

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Montana Department of Transportation Announces and Seeks Comments on Landslide Study for U.S. 191

LEWISTOWN — The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) would like to notify the public and seek comments on a study to identify options to stabilize a section of roadway damaged from landslides on U.S. Highway 191 (US-191).

The study area is located 60 miles northeast of Lewistown in Fergus County along the approaches of both sides of US-191 within the western end of the Charles M. Russell Wildlife Refuge between reference post (RP) 84.3 and RP 85.2.

This two-lane section of roadway is part of the National Highway System used as a major freight route, which has experienced frequent and significant pavement degradation, slope failures, loss of highway shoulders, and mudslides that impact traffic safety and mobility.

The purpose of the project is to identify potential options to improve stability and performance of the highway.

Proposed work includes ground surveying, aerial photography, exploration drilling, as well as a variety of geotechnical and engineering evaluations. Work activities may cause short delays on occasion for highway traffic.

The initial work is estimated to be completed in summer 2019, which may be followed by supplemental work as needed to adequately determine landslide characteristics.

The landslide of greatest concern is the Mobridge Slide located near RP 84.3, which impacts approximately 2,000 feet of highway (see photograph). As the highway embankment shifts downhill, the pavement will distress and crack, creating an irregular and hazardous driving surface that requires periodic maintenance.

A summary report for this first stage of studies is expected to be completed by December 2018.

For more information, please contact Billings District Administrator Stefan Streeter at (406) 657-0268 or Project Design Engineer Miki Lloyd at (406) 444-9200.

Members of the public may submit written comments to the Montana Department of Transportation Billings office at P.O. Box 20437, Billings, MT 59104-0437, or online at:

mdt.mt.gov/mdt/comment_form.shtml

Please note that your comments are for project UPN 9407000. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request by contacting Alice Flesch, Human Resources and Occupational Safety Division, P.O. Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620; (406) 444-9229; TTY (800) 335-7592; fax (406) 444-7243; or e-mail to aflesch@mt.gov.

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