



9026000 SF 159 Lola Shephard Improv
October 2, 2024 Project Open House Summary

An in-person open house format project information meeting (PIM) was held at the Hampton Inn (725 Carter Drive, Helena, MT) on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, 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 the project team questions and to use sticky notes to make written comments on the design roll plot.

Attendance Summary

Consultant Design Staff

- Darren Hippenstiel – Kittelson & Associates, Inc.

MDT Staff

- Ben Schendel
- James Combs
- Gabe Priebe
- Natalee Stout

Other Attendees

A total of 16 others attended the in-person PIM, including:

- Susan Keeting
- Lynn Staley
- Greg Synness
- Melissa & Curt Synness
- Curt Synness
- John Synness
- Dave Allard
- Steve Yakawich
- Lee Flasnik
- Dr. Brandon Blank
- Julie McGrath
- Steve Skinner
- Mary Ann Dunwell
- Jed Snyder

- Golden Eagle Construction
- Ron & Danielle Bolan

Public Comment Summary

- A state senator believes the design will be safer; the roundabout will provide safety for people in the area, especially during rush hours.
- A local resident would like to see through traffic continue along the frontage road and is concerned about loss of property value due to no reasonable trucking access.
- A local resident is in favor of keeping the frontage road as through traffic in order to not impact property value.
- Someone from Golden Eagle Construction has concerns about trucks going the wrong way heading toward their business' sign on Shephard Way.
- Someone from Enterprise Rent-A-Car has concerns about the frontage road not connecting through.
- A local resident questioned why the intersection connects to the north rather than the south. Another question was how semi-trucks will turn around at Shephard Way. The resident also voiced concerns about the frontage road being closed since it is the main access to businesses.
- A local resident said they were opposed to the project.
- A local resident said there needs to be a truck turn around.
- A large majority of Kenny Simpson Nissan's business comes from drive by traffic which may be impacted.
- Sleeping/Flying Giant inquired if the slope between the sidewalk and their parking lot would be asphalt pavement or grass.
 - They are losing 42 spaces for parking that was included in occupancy permit.
 - The west approach is not as busy.
 - There is a preference for boulevard grass versus impervious surface, especially behind sidewalk.
- There are plans for the salvage yard west of Shephard Way to be sold and they anticipate it will be redeveloped.
- There was a question about a master plan for the highway and thoughts on improvements to the entire corridor.
- Concerns were voiced about unnamed access west of Shephard becoming right-in, right-out only, as well as safety concerns regarding emergency services access.
- Dr. Blank discussed delineations around the edge of his property adjacent to the roundabout so cars do not go off the turnaround area; possibly a barricade or a sign.
 - They prefer grass behind sidewalk rather than field grass that ties into the existing sprinkler system.
- McDantim voiced concerns about possible property value impacts resulting from limited truck access.