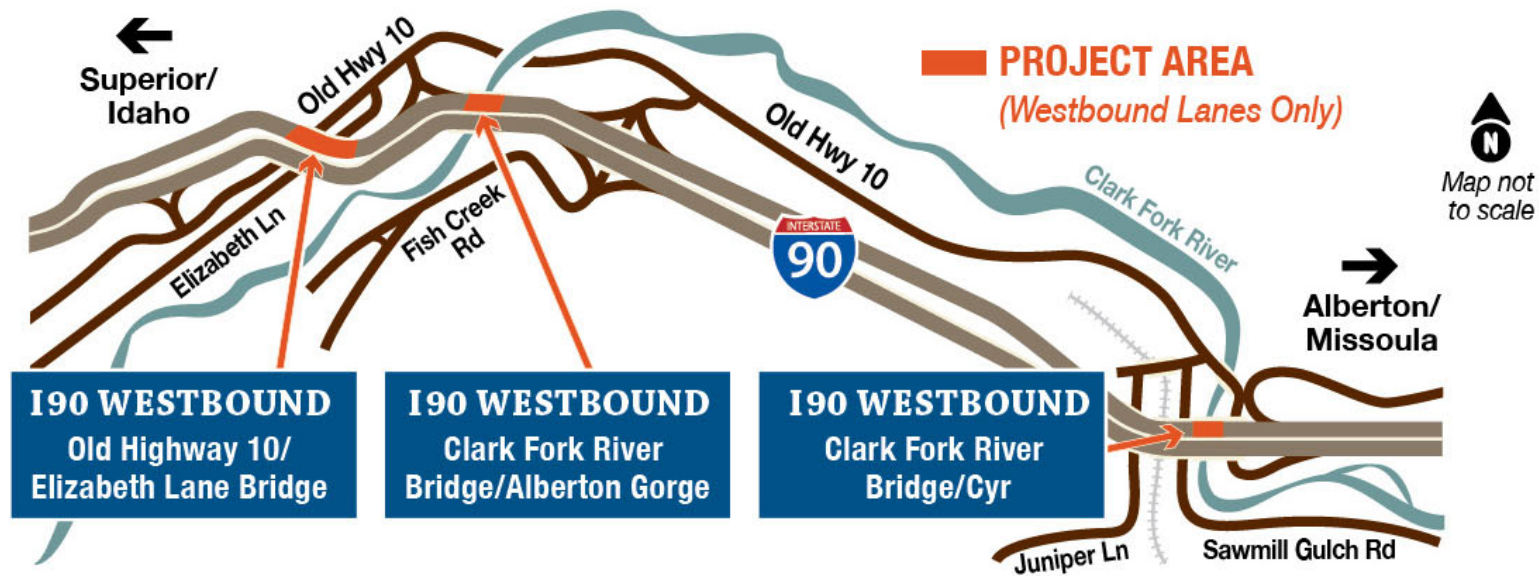


# Project Overview

The Montana Department of Transportation is developing plans to improve three bridges in the westbound lanes of I 90 west of Alberton.


These bridges carry I 90 over:

- Old Highway 10 and Elizabeth Lane 9 ½ miles west of Alberton
- Clark Fork River near Alberton Gorge approximately 8 ½ miles west of Alberton
- Clark Fork River near Cyr approximately 5 miles west of Alberton



# Project Process and Anticipated Schedule

The project is in the design and development process, which means that the project is still several years away from construction.

2020	Evaluate bridges
2021	Conduct initial analysis, planning and field studies
2022–2023	Develop preliminary engineering designs and continue evaluations
Fall 2022	Present improvements to public  WE ARE HERE
2023–2025	Develop final design plans
2024/2025	Present final designs to public
2025	Complete project design plans, permitting and right-of-way acquisition
TBD	Begin construction (dependent on the availability of funding and will be scheduled once the design plans are finalized)

# Considerations

**MDT is evaluating these bridges and developing improvements that are functional, low-maintenance structures that are appropriate for each location.**

**Design considerations include:**

- Ensuring the continued safe operation of the bridges
- Developing cost-effective improvement options
- Matching interstate configuration with two through lanes



# Old Highway 10 and Elizabeth Lane Bridge (Westbound)

Upon inspection and analysis of the bridge, MDT determined that rehabilitation is the preferred improvement option.

## Proposed Rehabilitation

- Clean and paint existing steel beams
- Minor concrete repairs



# Clark Fork River Bridge near Alberton Gorge (Westbound)

Upon inspection and analysis of the bridge, MDT determined that a full replacement is the preferred improvement option.

## Proposed Improvements

- Replace the bridge with a three-span steel beam bridge
- Two new piers placed outside of the river





# Clark Fork River Bridge near Cyr (Westbound)

Upon inspection and analysis of the bridge, MDT determined that a full replacement is the preferred improvement option.

## Proposed Improvements

- Replace the bridge with a four-span steel beam bridge
- Place two new piers at edge of river
- Reconstruct the I 90 eastbound on-ramp to provide increased clearance



# Preliminary Traffic Controls

**MDT anticipates that reconstruction of the bridges will impact travel on I 90 and on Elizabeth Lane and Sawmill Gulch Road.**

**Potential traffic impacts include:**

- Interstate 90
  - Reduced speeds, lane closures, lane shifts, width restrictions and crossovers to shift all traffic to the east bound side of the interstate.
- Elizabeth Lane and Sawmill Gulch Road
  - Alternating one-way traffic through construction work zones.
  - Intermittent closures beneath the bridges are anticipated for some overhead work.
- Clark Fork River
  - Floating buoys will direct river users through construction.
  - Temporary closures may be needed at times for some overhead work.

# Environmental Considerations

**MDT is evaluating the project's impacts to the environment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).**

**The evaluation is considering impacts to:**

- Threatened and endangered species
- Migratory birds
- Wildlife crossings
- Recreational river activities



# Next Steps

**MDT will review input from the public, analyze additional technical and environmental data, refine the design improvements, and begin the process for acquiring any right-of-way needed for construction.**

The final bridge design plans are expected to be presented to the public in 2024/2025.



# Thank You

**Thank you for your participation.**

Communication with the public is important to the success of this project.

## **Stay Informed**

Visit the project website at: [mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/i90alberton/](http://mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/i90alberton/)

## **Contact**

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Department of Transportation