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Informational Meeting #3

June 29, 2011

6:00 P.M.

High School Auditorium
1712 2nd Street West,
Polson

The community is encouraged to attend. We hope to see you there.

Corridor Study Update

Since the last informational meeting held on February 24th, the technical oversight committee (TOC) has been working to reduce the number of potential alignment options to carry forward into the final corridor planning study document. A screening process (see summary on pages 2 & 3), was used to narrow the number of potential alignments from 11 down to 3. These three alignments are the Northern Bridge Crossing Hybrid, the Southern Bridge Crossing Hybrid, and the Modified EIS Alignment 6. A detailed analysis of the screening process can be found in the upcoming Draft Document, which will be available for review and comment on June 24, 2011 at the following locations:

- the study website at:
www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/polsoncorridorstudy
- City of Polson, 106 First Street East, Polson, MT
- Lake County Planning Department, 106 4th Ave East, Polson MT
- CSKT Tribal Land Planning Office, 42487 Complex Blvd, Pablo, MT
- Polson City Library, 2 First Avenue East, Polson, MT.

For comments to be included in the Final US 93 Polson Corridor Study report, comments must be postmarked no later than July 8, 2011.

A Corridor Planning Study is:

- ❖ NOT a NEPA Study or Environmental Study
- ❖ NOT a Preliminary or Final Design Project
- ❖ NOT a Construction or Maintenance Project
- ❖ NOT a Right-of-Way Acquisition Project
- ❖ It **IS** an effort that involves early communication with interested parties to help identify needs, constraints, and opportunities for a corridor – and to help determine if there are implementable improvements – given available resources and local support

US-93 Polson

Corridor Study



contact us

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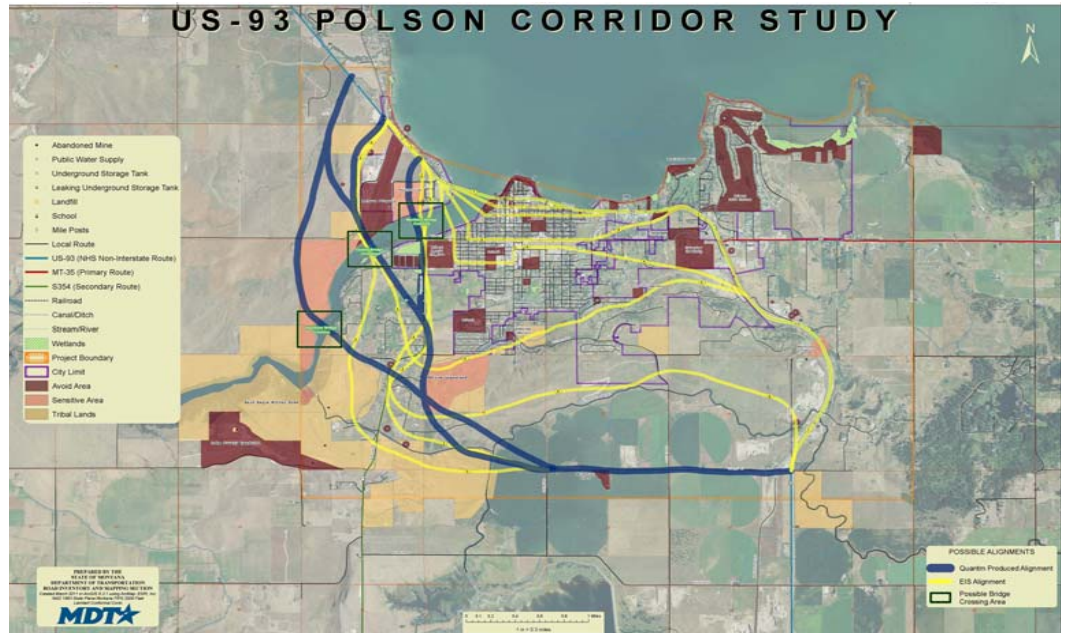
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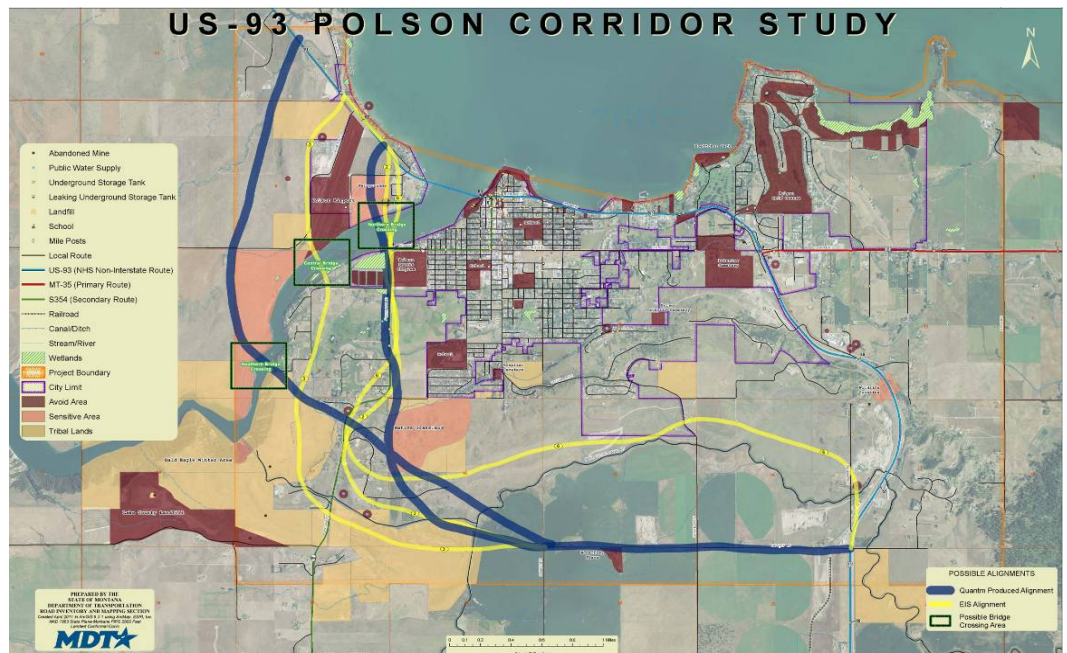
Screening Process

Screening criteria provide a means of reducing the range of potential alignments for consideration by comparing them both quantitatively and qualitatively with a set of specific measures.

Eighteen screening criteria were developed to assist in the evaluation of the eleven potential alignments of US 93 between RP 56.5 and RP 63.0, as shown below.



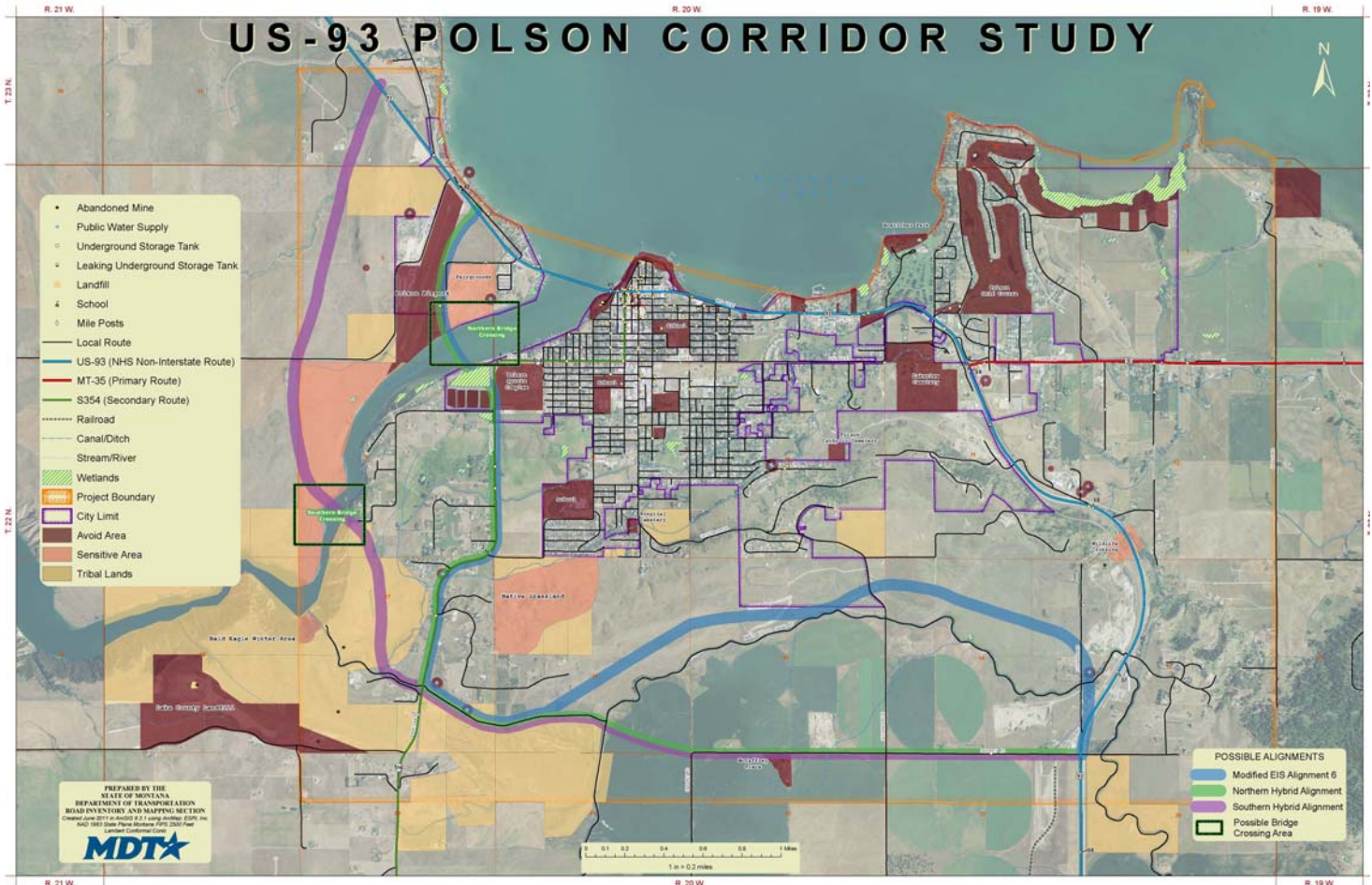
Based on results of the first level of screening, five alignment options scored the best out of the eleven total alignments considered and are shown below. These five alignments include the North bridge crossing, EIS Alignment 2, EIS Alignment 6, EIS Alignment 3, and the South bridge crossing.



Community input, coupled with direction from the TOC, led to slight modifications of the five selected alignments to minimize residential impacts near Ponderilla Hills. Since the original EIS alignments 2 and 3 are relatively close to the Quantm generated alignments of the southern bridge crossing and the northern bridge crossing, a hybrid was developed between the southern bridge crossing alignment and EIS Alignment 3.

Corridor Study Conclusions

A second hybrid was developed between the northern bridge crossing alignment and EIS Alignment 2. These two hybrid alignments, referred to as the “southern bridge crossing hybrid alignment” and the “northern bridge crossing hybrid alignment” respectively, are shown below. The third alignment under consideration, EIS Alignment 6, has been modified slightly from that presented in the 1996 FEIS to avoid the existing residential area near Ponderilla Hills. The modification is primarily noted south of Ponderilla Hills where it routes closer to the existing irrigation ditch, similar to the other two hybrid alignments. These three hybrid alignments are shown below.




All of the US 93 Alternate Routes shown on the map above are high level, preliminary concepts for a new facility. The routes are not intended to show exact road centerlines, but rather are broad corridor “paths”.

The conclusion of the corridor study is that all three hybrid alignments would be feasible for development as an alternate alignment option. All three routes would satisfy the needs and objectives for the US 93 corridor.

At the current time, there is no funding identified to begin the process of implementing a new alternate route to existing US 93. Either the northern, southern, or modified EIS 6 routes may be feasible. To continue the development of these alignments as alternate route(s), the following steps will be needed:

- Identify a funding source (or sources), and
- Preserve the corridor surrounding the route(s).

Check out the study website at:
www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/polsoncorridorstudy





NEXT STEPS...

After the comment submittal date (July 8, 2011), the project team will respond to community comments and finalize the US 93 Polson Corridor Study.

Would you like to comment on this study?

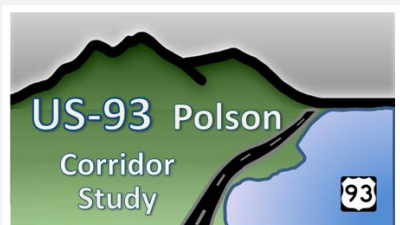
Community participation is a very important part of the study process. Opinions, comments, and concerns may be submitted orally or in writing at the informational meeting on June 29, 2011. Comments may also be submitted by:

Mail:

Sheila Ludlow, MDT Statewide and Urban Planning
PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620

Website:

www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/polsoncorridorstudy



Work Completed To Date...

- ❖ Environmental Scan Report
- ❖ Corridor Setting Document
- ❖ Comprehensive Crash Statistics
- ❖ Existing Conditions of US 93
- ❖ Alignment Identification Analysis
- ❖ Screening Process
- ❖ Community Draft Corridor Study Report
- ❖ Community Outreach Events