

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



The Montana Department of Transportation together with its construction contracting partners continue to take the COVID-19 pandemic very seriously. Construction projects on Montana's roads and bridges are considered an "essential" operation and will continue moving forward as scheduled in 2020. Construction workers will continue several measures to help keep employees, contractors and the public safe during the construction season. Some of the measures include following social distancing and good hygiene guidelines, and not reporting to work if showing symptoms of illness. For more information visit <https://covid19.mt.gov/>

Q What's happening?

A Montana Department of Transportation hired L.H.C., Incorporated to remove or upgrade seven bridges and extend one culvert along state highway MT 21 between Simms and Augusta.

Q What will this mean for traffic?

A MDT strives to construct road improvements with as little effect on drivers as possible. They understand that no one wants to experience delays or detours. Unfortunately, in this case they are unavoidable. Six out of the eight locations will have a major traffic impact. Four locations will have detours, and two locations will require a full road closure. The two closures will not happen simultaneously.

Q Where are the detours and closures?

A

Detours

- Five detours between milepost 12 and Simms Creek

Road Closures

- Milepost 9 Dry Creek. Closure.
- Milepost 20 Simms Creek. Closure.

Q When are the closures and detours?

A Please check the project website, <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/mt21bridges/>, for latest schedule updates.

Q When is construction?

A Anticipated construction dates which are dependent on weather and materials are roughly April to August 2020.

Q How do I get around the road closures?

A An official detour around the closures is not established. Individuals must choose an alternate route based on their destination.


Q Can the detours handle large vehicles and wide loads?

A The detour lanes are 11 feet wide. Wide loads or large equipment should consider an alternate route.

For regular project updates, please use any of these methods:

 Project Hotline:
1-888-275-9840

 Project Site and Updates:
Visit: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/mt21bridges/>

 Subscribe to Text Updates:
Text 'MT21Bridges' to 555888

 Subscribe to Email Updates:
MT21Bridges@kljeng.com

Public Outreach Project Manager
Laura Langdon | KLJ Engineering
406-447-3354 | Laura.Langdon@kljeng.com



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**MONTANA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION**

Q Which bridges are being removed? What's being put in their place?

A Bridges that are being removed will become a roadway over culverts.

This is occurring at:

- Milepost 17.4 Stockpass/Drainage
- Milepost 14.5 Loomis Coulee
- Milepost 12 Stockpass/Drainage

Q What is a culvert?

A A culvert is a tunnel carrying a stream under a road or railway. A culvert may act as a bridge for traffic to pass on it. They typically help the natural flow of water and serve the same purpose of a bridge. Some common types of culverts include pipe, box, and arch culvert. The culvert type is based on flow, water surface elevation, roadway height and other conditions.

Q What's happening to the bridges that will remain?

A Three of the four bridges will be widened and all four will receive new decking, pavement, and guardrails.

Q What is bridge decking?

A Bridge decking is the top part of a bridge and provides support under the driving surface. Depending on the material and engineering, it may be part of the driving surface as well.

Q Why is this project necessary?

A The existing bridges were built in the 1930's and 40's. The original design is too narrow by today's standard. Where bridges are still necessary, they will be widened and upgraded with new guardrails. Where bridges are no longer required, it will create flatter roadside ditches and eliminates the need for guardrail.

Q What is the cost of the project?

A The total construction contract award amount is \$2,951,725.

Q How can I ask questions, voice concerns, or add comments?

A Toll-free number 888-275-9840 to ask questions. If we can't answer, we'll get your message and try to respond within 1 business day or as soon as possible.

- Online at https://www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/comment_form.shtml
- Email MT21Bridges@kljeng.com for questions or to subscribe for updates.
- Text "MT21Bridges" to 555888 to subscribe for updates.

Q Where can I get more information?

A Online at <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/mt21bridges/>

Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided on request. Persons who need an alternative format should contact the Office of Civil Rights, Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620. Telephone 406-444-5416 or Montana Relay Service at 711.

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 888-275-9840

Construction
Information Hotline