



Press Release
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Stevensville Safety Improvements Project Utility Work, Tree Removal Begins
Crews start Highway 269 construction in March

STEVENSVILLE, Montana (February 24, 2021) – Starting March 1, the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) and FirstMark Construction will begin the first stage of Stevensville Safety Improvements Project construction. Travel may be reduced to one lane as crews begin utility work and tree removal on the Eastside Highway/Highway 269. With crews and equipment near the roadway, drivers are advised to be mindful of changing conditions and be alert for workers.

“This project has been a long time coming and we experienced some unexpected setbacks over the past year,” John Schmidt, MDT Missoula District Construction Engineer, said. “We are eager to make these safety improvements to keep our neighbors safe.”

After this initial phase, crews will construct four-foot shoulders on both sides of the highway and will be flattening the roadside slopes throughout the summer. Willoughby Lane will be realigned to better facilitate safe travel at the intersection, and a new flashing light will be placed at Bell Crossing. Sections of guardrail and bridge replacements will occur throughout the project. Upon completion, the roadway will also be sealed and have new pavement markings and signs.

Designed to save lives and prevent serious crashes, this project will enhance roadside safety along the Eastside Highway/Highway 269. The Stevensville Safety Improvements project will begin just north of the intersection of North Birch Creek Road and the Eastside Highway and will extend 5.9 miles north to the Pine Hollow Road intersection. A project map can be found online at www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/southstevi/.

Throughout the course of this project, Big Sky Public Relations will be sending weekly updates and is available to answer all questions from the public. A virtual open house will be held on Wednesday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m. MT to relay additional project information. To register, visit www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/southstevi/. Those interested in staying up-to-date are encouraged to send a request to Amy Aiello at amy@bigskypublicrelations.com; call the project hotline at (406) 207-4484; or visit the project webpage: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/southstevi/>.

Alternative, accessible formats of this document will be provided upon request. Anyone who needs 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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