



Stillwater River – North
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
As of April 8, 2024

Q: What improvements will be made under the Stillwater River – North project?

A: This project is a pavement preservation project which includes a seal and cover (chip seal), fog sealing, new pavement markings, rumble strips, bridge deck repair and seal, and upgraded signage.

Q: What type of chip sealing is being done?

A: The Stillwater River – North project is using a type of chip seal known as seal and cover. It is the placement of a new riding surface that consists of an application of oil - the seal, followed by the placement of a layer of small rocks – the chips. For the first 48 hours following the chip seal, traffic will be required to travel at no more than 35 mph.

Q: What is fog sealing?

A: A “fog seal” is a single application of an asphalt emulsion by a distribution truck, sprayed onto an existing pavement surface. A fog seal gets its name from its spray application. Fog seals are the most cost-effective maintenance, sealing hairline cracks, and can prevent deterioration of the roadway. When fog sealing is applied after the seal and cover, it is expected to extend the life of the road for one to three years.

Q: Where is the project located?

A: The Stillwater River – North project is on US Highway 93 (US 93) in Flathead County and spans approximately two miles north of the intersection with West Reserve Drive. The map shows the project location.



Q: Why is this work necessary?

A: The planned work will enhance safety features, provide a smoother driving surface, and extend the service life of the roadway. These improvements will ensure the roadway not only meets the current standards, but also continues to serve the community effectively for years to come.

Q: Why is this project being completed now?

A: In an effort to be proactive, the road work is being completed in 2024 with MDT's ongoing mission to "keep good roads good". This project is purposely timed with other projects around Flathead Valley as a coordinated effort.

Q: How much will this project cost?

A: Contract award amount is \$1,616,000.00.

Q: What will travel along this section of US 93 look like during construction?

A: Traffic control will be in place. Motorists can expect reduced speeds, single lane closures and delays of up to 10 minutes throughout construction. Cyclists and motorcyclists are encouraged to use extreme caution.

Q: When will construction start and how long will it last?

A: Construction began on April 2 and is expected to be completed during the 2024 construction season. All timelines are subject to unforeseen factors, such as availability of contractors, materials, and weather. Updates about the project will be provided regularly throughout the course of the project.

Q: Which contractor will be doing construction?

A: LHC, Inc. is the successful low bidder.

Q: Is MDT going to be working with local businesses to keep consumers informed on updates?

A: Our public involvement team, Big Sky Public Relations, will communicate with local businesses with timely construction updates to share with their patrons.

Q: I still have questions or comments. Who should I contact?

Public participation is highly encouraged in all MDT projects. Dawn May with Big Sky Public Relations is the main point of contact for this project. Please feel free to reach out with any questions, comments, or to get updates on the Stillwater River – North project.

- Email Updates: Contact Dawn at dawn@bigskypublicrelations.com to subscribe.
- Project Hotline: 406-207-4484 Monday – Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- SMS Text Updates: Text STILLWATERRIVER to 41411. *Message and data rates may apply. Message frequency may vary. Text STOP to cancel. Texting alerts are not managed by MDT and may have different privacy and security policies. For more information, see <https://smstc.us/t41411/>.*
- Project Website: Visit <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/stillwater/>.