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9026000 SF 159 Lola Shephard Improv

March 22, 2023 Project Open House Summary

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An in-person open house format Project Information Meeting (PIM) was held at the Hampton Inn (725 Carter Dr. Helena, MT) on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, from 3:30 to 6 p.m. The print materials at the meeting included a design overview roll plot and information boards, consistent with the information available on the MDT project website. Attendees were encouraged to ask questions of the project team and MDT staff in attendance and to use sticky notes to make written comments on the design roll plot.

### ***Attendance Summary***

#### *Consultant Design Staff*

- Darren Hippenstiel – Kittelson & Associates, Inc.
- Claire Dougherty – Kittelson & Associates, Inc.
- Shae Talley - DOWL

#### *MDT Staff*

- Ben Schendel
- James Combs
- Gabe Priebe
- Patricia Burke

#### *Other Attendees*

A total of six others attended the in-person PIM, including:

- Marcee Allen - FHWA
- Susan Keeting
- Brandon Blank
- Lee Flasnik
- Danielle Bolan
- Bill Loomoo

### ***Public Comment Summary***

- A business owner near the Nicole Street/Centennial Drive intersection stated that the addition of stop signs to clarify yielding is needed and appreciates that the design will add stop signs to the Centennial Drive approaches.
  - The project team agreed that the planned additional intersection signage and striping will provide better yielding guidance to drivers.

- The owner of the Sleeping Giant Lanes and Flying Giant Adventure Park noted that Tricia Street drainage is inadequate and wondered if the project would fix water ponding near the existing low spot on Tricia Street, east of Lola Street.
  - The project team notes that this existing low spot is beyond the project construction limits and therefore can not be addressed as part of this project.
- A business owner adjacent to the proposed roundabout acknowledged that a roundabout is a positive change, as the existing stop sign on Lola Street is sometimes ignored which leads to crashes.
  - The project team acknowledged that several local business owners have made similar comments about the frequency of crashes in the area. The project team agreed that the planned additional roundabout intersection signage, striping and geometric speed controls will provide better yielding guidance to drivers.
- A local resident asked why a roundabout was necessary. They also suggested that the project team speak with businesses south of Shephard Way that have a lot of semi-truck traffic.
  - The project team explained the roundabout is to accommodate the increased traffic due to developments north on Lola Street, as a roundabout improves traffic operations and safety compared to a stop-control intersection , and helps to reduce vehicle speeds on the frontage road.
  - The project team also met with several commercial business owners the following day to discuss size and frequency of truck traffic that utilize Shephard Way and will be conducting additional truck turning checks through the proposed intersection improvements.