Appendix A

Consultation, Coordination and Public Involvement

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

Appendix A: Consultation, Coordination and Public Involvement

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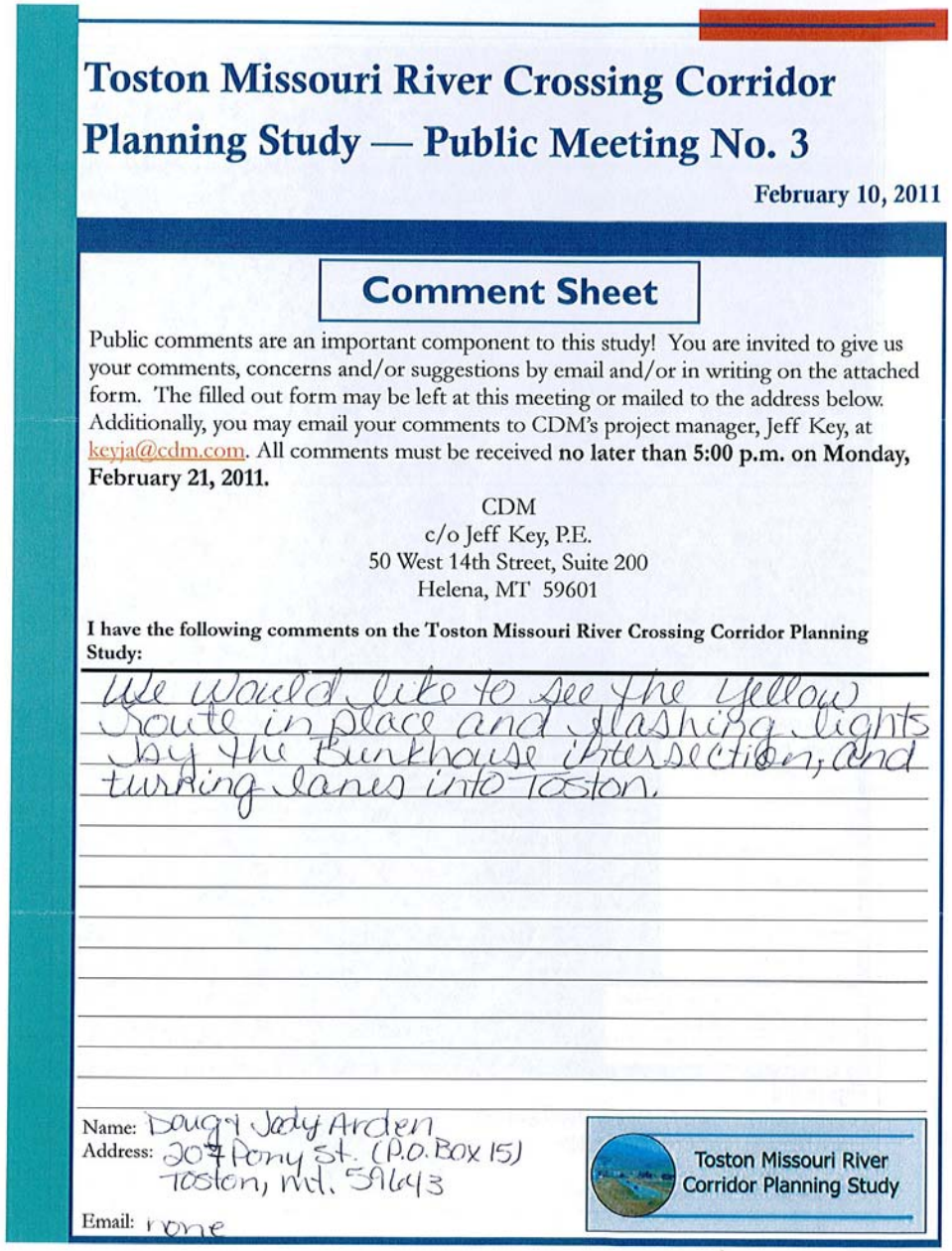
Comment Received	Comment	Response
February 21, 2011	-----Original Message----- From: Mark Slifka [mailto:slifkam@ohsu.edu] Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 7:16 PM To: Key, Jeffrey Subject: Proposal for new bridge in Toston Dear Jeff key, I used to live in Toston and I am writing this message in support for the new bridge in Toston using the Central Route. In addition, I support the development of a left turn lane and flashing light at the bunkhouse bar. I think that these changes will provide a substantial degree of added safety and I appreciate and support this work. Sincerely yours, Mark	Thank you for your comments. The central corridor area is one of two potential corridor areas recommended to be carried forward for further analysis if funding becomes available and a project develops. The installation of a flashing light at the intersection of US 287 and S 285 has been added to the report and is included in project recommendation "ST-5: US 287 and S 285 Intersection Reconfiguration". A southbound left-turn lane on US 287 near the Bunkhouse bar is desirable and would be incorporated into the long-term bridge replacement for the structure over the Missouri River. However there is not enough length between the southerly bridge end and S 285 to fully develop the turn lane in accordance with MDT design criteria in the short-term.
February 21, 2011	**From:** 4baramt@gmail.com [mailto:4baramt@gmail.com] **Sent:** Monday, February 21, 2011 10:05 AM **To:** Key, Jeffrey **Subject:** toston planning study If the east corridor is chosen, utilize the existing canal r/w where possible to minimize costs and impact. Leave the old fill and bridges in place for future use if a four lane becomes necessary. thanks for listening, Herb Argabright 803 River Rd. Toston	Thank you for your comments. The eastern corridor area is one of two potential corridor areas recommended to be carried forward for further analysis if funding becomes available and a project develops. The roadway centerline and associated features would be developed at that time.

Comment Received	Comment	Response
February 20, 2011	-----Original Message----- From: Dennis Williams [mailto:lazy3@ixi.net] Sent: Sunday, February 20, 2011 2:49 PM To: Key, Jeffrey Subject: Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study In studying the Toston Missouri Corridor I think the eastern route around Toston has one advantage that has not been addressed. Broadwater county has a distinct lack of accessible railroad frontage. Townsend frontage is crowded and more valuable as commercial property. Traffic makes access to the railroad sidings dangerous and inconvenient for any type of use. This is a big negative factor for any large scale industry coming to the area. With the new corridor bypassing around Toston, (and leaving the old bridge intact) there will be about 2 miles of double and triple track frontage available. It will have easy access to the old highway and numerous approaches could be installed. This is an ideal place for an intermodal container loading site, as is being built on the BN highline track. Containers are the preferred transport method for pulse crops (peas, lentils, beans, etc.)that would be grown in southwest Montana if there was transportation available. Many other industries will use the sidings as well. There is already land available south of the old bridge that will be suitable for commercial and industrial development if easy, safe access is assured. Also, the eastern bypass will leave the DFWP Fishing access untouched with room to expand if needed, the Radersburg (Hwy 285) turnoff will not change and traffic control during construction will be far easier. Added tax revenue from expanding businesses will make the eastern bypass even more cost effective. Thank you. Dennis Williams 306 Lone Mountain Road Toston, MT 59643 406-266-3508	Thank you for your comments. The eastern corridor area is one of two potential corridor areas recommended to be carried forward for further analysis if funding becomes available and a project develops.

Comment Received	Comment	Response
February 19, 2011		Thank you for your comments. The central corridor area is one of two potential corridor areas recommended to be carried forward for further analysis if funding becomes available and a project develops. The installation of a flashing light at the intersection of US 287 and S 285 has been added to the report and is included in project recommendation "ST-5: US 287 and S 285 Intersection Reconfiguration". A southbound left-turn lane on US 287 near the Bunkhouse bar is desirable and would be incorporated into the long-term bridge replacement for the structure over the Missouri River. However there is not enough length between the southerly bridge end and S 285 to fully develop the turn lane in accordance with MDT design criteria in the short-term.

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 3

February 10, 2011

Comment Sheet

Public comments are an important component to this study! You are invited to give us your comments, concerns and/or suggestions by email and/or in writing on the attached form. The filled out form may be left at this meeting or mailed to the address below. Additionally, you may email your comments to CDM's project manager, Jeff Key, at keyja@cdm.com. All comments must be received **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 21, 2011.**

CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

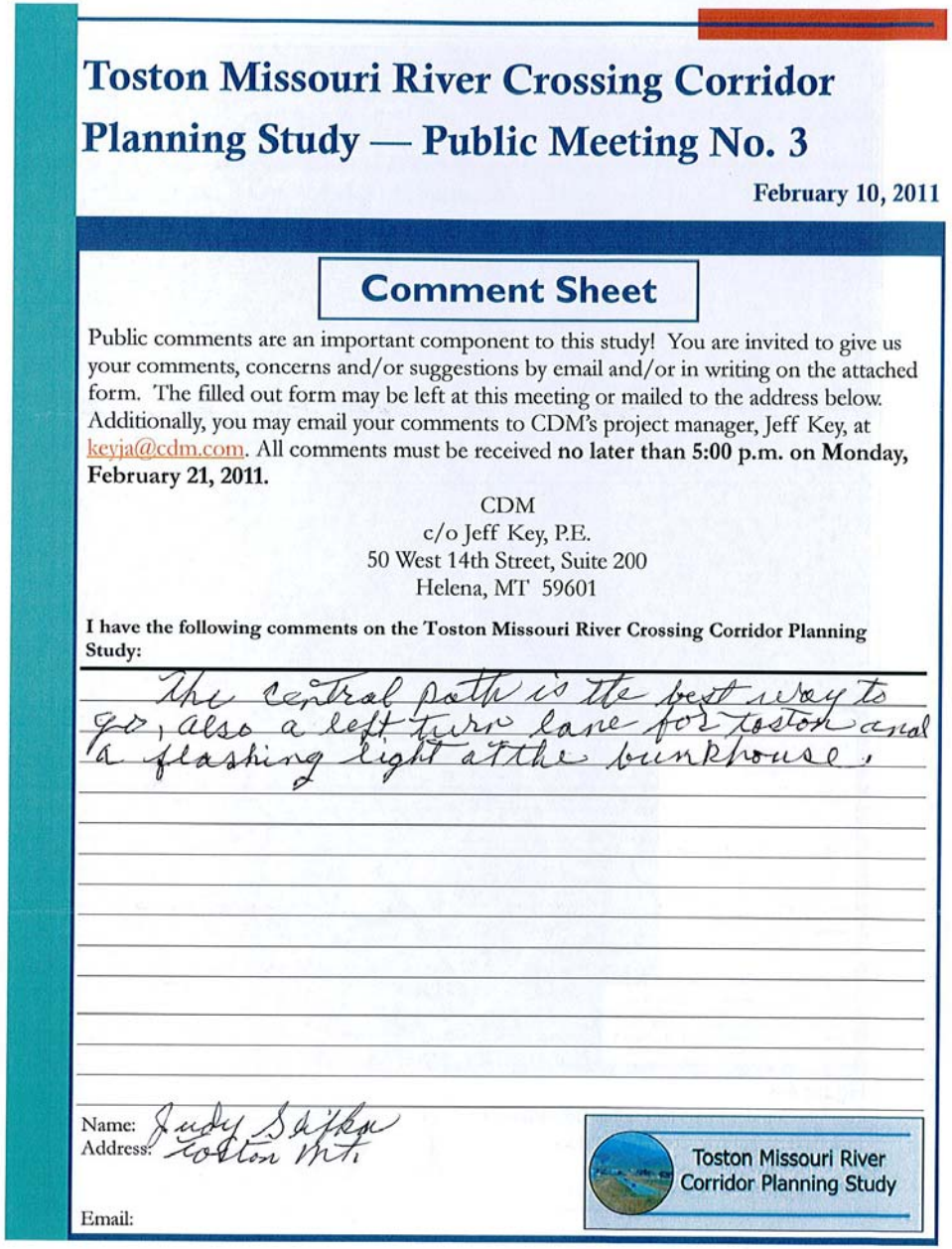
We would like to see the yellow route in place and flashing lights by the Bunkhouse intersection, and turning lanes into Toston.

Name: Doug & Judy Arden
Address: 207 Pony St. (P.O. Box 15) Toston, Mt. 59643

Email: none

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment	Response
February 19, 2011	**Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 3** February 10, 2011 **Comment Sheet** Public comments are an important component to this study! You are invited to give us your comments, concerns and/or suggestions by email and/or in writing on the attached form. The filled out form may be left at this meeting or mailed to the address below. Additionally, you may email your comments to CDM's project manager, Jeff Key, at keyja@cdm.com. All comments must be received **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 21, 2011.** CDM c/o Jeff Key, P.E. 50 West 14th Street, Suite 200 Helena, MT 59601 **I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:** I Belive that central Plan indicated by yellow on the map would be the easiest and most economical approach 1. I would like to see a left turn Lane a at the north end of the overpass where the Toston By Pass enters the Highway 2 also maybe consider a Caution Yellow Light at the Crossing and intersection of Hwy 287-285 near the Bunkhouse Bar. Name: Diane Sitton Address: P.O. Box 34 Email: Toston MT 596[illegible]43 Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study	Thank you for your comments. The central corridor area is one of two potential corridor areas recommended to be carried forward for further analysis if funding becomes available and a project develops. The addition of a southbound left-turn lane, north of the MRL Bridge, is recommended in the report as project recommendation "ST-1: Add Southbound Left Turn Lane to US 287 at Toston Frontage Road". The installation of a flashing light at the intersection of US 287 and S 285 has been added to the report and is included in project recommendation "ST-5: US 287 and S 285 Intersection Reconfiguration".

Comment Received	Comment	Response
February 19, 2011		Thank you for your comments. The central corridor area is one of two potential corridor areas recommended to be carried forward for further analysis if funding becomes available and a project develops. A southbound left-turn lane on US 287 near the Bunkhouse bar is desirable and would be incorporated into the long-term bridge replacement for the structure over the Missouri River. However there is not enough length between the southerly bridge end and S 285 to fully develop the turn lane in accordance with MDT design criteria in the short-term. The installation of a flashing light at the intersection of US 287 and S 285 has been added to the report and is included in project recommendation "ST-5: US 287 and S 285 Intersection Reconfiguration".

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Comment Sheet

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

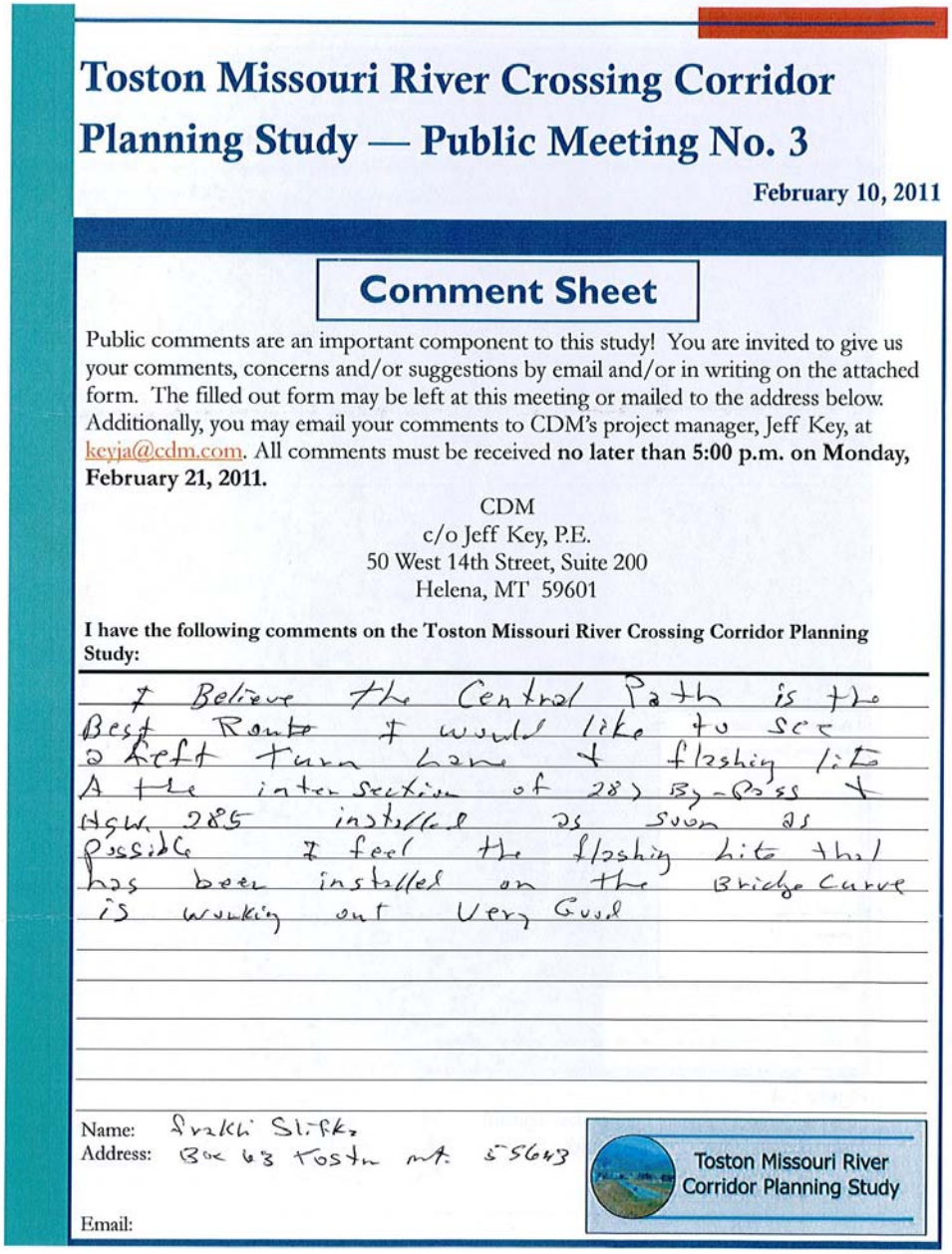
I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

The central path is the best way to go, also a left turn lane for Toston and a flashing light at the bunkhouse.

Name: Judy Sajko
Address: Toston Mt.

Email:

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment	Response
February 19, 2011		Thank you for your comments. The central corridor area is one of two potential corridor areas recommended to be carried forward for further analysis if funding becomes available and a project develops. A southbound left-turn lane on US 287 near the Bunkhouse bar is desirable and would be incorporated into the long-term bridge replacement for the structure over the Missouri River. However there is not enough length between the southerly bridge end and S 285 to fully develop the turn lane in accordance with MDT design criteria in the short-term. The installation of a flashing light at the intersection of US 287 and S 285 has been added to the report and is included in project recommendation "ST-5: US 287 and S 285 Intersection Reconfiguration".

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

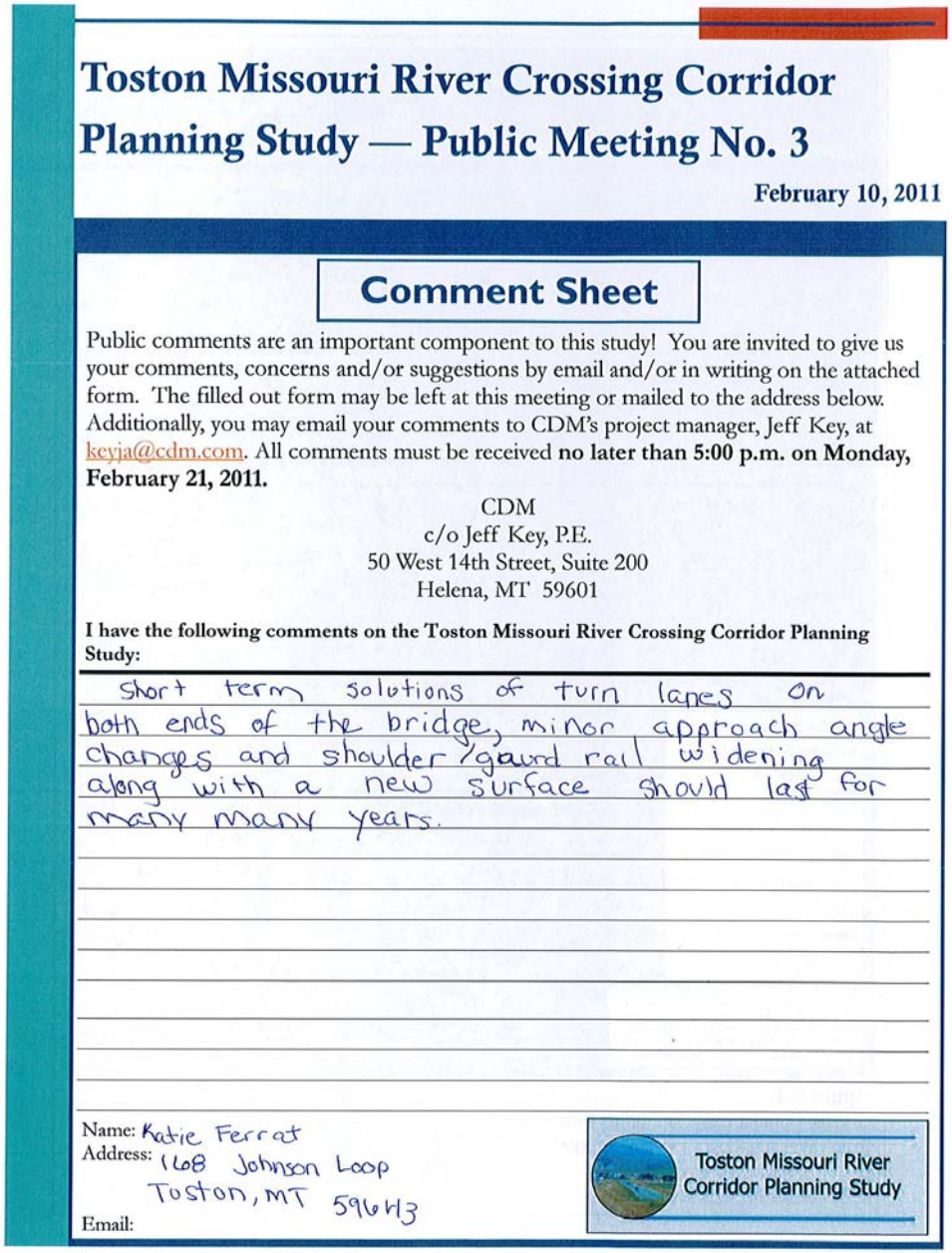
I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

I Believe the Central Path is the Best Route I would like to see a left turn lane & flashing lite A the intersection of 287 By-Pass & Hgw. 285 installed as soon as possible I feel the flashing lite that has been installed on the Bridge Curve is working out Very Good

Name: Frakki Sliffka
Address: Box 63 Toston mt. 59643

Email:

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment	Response
February 19, 2011		Thank you for your comments. The addition of a southbound left-turn lane, north of the MRL Bridge, is recommended in the report as project recommendation "ST-1: Add Southbound Left Turn Lane to US 287 at Toston Frontage Road". A southbound left-turn lane on US 287 near the Bunkhouse bar is desirable and would be incorporated into the long-term bridge replacement for the structure over the Missouri River. However there is not enough length between the southerly bridge end and S 285 to fully develop the turn lane in accordance with MDT design criteria in the short-term. Shoulder widening is recommended throughout the corridor in the short-term as recommended in the report as project recommendation "ST-3: US 287 Shoulder Widening".

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 3

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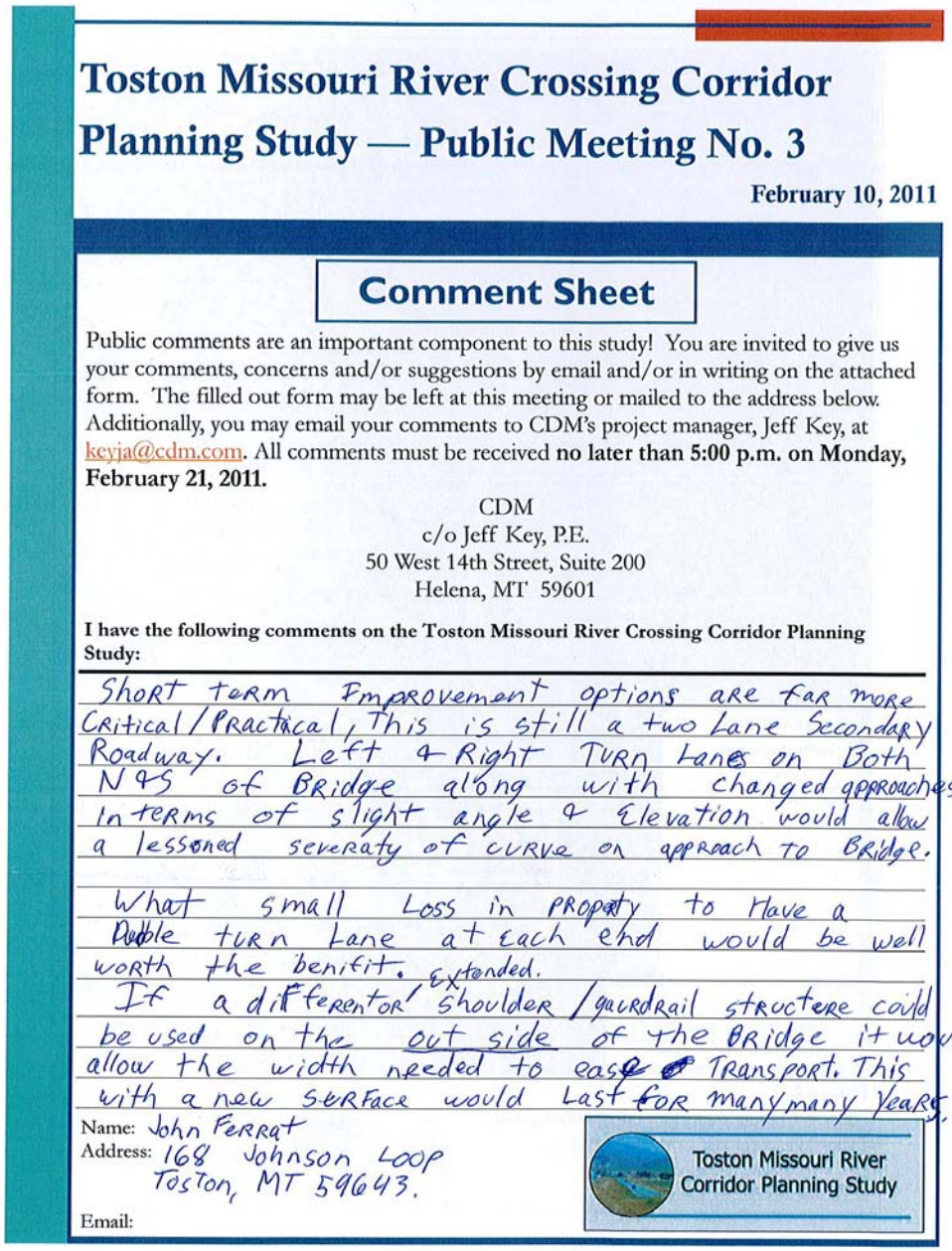
CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

Short term solutions of turn lanes on both ends of the bridge, minor approach angle changes and shoulder/gaurd rail widening along with a new surface should last for many many years.

Name: Katie Ferrat
Address: 168 Johnson Loop
Toston, MT 59643
Email:

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment	Response
February 19, 2011		Thank you for your comments. The addition of a southbound left-turn lane, north of the MRL Bridge, is recommended in the report as project recommendation "ST-1: Add Southbound Left Turn Lane to US 287 at Toston Frontage Road". A southbound left-turn lane on US 287 near the Bunkhouse bar is desirable and would be incorporated into the long-term bridge replacement for the structure over the Missouri River. However there is not enough length between the southerly bridge end and S 285 to fully develop the turn lane in accordance with MDT design criteria in the short-term.

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

Short term Improvement options are far more Critical/Practical, This is still a two Lane Secondary Roadway. Left & Right Turn Lanes on Both N&S of Bridge along with changed approaches In terms of slight angle & Elevation would allow a lessoned severaty of curve on approach to Bridge.

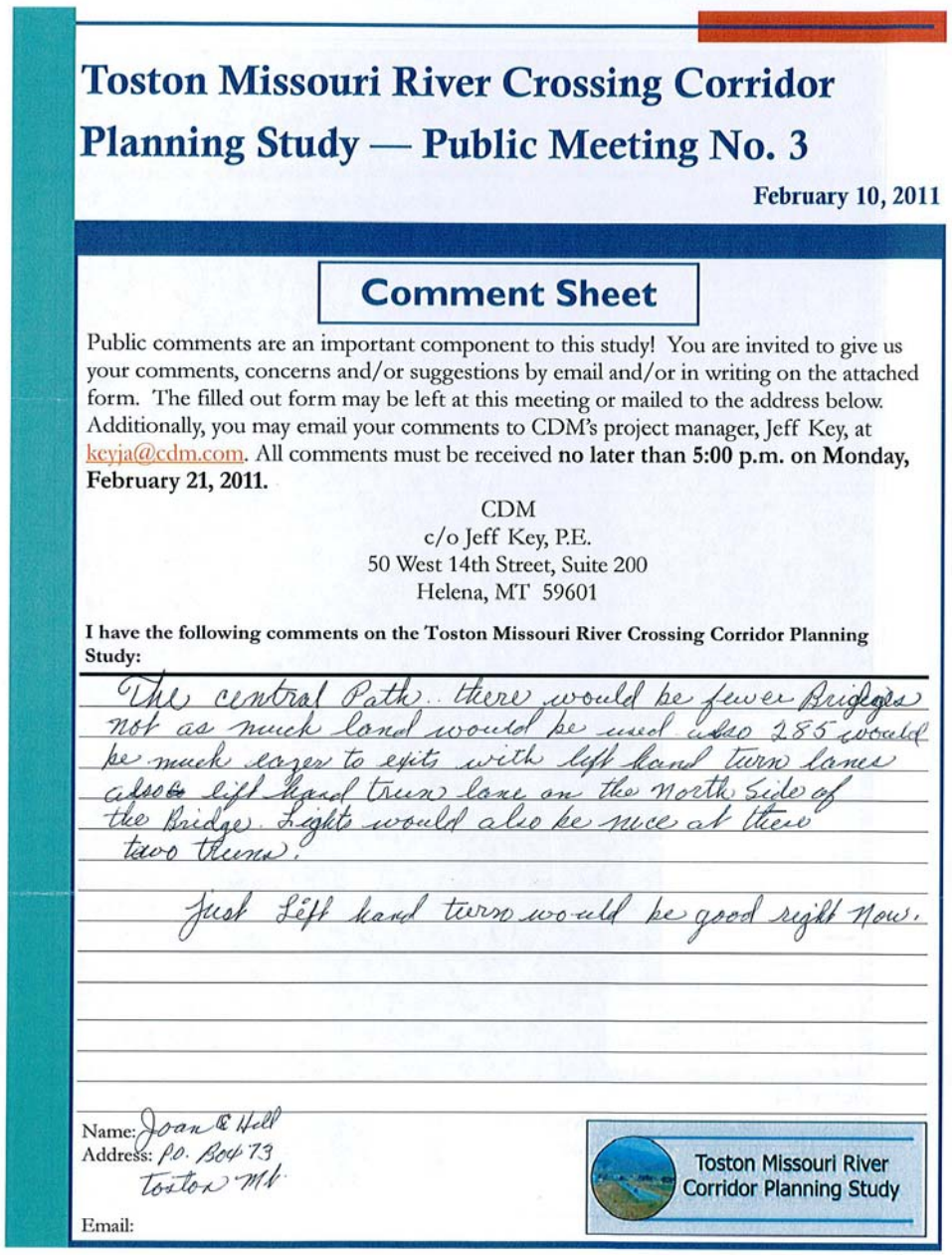
What small Loss in property to Have a Double turn Lane at each end would be well worth the benifit. Extended.

If a differentor/shoulder/guardrail structere could be used on the out side of the Bridge it would allow the width needed to easy Transport. This with a new surface would Last for manymany Years.

Name: John Ferrat
Address: 168 Johnson Loop
Toston, MT 59643.

Email:

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment	Response
February 19, 2011		Thank you for your comments. The central corridor area is one of two potential corridor areas recommended to be carried forward for further analysis if funding becomes available and a project develops. A southbound left-turn lane on US 287 near the Bunkhouse bar is desirable and would be incorporated into the long-term bridge replacement for the structure over the Missouri River. However there is not enough length between the southerly bridge end and S 285 to fully develop the turn lane in accordance with MDT design criteria in the short-term. The installation of a flashing light at the intersection of US 287 and S 285 has been added to the report and is included in project recommendation "ST-5: US 287 and S 285 Intersection Reconfiguration".

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

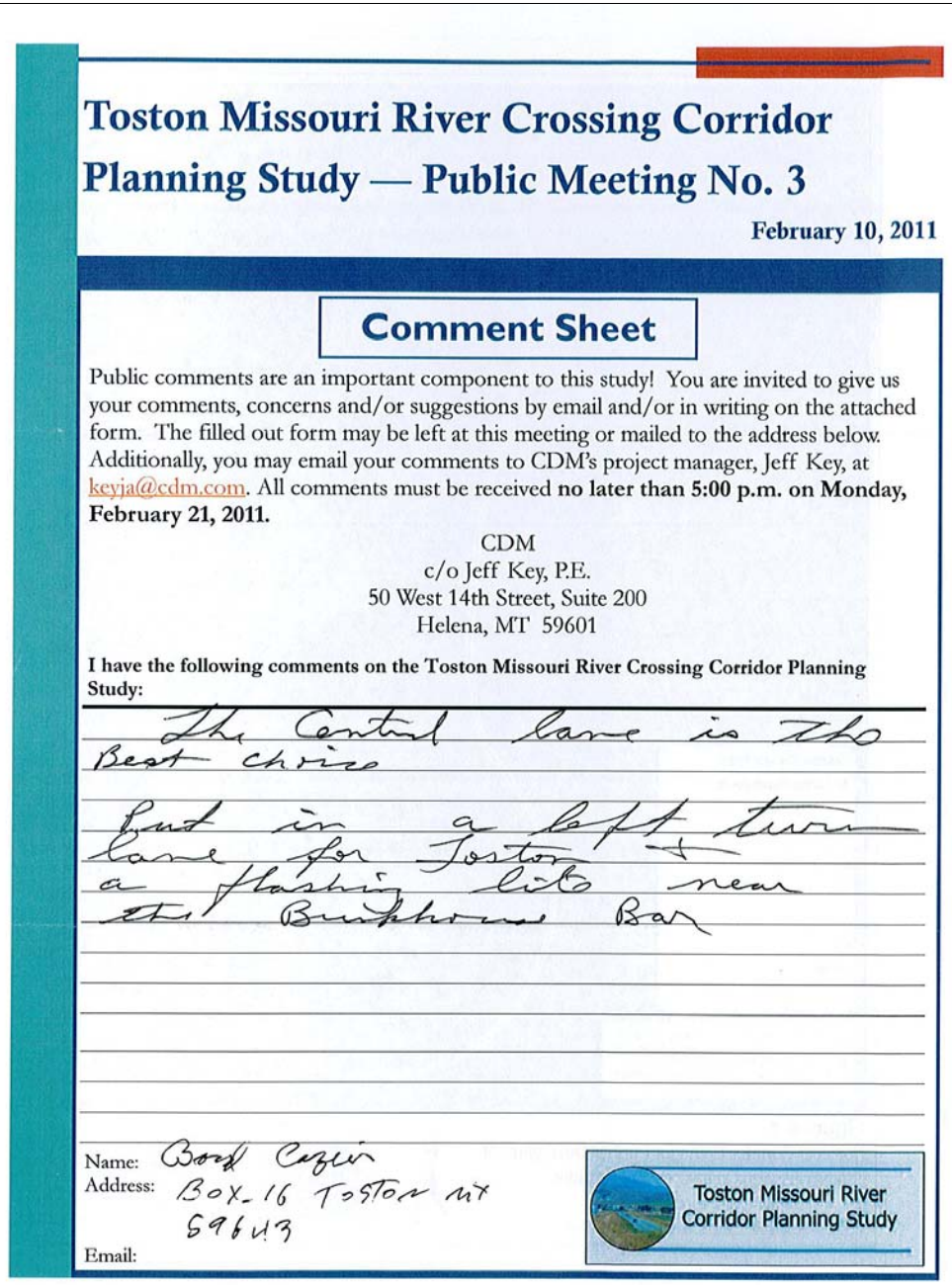
The central Path. there would be fewer Bridges not as much land would be used also 285 would be much easer to exits with left hand turn lanes also left hand turn lane on the North Side of the Bridge. Lights would also be nice at these two turns.

Just Left hand turn would be good right now.

Name: Joan E Hell
Address: PO. Box 73
Toston Mt.

Email:

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment	Response
February 19, 2011	 **Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 3** February 10, 2011 **Comment Sheet** Public comments are an important component to this study! You are invited to give us your comments, concerns and/or suggestions by email and/or in writing on the attached form. The filled out form may be left at this meeting or mailed to the address below. Additionally, you may email your comments to CDM's project manager, Jeff Key, at keyja@cdm.com. All comments must be received **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 21, 2011.** CDM c/o Jeff Key, P.E. 50 West 14th Street, Suite 200 Helena, MT 59601 **I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:** The Central lane is the Best choice Put in a left turn lane for Toston + a flashing lite near the Bunkhouse Bar Name: Boyd Cazier Address: Box 16 Toston MT 59643 Email: Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study	Thank you for your comments. The central corridor area is one of two potential corridor areas recommended to be carried forward for further analysis if funding becomes available and a project develops. A southbound left-turn lane on US 287 near the Bunkhouse bar is desirable and would be incorporated into the long-term bridge replacement for the structure over the Missouri River. However there is not enough length between the southerly bridge end and S 285 to fully develop the turn lane in accordance with MDT design criteria in the short-term. The installation of a flashing light at the intersection of US 287 and S 285 has been added to the report and is included in project recommendation "ST-5: US 287 and S 285 Intersection Reconfiguration".

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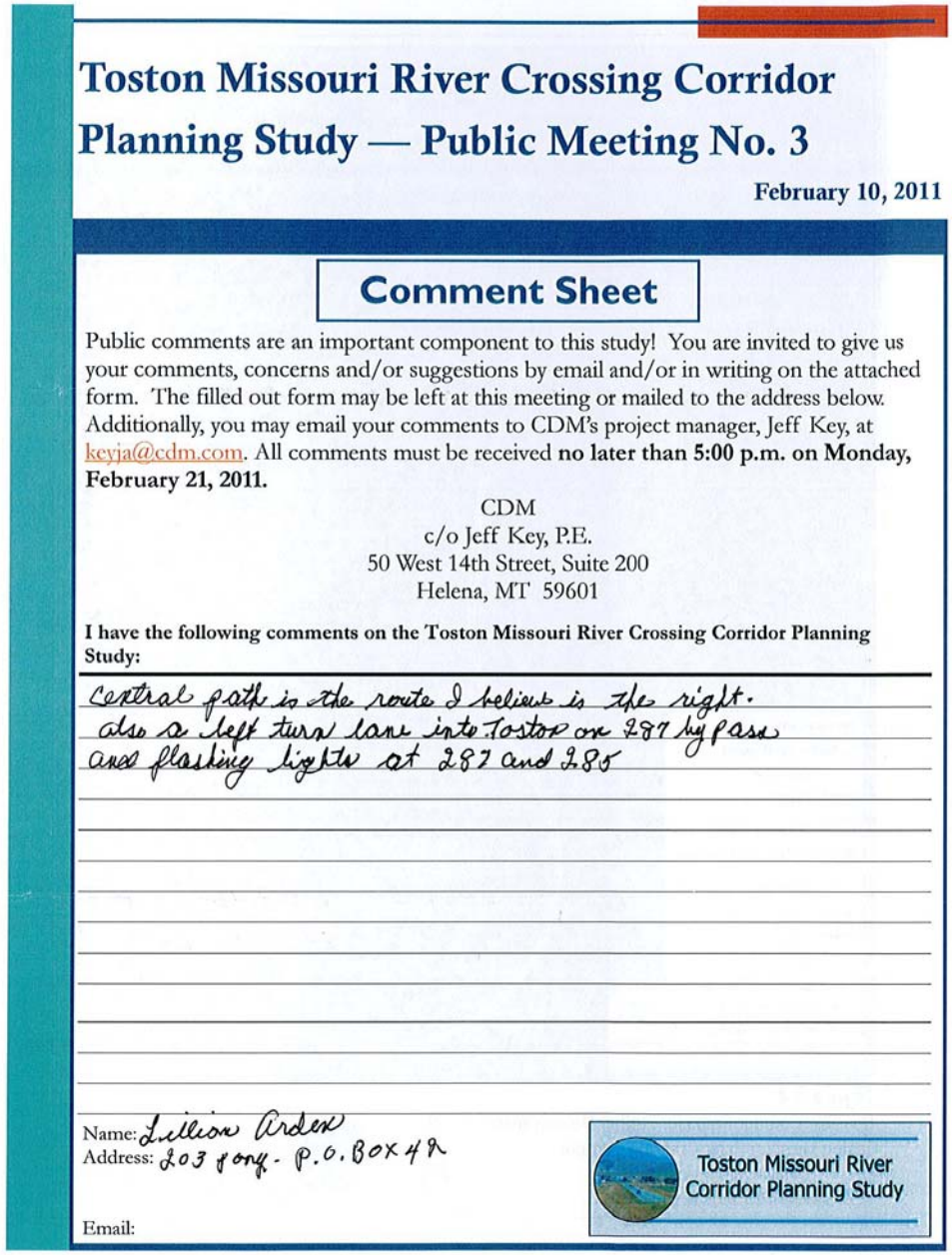
February 19, 2011		Thank you for your comments. The central corridor area is one of two potential corridor areas recommended to be carried forward for further analysis if funding becomes available and a project develops. A southbound left-turn lane on US 287 near the Bunkhouse bar is desirable and would be incorporated into the long-term bridge replacement for the structure over the Missouri River. However there is not enough length between the southerly bridge end and S 285 to fully develop the turn lane in accordance with MDT design criteria in the short-term. The installation of a flashing light at the intersection of US 287 and S 285 has been added to the report and is included in project recommendation "ST-5: US 287 and S 285 Intersection Reconfiguration".

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

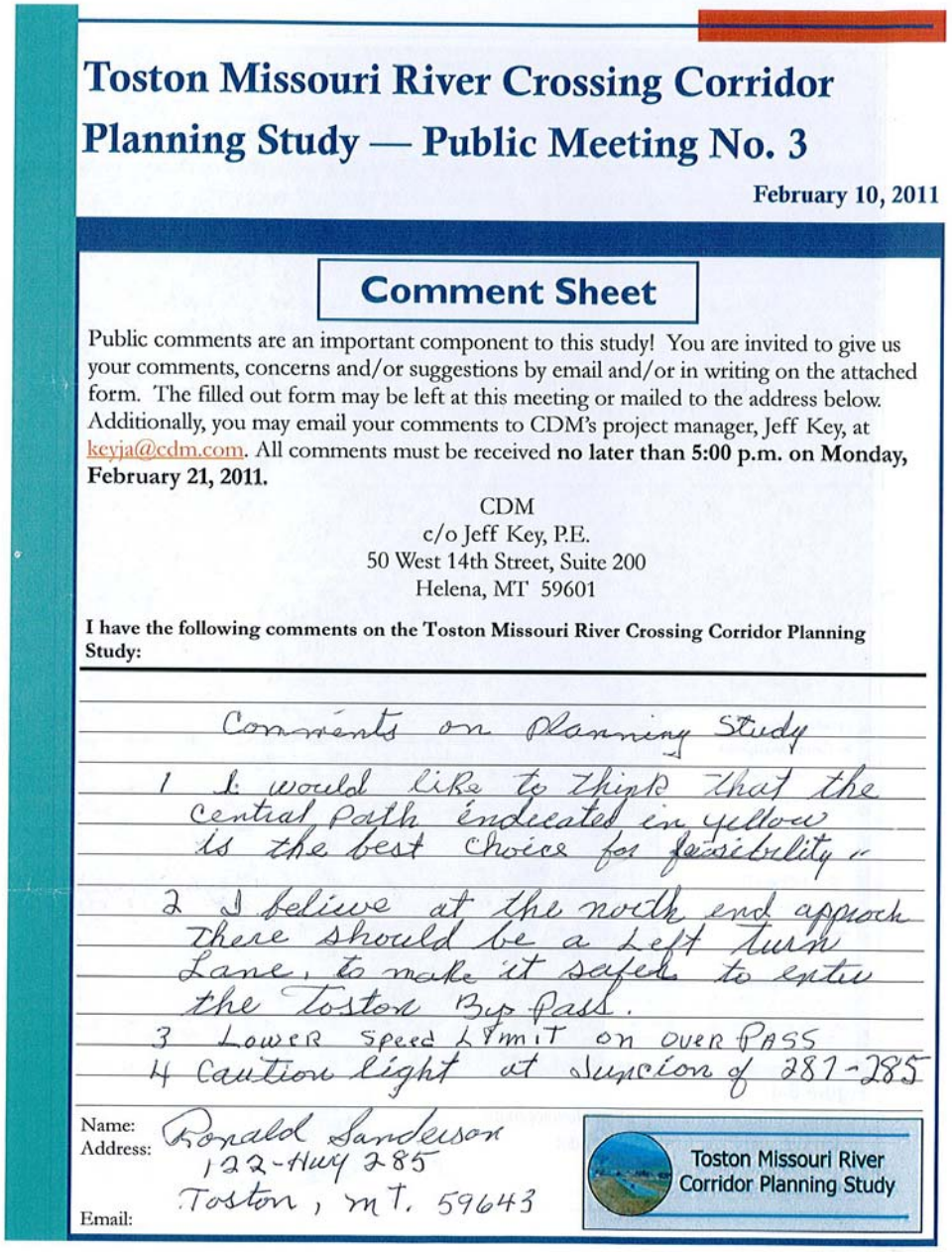
I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

central path is the route I believe is the right.
also a left turn lane into Toston on 287 by pass
and flashing lights at 287 and 285

Name: Lillian Arden
Address: 203 pony - P.O. BOX 48

Email:

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment	Response
February 19, 2011		Thank you for your comments. The central corridor area is one of two potential corridor areas recommended to be carried forward for further analysis if funding becomes available and a project develops. The addition of a southbound left-turn lane, north of the MRL Bridge, is recommended in the report as project recommendation "ST-1: Add Southbound Left Turn Lane to US 287 at Toston Frontage Road". The installation of a flashing light at the intersection of US 287 and S 285 has been added to the report and is included in project recommendation "ST-5: US 287 and S 285 Intersection Reconfiguration".

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

Comments on Planning Study

1 I would like to think that the central path indicated in yellow is the best choice for feasibility.

2 I believe at the north end approach there should be a Left turn Lane, to make it safer to enter the Toston By Pass.

3 Lower speed Limit on over PASS

4 Caution light at Junction of 287-285

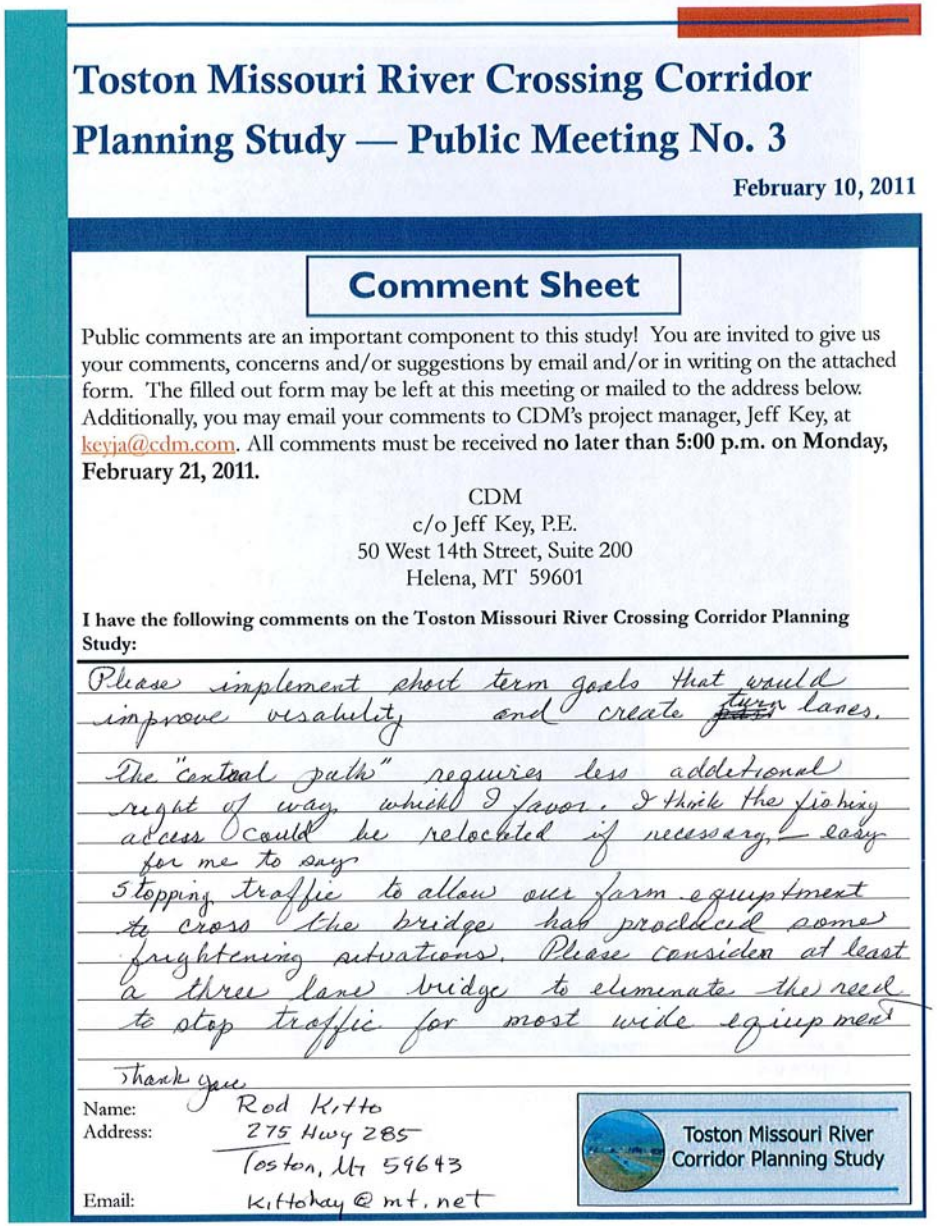
Name: Ronald Sanderson
Address: 122-Hwy 285
Toston, MT. 59643
Email:

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment	Response
February 18, 2011	**From:** Kuser, Allan [mailto:akuser@mt.gov] **Sent:** Friday, February 18, 2011 11:13 AM **To:** Key, Jeffrey **Cc:** Spoon, Ron **Subject:** Toston Corridor Planning Study Hi Jeff, I have just a couple of comments regarding possible impacts to Fish, Wildlife & Parks Toston Fishing Access Site (FAS) in respect to the proposed new bridge alignments presented in the planning study: • The study indicates that if the western route is chosen from 1 - 2 acres of the 4.24 acre site will be impacted. Due to the small size of this FAS, public access would be compromised if this were to occur. FWP proposes that mitigation include acquisition and development of an alternate site. The new site should be located in the same vicinity so as to serve visitors floating between Toston dam and York's Island FAS. • If the eastern route were chosen, my assumption is that the old bridge and highway leading to the bridge would be removed. If that were to occur public access to the FAS would be lost. I propose that mitigation include public access and development of an FAS at the new bridge location. • I understand this is a planning study and no decisions have been made. FWP is open to discuss the various alternatives and potential mitigation measures other than those suggested above. Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Allan Kuser FAS Program Coordinator Phone: 406-444-7885 Email:akuser@mt.gov	Thank you for your comments. If funding becomes available and a project develops, appropriate mitigation would be developed to minimize impacts to the Toston Fishing Access site, in consultation with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Comment Received	Comment	Response
February 18, 2011	**From:** tid [mailto:tid@mt.net] **Sent:** Friday, February 18, 2011 10:59 AM **To:** Key, Jeffrey **Subject:** Toston Bridge In response to the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning I have the following comments: I think the Central Path is the best approach with consideration to a passing lane for Toston and also the Leonard Lambott shop where semi trucks and farm equipment are entering the highway at all hours. There also needs to be blinking lights at both ends; especially noting the Radersburg Highway. Thanks for the opportunity to comment. Willis & Doris Hossfeld, 43 Hossfeld Lane, Toston 59643	Thank you for your comments. The central corridor area is one of two potential corridor areas recommended to be carried forward for further analysis if funding becomes available and a project develops. The installation of a flashing light at the intersection of US 287 and S 285 has been added to the report and is included in project recommendation "ST-5: US 287 and S 285 Intersection Reconfiguration".
February 18, 2011	**From:** Wilma [mailto:wjnorsby@gmail.com] **Sent:** Friday, February 18, 2011 9:41 AM **To:** Key, Jeffrey **Subject:** Toston Bridge Corridor As a resident of Toston, I would like to see the Central path for the bridge, I also think we are in desperate need of turn lanes, one at the 287 bypass and at the Radarsburg turnoff, with a flashing light at the Radarsburg turn. This is a very dangerous corner, that gets extreme use on weekends. There are signs on both ends of this bridge that need to be removed. If there is a car coming at a certain spot, you cannot see it. I don't know how many time I have nearly been hit trying to pull out of Toston. Thank You.....Wilma Norsby	Thank you for your comments. The central corridor area is one of two potential corridor areas recommended to be carried forward for further analysis if funding becomes available and a project develops. The installation of a flashing light at the intersection of US 287 and S 285 has been added to the report and is included in project recommendation "ST-5: US 287 and S 285 Intersection Reconfiguration".

Comment Received	Comment	Response
February 17, 2011	**From:** Nancy Marks [mailto:mtskydog@mt.net] **Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2011 8:11 PM **To:** Carol Strizich **Cc:** Jeff Ebert; Key, Jeffrey **Subject:** Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Attached are my comments on the proposed Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Study. Sincerely, Nancy Marks (406) 266-3710 TOSTON MISSOURI RIVER CROSSING CORRIDOR STUDY To Carol Strizich, MDT Project Manger Jeff Ebert, MDT Butte District Adm. Jeff Key, P.E. CDM Project Mngr From: Nancy Marks owner Toston Original Townsite, S23, T05N. R02 E. Tract IN NW4 Administrator and Managers: I attended your final public meeting on this planned river crossing. I did voice my interests and concerns. They are as follows: 1). Regarding the proposed central area crossing, by looking at the map, I think the crossing would cover my property, which has been in my family for generations. It includes the house where my mother grew up and also the historic "Suitor" cabin. The Suitors were founders of Toston before the smelter was built in 1885. Other outbuildings exist as well. I have approximately 500 feet of river frontage. I use the house as my summer home. I have developed a lot for an RV, and I rent that out for additional income. I would prefer then, to have the MDT choose the possible West Corridor area for the new overpass. This would save my family's historical home. 2). After the new crossing is completed, I think the existing overpass and the approaches should be completely demolished and the area be restored to a near natural condition. 3). Whichever overpass route the MDT chooses, please consider including a pedestrian/bicycle crossing as a safety measure. Nancy Marks, 3597 Hwy 284, Townsend 59644 Phone 266-3710	Thank you for your comments. If funding becomes available and a project develops, efforts will be made to minimize impacts on existing property and structures. At the high level that this study has been completed, precise impacts to properties and structures are unknown at this time. Non-motorized features will be considered when a project develops.

Comment Received	Comment	Response
February 16, 2011		Thank you for your comments. The central corridor area is one of two potential corridor areas recommended to be carried forward for further analysis if funding becomes available and a project develops. The addition of a southbound left-turn lane, north of the MRL Bridge, is recommended in the report as project recommendation "ST-1: Add Southbound Left Turn Lane to US 287 at Toston Frontage Road". A southbound left-turn lane on US 287 near the Bunkhouse bar is desirable and would be incorporated into the long-term bridge replacement for the structure over the Missouri River. However there is not enough length between the southerly bridge end and S 285 to fully develop the turn lane in accordance with MDT design criteria in the short-term. The installation of a flashing light at the intersection of US 287 and S 285 has been added to the report and is included in project recommendation "ST-5: US 287 and S 285 Intersection Reconfiguration".

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 3

February 10, 2011

Comment Sheet

Public comments are an important component to this study! You are invited to give us your comments, concerns and/or suggestions by email and/or in writing on the attached form. The filled out form may be left at this meeting or mailed to the address below. Additionally, you may email your comments to CDM's project manager, Jeff Key, at keyja@cdm.com. All comments must be received **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 21, 2011.**

CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

Please implement short term goals that would improve visability and create ~~path~~ turn lanes.

The "central path" requires less additional right of way which I favor. I think the fishing access could be relocated if necessary — easy for me to say

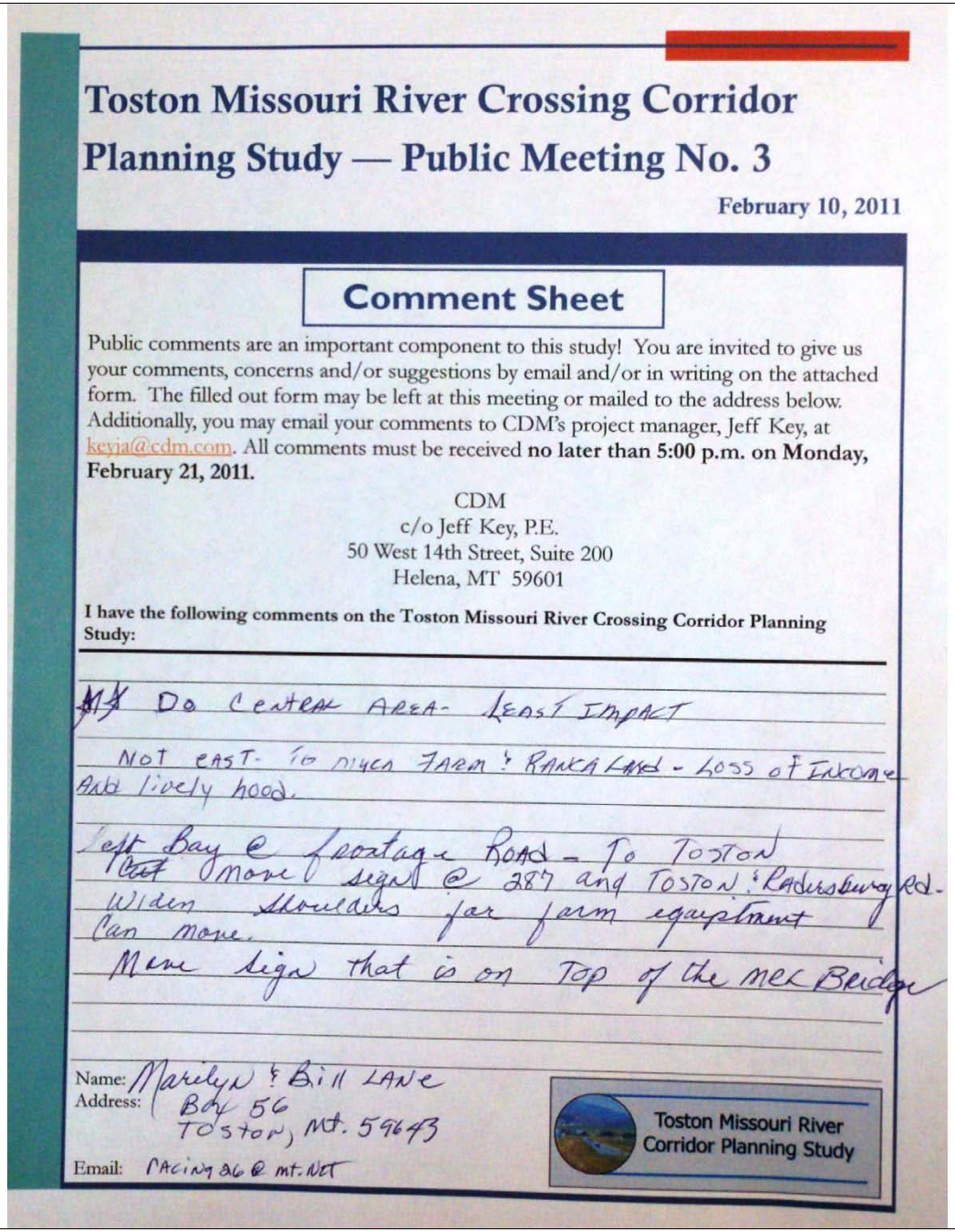
Stopping traffic to allow our farm equipment to cross the bridge has produced some frightening situations. Please consider at least a three lane bridge to eliminate the need to stop traffic for most wide equipment

Thank you

Name: Rod Kitto
Address: 275 Hwy 285
Toston, Mt 59643
Email: kittohay@mt.net

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment	Response
February 11, 2011	From: www@mdt.mt.gov [mailto:www@mdt.mt.gov] Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 2:38 PM To: MDT Comments - Project Subject: Comment on a Project Submitted A question, comment or request has been submitted via the "Contact Us" web page. Action Item: Comment on a Project Submitted: 02/11/2011 14:37:47 Project Commenting On: TOSTON MISSOURI RIVER CROSSING CORRIDOR Project State Highway No.: 287 Nearest Town/City to Project:TOSTON Project Milepost: 89 Name: DOLLY & NEIL HAZEL Address Line 1: 89 BYPASS 28 City: TOSTON State/Province: MT. Postal Code: 59643-9612 Email Address: djhazel46@hotmail.com Phone Number: 406-266-4456 Comment or Question: WE THINK THERE SHOULD BE CAUTION LIGHT PLACED AT TH INTERSECTION OF MT. HWY 287 AND 285 AT TOSTON ON THE SOUTH END OF THE RAILROAD BRIDGE. IT WOULDN'T HURT TO ALSO HAVE A SPEED LIMIT &/OR A CROSSWALK, AS SOME OF THE CHILDREN GETTING OFF THE BUS IN THE BUNKHOUSE PARKING LOT HAVE TO CROSS MT. HWY 287 THERE. THIS WOULD BE OUR FIRST PRIORITY FOR THE SAFETY OF THE CHILDREN AND THE SCHOOL BUS FROM TOWNSEND. THANK YOU.	Thank you for your comments. The installation of a flashing light at the intersection of US 287 and S 285 has been added to the report and is included in project recommendation “ST-5: US 287 and S 285 Intersection Reconfiguration”

Comment Received	Comment	Response
February 10, 2011		Thank you for your comments. The central corridor area is one of two potential corridor areas recommended to be carried forward for further analysis if funding becomes available and a project develops. The addition of a southbound left-turn lane, north of the MRL Bridge, is recommended in the report as project recommendation "ST-1: Add Southbound Left Turn Lane to US 287 at Toston Frontage Road". Shoulder widening is recommended throughout the corridor in the short-term as recommended in the report as project recommendation "ST-3: US 287 Shoulder Widening". The installation of a flashing light at the intersection of US 287 and S 285 has been added to the report and is included in project recommendation "ST-5: US 287 and S 285 Intersection Reconfiguration".

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 3

February 10, 2011

Comment Sheet

Public comments are an important component to this study! You are invited to give us your comments, concerns and/or suggestions by email and/or in writing on the attached form. The filled out form may be left at this meeting or mailed to the address below. Additionally, you may email your comments to CDM's project manager, Jeff Key, at keyja@cdm.com. All comments must be received **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 21, 2011.**

CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

Do Center Area - Least Impact

Not East - To Nyca Farm & Ranch Land - Loss of Income And livelyhood.

Left Bay @ frontage Road - To Toston
Cost more sign @ 287 and Toston & Radersburg Rd.
Widen shoulders for farm equipment
Can move.
Move sign that is on Top of the MRL Bridge

Name: Marilyn & Bill Lane
Address: Box 56
Toston, Mt. 59643
Email: Racing36@mt.net

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment	Response
January 31, 2011	**From:** Levi DeMartin [mailto:levidem@mt.net] **Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2011 12:48 PM **To:** CStrizich@mt.gov; JEbert@mt.gov; Key, Jeffrey **Cc:** hideaway@mt.net **Subject:** Toston Missour River Crossing Corridor Study Attached is our response to the Toston Missouri River Corridor Study for your consideration. Thank you, Levi	

Comment Received	Comment	Response
January 31, 2011 (continued)	Thank you for sending the Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study. From an objective point of view, what are you thinking? I know that the bridge does not meet the current design standards and the bridge has a substandard vertical crest curve. So, why do both of your options put even more of a curve in the new highway/bridge? It seems to me with all the unnecessary twists and inclined curves that you are going to create hazardous driving conditions for the public. Isn't the goal of highway travel for everyone to be safe? My whole family have direct interest as to the safety of the new highway, as we are all active members of the Toston Rural Fire Department, and have responded to accidents at or near the bridge. To me, this is a pretty obvious fix. Take the curved inclines out the bridge—that's what makes it so dangerous now. The shortest distance between two points is a straight line. If the new bridge were constructed west of the current bridge, that would be the shortest and less destructive route, and easiest for the motorists. Now, with observations of being a homeowner in the area, I'd like to write about some other things I see. The Eastern and the Central corridor path both have HUGE impacts on our family life. Out of the two, the Eastern path is going to impact our family the greatest. We built a house in the country for a reason—we didn't want to be bothered by noise pollution, neighbors, and we enjoy the great outdoors! Along with that, we have always wanted to carry on our family's ranching tradition. This Eastern Corridor path will render our family's Quarter Circle 7C Ranch unprofitable because it would rob our ability to raise hay to feed our livestock. The Eastern path will take out a pivot that my parents worked so hard for! *This pivot supplies the vital nutrients needed to the livestock to ensure their livelihood for the ranch to operate!* This is the only hay ground that they have, and to take this away would force them to ***buy*** hay. Also, this plan will take out the corrals (a key place to work cattle). Without the corrals and the pivot, there is no way for this ranch to operate! Besides being put out of business and enjoying a life I've always strived for, the resale value of our house and land will greatly depreciate. We built this house away from the highway knowing that our kids and pets would be safe. We also chose this location because it was just far enough away from the highway noise to not be a nuisance. This will completely destroy our lifestyle and hope to ever continue our family's ranching legacy. Please understand what impact this new highway will have on us. Your Central Corridor path is going to do the same. You list in your Cons that it affects a fishing access site. This is also going to cut the pivot point in half and leave the highway just west of our house. The impacts are the same with your Central and East path proposals. The DeMartin Ranch will cease to exist because it will become unprofitable. We ask that you please review and consider these proposals again before moving forward with a plan. Thanks, Levi and Nikki DeMartin	Thank you for your comments. Horizontal curves can be introduced into new alignments, provided that they meet current MDT design criteria. The potential new alignments generated in the identified corridor areas all would meet current MDT design criteria. The straight line concept presents significant engineering challenges and heavy costs compared to the other alignments. This primarily has to do with tieing into the existing highway to the north after a new bridge would cross the rail lines. Because of the parallel nature of the rail and roadway in this area, an unrealistically long and high bridge would be required at significant cost. This was not favored by the public. Thank you for explaining the potential negative impacts to you and your family of the potential highway relocation. This has been recorded.
January 18, 2011	**From:** Barb DeMartin [mailto:bdem@mt.net] **Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2011 12:29 PM **To:** CStrizich@mt.gov	**From:** Key, Jeffrey **Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 5:48 AM **To:** 'Barb DeMartin'; CStrizich@mt.gov

Comment Received	Comment	Response
	Cc: JEbert@mt.gov; Key, Jeffrey **Subject:** Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Study How does the State of Montana justify or compensate for eliminating one's livelihood? We have followed the progress of the corridor study through the Toston area; we've attended public meetings and are in possession of the newsletters sent from your office. We have grave concerns about the consequences to our ranching property by the proposed construction of the central corridor path. This plan would eliminate 10 to 20 acres of our vital hay ground and will interfere with the operation of our pivot. Both plans will consume the majority of our leased hay ground. We are equally alarmed by the consequences to our ranch by the construction along the eastern corridor path. While your newsletter No. 3, (page 2) "identifies no fatal flaws" with either corridor, it is obvious that these plans would, indeed, be "fatal" to our ranch. The eastern corridor plan would result in 1) the elimination of the majority of our hay ground; 2) interference or elimination of our pivot; 3) destruction of the gravity waterline from the Broadwater canal to the pivot point; 4) destruction of our corrals and cattle handling facilities; and 5) construction of a major highway within a stone's throw of our backyard. Our entire ranch will not be viable without the hay ground on which we raise feed for our cattle. The impact to our grazing property is far reaching, as without the hay ground, we will not be able to continue to raise cattle. The resale value of the property would be greatly reduced or eliminated. The "no fatal flaws" statement is both ignorant and inconsiderate of those whose livelihood is dependent upon the impacted property. As a native of this area, I am aware of the disruption caused to family farms when the Missouri River bridge was originally built. Now landowners are again required to suffer losses due to the engineering and construction of a highway and bridge along a new corridor. Please review your proposal and open your eyes to those Very Fatal Flaws. Again, we ask: How does the State justify and compensate for the ruination and demise of our ranch and our livelihood? Please consider and respond to these very serious matters before continuing with the plans to build this new highway and bridge. Sincerely, Rick and Barb DeMartin. Toston area ranchers	**Cc:** JEbert@mt.gov; Kazimi, Zia; Fossen, Naomi; 'Gail and Lorrie Vennes' **Subject:** RE: Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Study Dear Rick and Barb DeMartin: Thank you for your email regarding issues and concerns you have related to the Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study. Please be assured that we take your input very seriously, and your comments have become part of the official record for this study. To begin, I would like to explain the term “fatal flaw” used in the newsletter. This standard expression is often used when there are no major obstacles to a project from an engineering, environmental or economic standpoint. I can certainly appreciate that the term may not be appropriate as it relates to you personally. Public involvement has been a large component of this corridor study and if a majority of the stakeholders and the public oppose a particular outcome, it is taken into consideration as the study moves forward. The current roadway has a number of existing issues that cause concerns to the travelling public and area residents on multiple fronts. These include, but are not limited to the following: ▪ The existing bridge over the MRL track does not meet current design standards. This includes both a substandard horizontal curve (on the north end of the bridge), and a substandard vertical crest

Comment Received	Comment	Response
		curve on the bridge itself. ▪ The existing roadway just south of the bridge over the Missouri River does not meet current design standards, due to a substandard vertical sag curve. ▪ Throughout the corridor, there are substandard fill and cut slopes which do not meet the roadside clear zone requirements. The inadequate clear zones cause a safety concern. ▪ The existing roadway and bridge widths through the corridor vary from 28 feet to 32 feet and do not meet the current design standards of 40 feet or greater for a Principal Arterial. ▪ Several crash trends within the corridor are higher than the statewide average for similar routes. This includes crash rates, severity indices and severity rates for both vehicles and trucks. Nearly half of the crashes in the 10-year period occurred on the MRL Bridge This is a very complex corridor with many issues. I would encourage you to view the Public Draft of the Corridor Study Report when it becomes available at the end of this month as it will have much more detail on the overall process. The report will be available online and at several locations in your area. I am available by phone (406-441-1400), or would offer to visit with you in person, to discuss your areas of concern further. Sincerely, Jeff Key

Comment Received	Comment
October 28, 2010	

October 28, 2010

Missouri River Grain Co., Inc.
Leonard & Pam Lambott
8715 US Hwy 287
Toston, MT 59643

CDM
% Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

To Whom It May Concern:

We attended the first public meeting pertaining to the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor in February 2010. We voiced our concerns at that time and have had no one contact us concerning any of the issues.

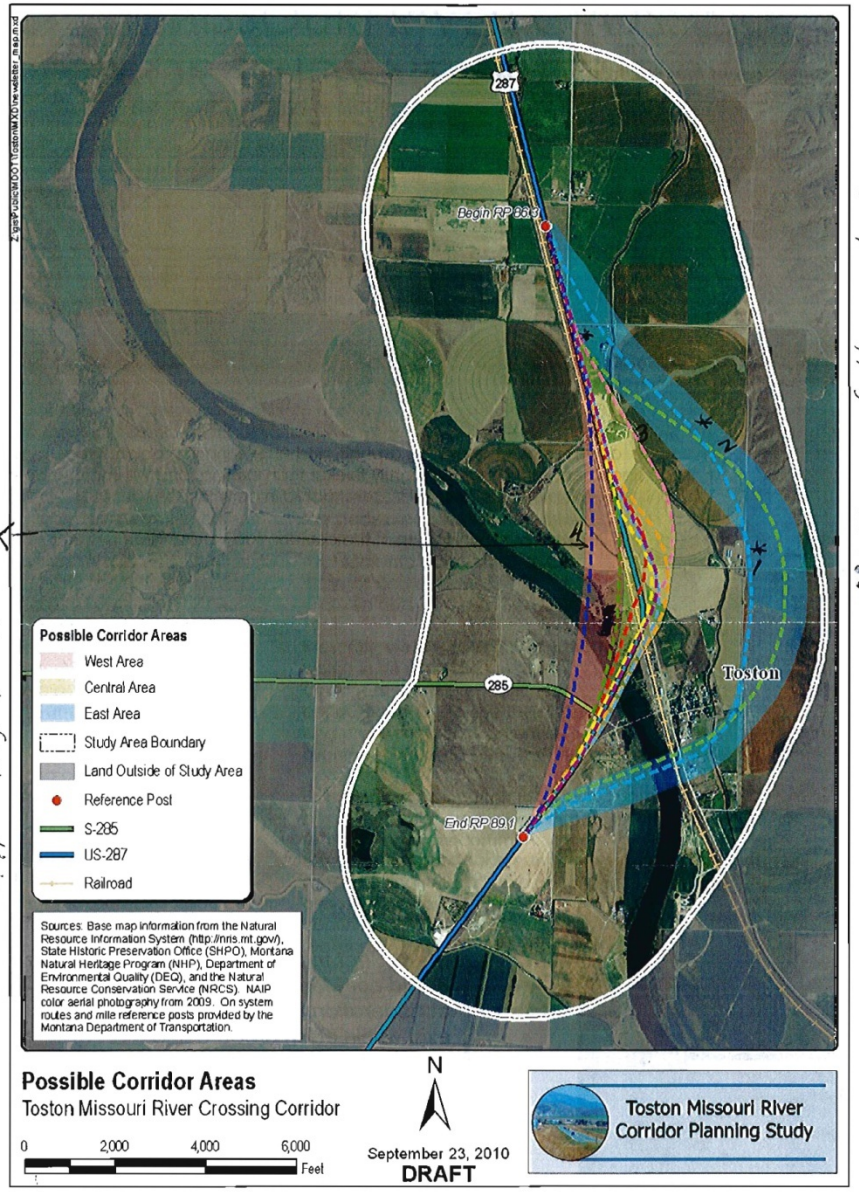
2nd meeting held recently- We had a conflict that evening and were unable to attend so this letter will take the place of our presence there. See map dated Sept 23 and marks 1-4
We highly favor the East area as this does not affect our building sites, etc.
Concerning the central area—If the route (see #3 borders central area) goes across the canal somewhere above our building sites and back past our property on the other side as shown on your Sept 23 map(light pink), this would be our next choice as it would not affect our building sites.
Any of the other routes in the central area would definitely greatly affect us. Our quansets, shops, misc buildings, and the lot would essentially be considered worthless. By the time you took your right of way, there would be no room between the buildings and the road at all. So all the parking area for equipment on that side would be gone. It is not like we can expand on the other side to make up for it because of the canal so that would leave inadequate space for parking any machinery and leaving any room to move other large equipment to building sites for servicing, etc.
It would be pretty much the same with our homesite and close acreage. We feel what was left after right of way taken out and road going thru the middle of our field, this property would all be greatly devalued because it would then be sandwiched in between a busy highway and a canal with no access to our other buildings, etc. except to get on and off the highway every time. This would also be very dangerous.
Our future rail site would appear to also be affected by these routes. We have leased the right of way and purchased the rail site and cement in anticipation of moving our present grain business from Townsend to the loading site to get it out of the middle of town.
West route (see map #4 dark blue) This would be our fourth choice as long as it doesn't take more right of way from our building sites and bypasses the rail site. Otherwise it falls in the same category of devaluing everything greatly just like the central routes do.

Sincerely,

Leonard Lambott

Comment Received	Comment
October 28, 2010 (continued)	

Our first options are the green & blue. If those are ruled out, we would favor the * pink see letter.



if the above mentioned fail this would be the one we prefer next.

NOT any of the centralones.

Comment Received	Comment
October 15, 2010 8:50 AM	**From:** Bob Davis [mailto:Bob@LazyVBar.com] **Sent:** Friday, October 15, 2010 8:50 AM **To:** Key, Jeffrey **Subject:** Missouri River Crossing Jeff Key---We attended the meeting in Townsend regarding Missouri River Crossing Corridor. Our preferred route would be in the Central Area following the current highway as possible. As this progresses, we feel that the bridge and approaches should be built to four lanes since the Townsend South project contains four-lane sections. The current bridge could be used for north or south bound adding an adjacent bridge. The intersection with Highway 285 could be moved to south of the Toston fire hall creating a safer intersection. The highway users in this area have lived with an under designed railroad bridge for many years. We don't need to under design both bridges for the future. Thank you – Bob and Linda Davis, 131 Dry Hollow Road, Townsend, MT 59644 406-266-3786

Comment Received	Comment

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 2

October 13, 2010

Comment Sheet

Public comments are an important component to this project! You are invited to give us your comments, concerns and/or suggestions by email and/or in writing on the attached form. The filled out form may be left at this meeting or mailed to the address below. Additionally, you may email your comments to CDM's project manager, Jeff Key, at keyja@cdm.com.

CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

We will go with the Central Area
We feel that you could come up with
better plans.
Take the road West of river and no bridge seems
more cost effective. Follow the river.

Name: Larry + Gail Brucher
Address: 68 MT Hwy 285
Toston MT 59643

Email:
kander 1120 @ wildblue.net

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment

Toston Corridor Area Survey

Your input is highly valued. Please complete the following survey indicating your preferred choice of general corridor area locations for a roadway alignment and bridge crossing on US 287. Please also include the reason for your preferred selection, this information is important for us in understanding the public opinion.

Note: You may select more than one option. The "No Preference" option indicates that any option would be acceptable.

Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☒ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is:

Seems to be the only cost-effective plan of the three. We hope there will be turn lanes for traffic into Toston & Radersburg.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

PLEASE LEAVE SURVEY ON SIGN-IN TABLE WHEN DONE....

Comment Received	Comment

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 2

October 13, 2010

Comment Sheet

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

Name:
Address:

Email:

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment

Toston Corridor Area Survey

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Note: You may select more than one option. The "No Preference" option indicates that any option would be acceptable.

Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☑ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is: I would think the central area is the only choice

Merle Freebury

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

PLEASE LEAVE SURVEY ON SIGN-IN TABLE WHEN DONE....

Comment Received	Comment

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 2

October 13, 2010

Comment Sheet

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

Name:
Address:

Email:

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment

Toston Corridor Area Survey

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Note: You may select more than one option. The "No Preference" option indicates that any option would be acceptable.

Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☒ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is: There is no doubt that this is the best choice

Rich & Donna Slifka
Box 103 Toston MT.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

PLEASE LEAVE SURVEY ON SIGN-IN TABLE WHEN DONE....

Comment Received	Comment

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 2

October 13, 2010

Comment Sheet

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

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Name:
Address:

Email:

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment

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Your input is highly valued. Please complete the following survey indicating your preferred choice of general corridor area locations for a roadway alignment and bridge crossing on US 287. Please also include the reason for your preferred selection, this information is important for us in understanding the public opinion.

Note: You may select more than one option. The "No Preference" option indicates that any option would be acceptable.

Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☒ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is: this Appears to be the Best Route & with the Least Amount of Impact on the Area

Frontier of Truly Stifles
Box 63 Toston MT

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

PLEASE LEAVE SURVEY ON SIGN-IN TABLE WHEN DONE....

Comment Received	Comment

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 2

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

There is nothing wrong with the crossing as it is. Reconstruct the present bridge? Maybe a passing lane on both ends would help.

Name: Neil D. Hazel
Address: 89 Bypass 287
Toston, Mt. 59643
Email:

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment

Toston Corridor Area Survey

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Note: You may select more than one option. The "No Preference" option indicates that any option would be acceptable.

Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☒ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

PLEASE LEAVE SURVEY ON SIGN-IN TABLE WHEN DONE....

Comment Received	Comment

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 2

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

In my opinion, the central area is the Best choice. There is less impact on the surrounding land owners + the bridge would not have to be reinstructed therefore less cost.

Name: Angela Hazel
Address: 93 bypass 287
Toston, Mt. 59643
Email: ahazel73@yahoo.com

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment

Toston Corridor Area Survey

Your input is highly valued. Please complete the following survey indicating your preferred choice of general corridor area locations for a roadway alignment and bridge crossing on US 287. Please also include the reason for your preferred selection, this information is important for us in understanding the public opinion.

Note: You may select more than one option. The "No Preference" option indicates that any option would be acceptable.

Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☒ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is:

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THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

PLEASE LEAVE SURVEY ON SIGN-IN TABLE WHEN DONE....

Comment Received	Comment

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 2

October 13, 2010

Comment Sheet

Public comments are an important component to this project! You are invited to give us your comments, concerns and/or suggestions by email and/or in writing on the attached form. The filled out form may be left at this meeting or mailed to the address below. Additionally, you may email your comments to CDM's project manager, Jeff Key, at keyja@cdm.com.

CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

I think the Toston Missouri River Corridor should stay where it is at this time. It would be adventageous to put a passing lane on each end and possible a caution or stop light at the 285 Intersection. Better yet, move the whole thing over to Hwy 437 and River Road going around Townsend.

Name: Dolly J. Hazel
Address: 89 By pass 287
Toston, Mt. 59643
Email:

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment

Toston Corridor Area Survey

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Note: You may select more than one option. The "No Preference" option indicates that any option would be acceptable.

Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☒ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is:

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THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

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Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 2

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

I Believe That The Centeral Area IS The Better Location. One Reson is The Bridge is alReady There. IT would Have Less Impact On the Sorrawd Land Owners. The other options seem TO impact more Landowners & more Loss of Land.

Name: James & Hazel
Address: 93 by pass 257
TOSTON MT 59643
Email:

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment

Toston Corridor Area Survey

Your input is highly valued. Please complete the following survey indicating your preferred choice of general corridor area locations for a roadway alignment and bridge crossing on US 287. Please also include the reason for your preferred selection, this information is important for us in understanding the public opinion.

Note: You may select more than one option. The "No Preference" option indicates that any option would be acceptable.

Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☒ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is:
I Believe That would be The Simplist option. I also Think This option would Have The Least Impact On The Surrounding Owners.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

PLEASE LEAVE SURVEY ON SIGN-IN TABLE WHEN DONE....

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

Name:
Address:

Email:

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment

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Note: You may select more than one option. The "No Preference" option indicates that any option would be acceptable.

Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☒ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is:

Less problems for local people and maybe less expensive.

Jerry L. Nordby
Toston

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

PLEASE LEAVE SURVEY ON SIGN-IN TABLE WHEN DONE....

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CDM
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50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

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Name:
Address:

Email:

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

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Note: You may select more than one option. The "No Preference" option indicates that any option would be acceptable.

Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☒ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is: Best Route

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

PLEASE LEAVE SURVEY ON SIGN-IN TABLE WHEN DONE....

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

Name: Douglas Arden
Address: 207 Pony
P.O. Box 15
Email: Toston, MT 59643

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment

Toston Corridor Area Survey

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Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☒ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is:
The yellow is were the Road is now so least amont of ~~disturbance~~ disturbance. The red area would take more of the curve out.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

PLEASE LEAVE SURVEY ON SIGN-IN TABLE WHEN DONE....

Comment Received	Comment

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 2

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

Name: Lillian Arder
Address: 203 Pony St
P.O. Box 417
Toston, MT 59643
Email:

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment

Toston Corridor Area Survey

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Note: You may select more than one option. The "No Preference" option indicates that any option would be acceptable.

Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☒ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is:

With economy, I believe the Red or yellow would it would be the best of the three options.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

PLEASE LEAVE SURVEY ON SIGN-IN TABLE WHEN DONE....

Comment Received	Comment

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

Name: Ronald Sanderson
Address: 122 Hwy 285
Toston, Mont. 59643

Email:

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment

Toston Corridor Area Survey

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Note: You may select more than one option. The "No Preference" option indicates that any option would be acceptable.

Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☒ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is:

it would seem to me that this would be the most cost efficient option, with the least disturbance of other farm lands

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

PLEASE LEAVE SURVEY ON SIGN-IN TABLE WHEN DONE....

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Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 2

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

Look like Yellow is the Best Way to go.

Name: Diane Sitton
Address: PO Box 34
Toston, Mt,
59643
Email:

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment

Toston Corridor Area Survey

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Note: You may select more than one option. The "No Preference" option indicates that any option would be acceptable.

Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☒ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is: Yellow is The Best Way to go

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

Name: KG Johnson
Address: PO Box 83
Toston MT 59643

Email:

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment

Toston Corridor Area Survey

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Note: You may select more than one option. The "No Preference" option indicates that any option would be acceptable.

Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☑ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is: Best available route and most cost effective.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

Name: John Hansen
Address: 316 Broadway #4
Townsend, MT. 59644
Email:

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment

Toston Corridor Area Survey

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Note: You may select more than one option. The "No Preference" option indicates that any option would be acceptable.

Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☒ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is:

This corridor would be the best because it is the least expensive and also will be safe and prudent.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

PLEASE LEAVE SURVEY ON SIGN-IN TABLE WHEN DONE....

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

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Name:
Address:

Email:

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

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Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☑ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is:
In my opinion, the Central Area (yellow) is the most sensible and economical route available.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

PLEASE LEAVE SURVEY ON SIGN-IN TABLE WHEN DONE....

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

Name: Brad Cizin
Address: 211 Pony ST
Toston MT 59643

Email:

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment

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Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☒ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is:

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THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

I think the present bridge has poor visibility and is too narrow for present day traffic. I also don't understand why a road wasn't built before the Townsend bridge going on the higher side of the river making the Townsend and Toston bridge just used for light local traffic. I think the road bypassing both Townsend and Toston would get away from the swamps and poor ground where it is now.

Name: BUTCH SCHNEIDER
Address: 602 N. FRT. - Townsend

Email: RBABUTT@WMCONNECT.COM

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

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Toston Corridor Area Survey

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Note: You may select more than one option. The "No Preference" option indicates that any option would be acceptable.

Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☑ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is:

The yellow area looks like it would be the shortest and easiest and also would have good visibility. So the event that a road was built on the other side of river this would make the best exit for Toston and Townsend.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

PLEASE LEAVE SURVEY ON SIGN-IN TABLE WHEN DONE....

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October 13, 2010	

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

Central Route is Best for less impact.

Name:
Address:

Email:

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment
October 13, 2010	

Toston Corridor Area Survey

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Note: You may select more than one option. The "No Preference" option indicates that any option would be acceptable.

Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☒ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is:

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THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

Being a landowner with possible future business prospects in the Corridor I would like to encourage the Central Corridor. Replace, widen & improve close to the current route seems to make the most sense. Appreciate your efforts and the opportunity to comment

Name: Howard Hensley
Address: 26 Hwy 437
Toston MT 59643
Email: Howtoadf@wildblue.net

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment
October 13, 2010	

Toston Corridor Area Survey

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Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☒ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is: I own property in this corridor that has plans for development.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

PLEASE LEAVE SURVEY ON SIGN-IN TABLE WHEN DONE....

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CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

You conducted an informative meeting tonight, Jeff. I'm the "third farmer" opposed to the east corridor. It negatively impacts so many pivot irrigated fields unnecessarily, as there are options that stay closer to the current roadway and take less land away from agriculture.

Also, as president of Broadwater Missouri Water Users Ass'n, I write in opposition of more canal crossings, as they make maintenance and operation of the canal more difficult. Both the east corridor and the eastern suggested route of the centeral corridor would negatively affect the canal. Thank you

Rod Kitto

Name: Rod Kitto (406)949 0333
Address: 275 Hwy 285
Toston, MT 59643
Email: kittohay@mt.net

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment
October 13, 2010	

Toston Corridor Area Survey

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Note: You may select more than one option. The "No Preference" option indicates that any option would be acceptable.

Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☒ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is:

- my actual preference is the West corridor, but it doesnt take an engineer to understand the cost constraints.
- the east corridor would also be costly and would completely change the little community of Toston
- The central corridor is most attractive in its western most proposals.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

PLEASE LEAVE SURVEY ON SIGN-IN TABLE WHEN DONE....

Comment Received	Comment
October 13, 2010	

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Note: You may select more than one option. The "No Preference" option indicates that any option would be acceptable.

Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☒ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is: least impact on the area

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

PLEASE LEAVE SURVEY ON SIGN-IN TABLE WHEN DONE....

Comment Received	Comment
October 13, 2010	

Toston Corridor Area Survey

Your input is highly valued. Please complete the following survey indicating your preferred choice of general corridor area locations for a roadway alignment and bridge crossing on US 287. Please also include the reason for your preferred selection, this information is important for us in understanding the public opinion.

Note: You may select more than one option. The "No Preference" option indicates that any option would be acceptable.

Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☒ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is:

Looks like the least impact on area

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

PLEASE LEAVE SURVEY ON SIGN-IN TABLE WHEN DONE....

Comment Received	Comment
October 13, 2010	

Toston Corridor Area Survey

Your input is highly valued. Please complete the following survey indicating your preferred choice of general corridor area locations for a roadway alignment and bridge crossing on US 287. Please also include the reason for your preferred selection, this information is important for us in understanding the public opinion.

Note: You may select more than one option. The "No Preference" option indicates that any option would be acceptable.

Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☒ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is: Least Impact

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

PLEASE LEAVE SURVEY ON SIGN-IN TABLE WHEN DONE....

Comment Received	Comment
October 13, 2010	

Toston Corridor Area Survey

Your input is highly valued. Please complete the following survey indicating your preferred choice of general corridor area locations for a roadway alignment and bridge crossing on US 287. Please also include the reason for your preferred selection, this information is important for us in understanding the public opinion.

Note: You may select more than one option. The "No Preference" option indicates that any option would be acceptable.

Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☒ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is: Less overall impact to existing landowners & landuse

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

PLEASE LEAVE SURVEY ON SIGN-IN TABLE WHEN DONE....

Comment Received	Comment
October 13, 2010	

Wubbena Family Trust

4212 Oak Grove Drive
Carrollton, Texas 75010

RECEIVED
OCT 13 2010
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Carol Strizich, Project Manager
MDT Statewide and Urban Planning
2960 Prospect Avenue
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Ms. Strizich:

Reference is made to the Toston Missouri River Corridor Study.

The Western Area possible corridor on the map that was included with the mailer I was recently sent indicates that most of the remaining property that was my Father's (the Lorentz family) homestead would be taken. I accordingly strenuously object to this alignment.

While much of the original homestead was on the East side of the current alignment of highway 287, the right-of-way area for US 287 was donated to the State, and a small portion of that homestead was relinquished to State Fish and Game, I do not wish to lose any more of the small remaining portion of my homestead land which is left.

Very truly yours,

Ruth Lorentz Wubbena

Ruth Lorentz Wubbena, Trustee for Wubbena Family Trust

Comment Received	Comment
October 12, 2010 7:10 PM	**From:** HASEMAN3BW@aol.com [mailto:HASEMAN3BW@aol.com] **Sent:** Tuesday, October 12, 2010 7:10 PM **To:** Key, Jeffrey **Subject:** comments toston corridor Jeff Key As a landowner affected by the Toston Missouri River crossing corridor study, I want to comment on your corridor selection. The blue or east area goes right thru the middle of my 265 acre irrigated field which has a pivot. This selection would completely ruin this field. I can`t believe that the east corridor would be any safer than the existing roadway. I`m very much against the east corridor. The pink or west corridor goes thru my 159 acre irrigated field but at least it wouldn't ruin the field. I greatly prefer the central or yellow corridor which is by far the least disrupting choice. Bob haseman
October 12, 2010 7:02 AM	**From:** Strizich, Carol [mailto:cstrizich@mt.gov] **Sent:** Tuesday, October 12, 2010 7:02 AM **To:** Key, Jeffrey **Subject:** Toston Voicemail Jeff, I received another (more lengthy) voicemail from a landowner in the Toston Corridor. James and Ruth Lorenz-Webina called in regard to the last remaining parcel of the Lorenz homestead. James and Ruth are the trustees and live in Texas but are very concerned about the Western alignments impacting the last parcel they have kept from the family homestead – the other parcels were given up for the current highway, S 285, the bridge and the fishing access so they are very much concerned about the potential of losing this last remaining piece. They were upset just want to express their concern, they have written a letter but weren't sure that it would get to us in advance of the meeting and would like to have a return call to discuss. James/Ruth Webina trustees for the Lorenz property 972-394-5793 Carol Strizich Statewide & Urban Planning Montana Department of Transportation (406) 444-9240 cstrizich@mt.gov
April 13, 2010 3:02 PM	From: www@mdt.mt.gov [mailto:www@mdt.mt.gov] Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 3:02 PM To: MDT Comments - Project Subject: Comment on a Project Submitted

Comment Received	Comment
	A question, comment or request has been submitted via the "Contact Us" web page. Action Item: Comment on a Project Submitted: 04/13/2010 15:02:17 Project Commenting On: TostonMissouriRiverStudy Project State Highway No.: 287 Nearest Town/City to Project:Toston Project Milepost: missouri bridge Name: Dennis Williams Address Line 1: 306 Lone Mountain Road City: Toston State/Province: MT Postal Code: 59643 Email Address: lazy3@ixi.net Phone Number: 406 266-3508 Comment or Question: I was wondering how or who to see about considering a route crossing on the southern edge of the town and continuing east of toston then joining 287 about at the 6 mile road and Flynn lane? We are thinking of this for a much cheaper and shorter bridge system, crossing at a 90 degree to the river and railroad, plus we already have 1/2 of the elevation naturally to cross the railroad tracks. Economically, this will leave the Toston railroad sidings with safe access via the old bridge and highways, letting us develop the sidings for future use. And MDOT will not have to remove the old bridges. There would be no traffic disruption or control issues, the DFWP fishing access can be expanded, no wetlands or floodplain issues and far less right of way problems, going through all vacant lands. Please let me know who and how to present this option. Thanks. Dennis Williams Submitter's IP address: 75.231.10.5 Reference Number = picomment_154876708984375

Comment Received	Comment
	From: Axline, Lisa [mailto:laxline@mt.gov] **Sent:** Tuesday, March 16, 2010 9:50 AM **To:** Key, Jeffrey **Subject:** Toston Corridor Study Jeff: Something has come up and I will be unable to attend this afternoon's meeting on the Toston Corridor Study. Again, for the DNRC-Trust Land Administration Division, an easement will be necessary for any crossing of the Missouri River. We routinely process such applications from the Montana Department of Transportation and have an MOU in place regarding the application process. We generally will accept the MDT environmental document and tier to it for our own Environmental Checklist that is completed by our agency at the time of application. We will also review the MDT appraisal for compensation for the use of the riverbed. In the cases of navigable river crossings, the State assesses a fee of 50% of the upland value on either side of the river. Should there be any additional questions, you may contact me or Garry Williams. My apologies for not being able to make the meeting this afternoon. Lisa Axline, R/W Section Supervisor Real Estate Management Bureau Trust Land Management Division
	From: Williams, Garry [mailto:gwilliams@mt.gov] **Sent:** Friday, March 05, 2010 12:41 PM **To:** Key, Jeffrey **Cc:** Axline, Lisa **Subject:** RE: Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study - Resource Agency Meeting Thanks for the information Jeff. The reason I did not receive the information is likely because it was sent to the Department address as opposed to my address at 8001 N. Montana Avenue, 59602. I will be unable to attend the planning meeting on March 16, 2010 due to prior commitments.

Comment Received	Comment
	I reviewed the project information you sent and do not have any particular concerns related to the corridor project other than ensuring if the river crossing location is changed, DOT submits an easement application to DNRC for the new location. As you are likely aware the river bottom of the Missouri River is claimed as state ownership and consequently any permanent crossing would require an easement from the Board of Land Commissioners. On a project such as this, we typically would defer to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to identify any resource issues such as, impacts to fisheries, wildlife or water quality which may be related to various river crossing alternatives. There does not appear to be any other State Trust Lands within the project area other than the river bottom. Please keep me informed of the status of the project as it develops. I will continue to monitor the project and if concerns regarding state Trust Lands Develop I will let you know.
February 28, 2010 2:34 PM	-----Original Message----- From: Tom Helm [mailto:skbat@mt.net] Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2010 2:34 PM To: Key, Jeffrey Subject: Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Hello, Jeff! Greetings from Toston! My family lives on Lombard Rd. about 1 1/4 miles from the highway 287. We basically use the exit/entrance onto the highway that is north of the river as most of our travels are to Townsend or Helena. It is a danger and a worry to parents of young drivers, children riding the bus, and for any of us who need to enter or leave the highway. We are asking for you to consider turning lanes or at least the left turning lane for those heading south who leave the highway before the bridge so that they may get onto Lombard Rd. Truckers and other drivers can sometimes be going quite fast as they come down the north side of the bridge which makes it hard to judge their speed and decide if it's safe to pull on before them when turning right as you head north. Even more difficult is the timing required to make a left turn off the highway when driving south and into Toston. Many drivers are very rude and unsafe. They are driving too closely behind you and pressuring you to go fast when you should be slowing down. They speed around when you need to slow down or stop to wait for traffic to make the left turn into Toston. Is there any chance you could include these improvements into the resurfacing that might be done soon on this section of highway? You may call us at home 266-5643 or come to Toston to visit more. Thank you. Have a great day! Alieda Stone 52 Lombard Rd. Toston, MT 59643

Comment Received	Comment
February 25, 2010 7:48 AM	-----Original Message----- From: www@mdt.mt.gov [mailto:www@mdt.mt.gov] Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2010 7:48 AM To: MDT Comments - Project Subject: Comment on a Project Submitted A question, comment or request has been submitted via the "Contact Us" web page. Action Item: Comment on a Project Submitted: 02/25/2010 07:48:20 Project Commenting On: TostonMissouriRiverStudy Name: Herb Argabright Email Address: argabright@wildblue.net Phone Number: 266-4610 Comment or Question: In general 4 lanes are needed with special attention to access to state and county roads at each end. Turn lanes both ways are needed for deceleration and acceleration, especially at SR285 crossing.

Comment Received	Comment
February 23, 2010	

HELENA MT 505
1 PM
23 FEB
2010

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 1

February 16, 2010

Comment Sheet

Public comments are an important component to this project! You are invited to give us your comments, concerns and/or suggestions by email and/or in writing on the attached form. The filled out form may be left at this meeting or mailed to the address below. Additionally, you may email your comments to CDM's project manager, Jeff Key, at keyja@cdm.com.

CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

The exit & entrance to hiway 287 at m.m. 87.8 is very dangerous. My Family uses this exit 2-12 times per day on our travels to Townsend for school, work & related business.

Pulling on, you face being rear-ended by people speeding over the River & R.R. Crossing & pulling off into Toston you face being rear ended by south bound traffic as you slow down (sometimes to a stop if there is oncoming north bound traffic) to exit.

Could turning lanes into Toston be installed to help this SAFTY issue until the bigger problem of the River & R.R. Crossing are addressed? - Maybe even incorporated into the resurface job in 2011?

Name: Tom Helm
Address: 52 Lombard Rd.
Toston MT
Email:
406-266-5643
439-5643

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment
February 23, 2010 (Continued)	

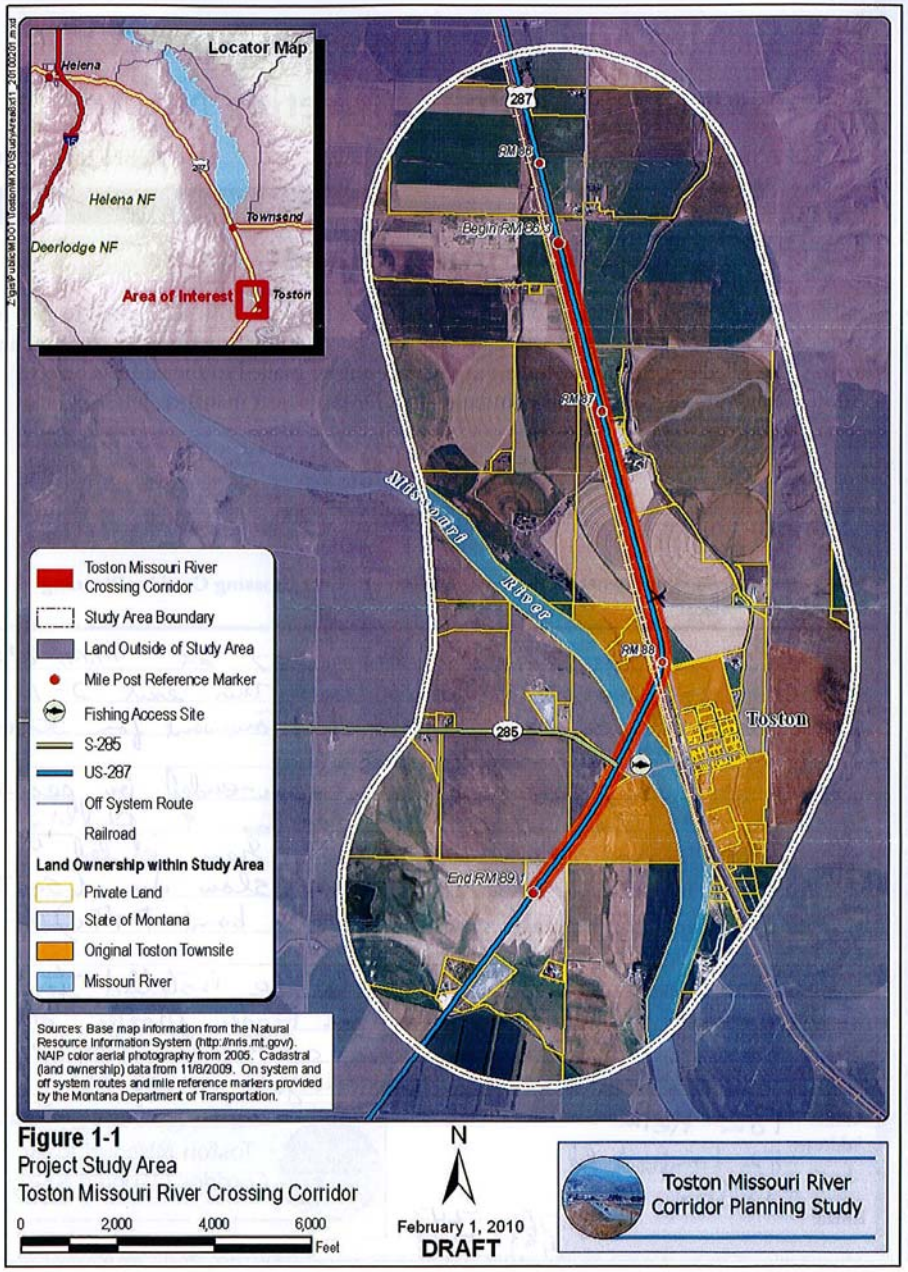


Figure 1-1
Project Study Area
Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

Comment Received	Comment
February 23, 2010 (Continued)	

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 1

February 16, 2010

Comment Sheet

Public comments are an important component to this project! You are invited to give us your comments, concerns and/or suggestions by email and/or in writing on the attached form. The filled out form may be left at this meeting or mailed to the address below. Additionally, you may email your comments to CDM's project manager, Jeff Key, at keyja@cdm.com.

CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

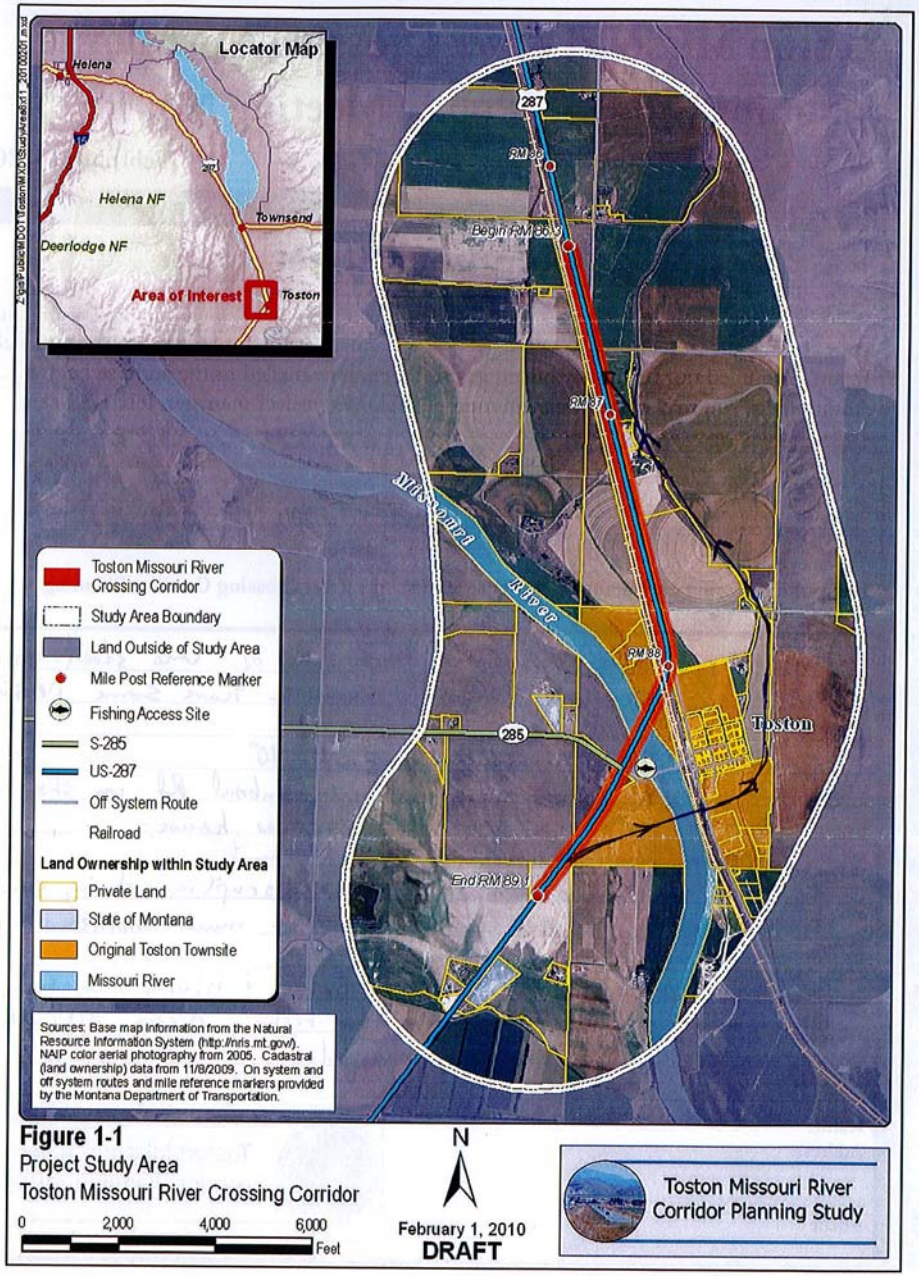
Has the route on the back side of this sheet been looked at? At first look it seems to have some positive points:

1. Crosses Missouri River at 90°
2. Crosses Missouri River, RR. & Lombard Rd in short area
3. does not go through anyones house -
4. goes through mostly Bare ground.
5. Allows for minimal Traffic disruption during Construction
6. river & RR. crossing Appear to be much smaller Footprint
7. less Flood plain encroachment
8. would Allow For existing Bridge & hiway to become a by-pass For Toston - existing Fishing Access, Approaches, etc. could remain unchanged.

Name:
Address:

Email:

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment
	

Comment Received	Comment
February 19, 2010 3:45 PM	**From:** Brian Obert [mailto:bobert@mbac.biz] **Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2010 3:45 PM **To:** Key, Jeffrey **Cc:** Ebert, Jeff **Subject:** Toston Bridge Corridor Study Both Jeff's I wanted to thank both of you for coming to Townsend to kick off the Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study. I think we all expected you to receive some grief from a few people in the audience. We all hope that they have aired their beliefs, but now we can all move on with this planning opportunity. I would like to re-assure you that as a board member of both the Townsend Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Broadwater County Development Corporation (BCDC), both of these local organizations very much want Hwy 287 to stay on the side of the Missouri River that it sits on right now. We definitely do ***not*** want to see you by-pass the City of Townsend. As for my concerns for the Toston/Missouri River Crossing, safety and access to: Toston, Radersburg and the Bunkhouse/Firehall are of greatest interest. It may have come across as a joke, but the Bunkhouse is a very important community center for that area. It is the collecting point for many people in this rural region. Unfortunately its location is very close to the bridge. If I can make some suggestions, the configuration of the road to Toston and the Radersburg road will be most important. Both currently are dangerous. The people want them to be dramatically improved, but at the same time they don't want them to change. This is not possible, but that is what they are going to ask for. The locals are more interested in cost and safety. They will be very offended if the costs look extreme. They are more interested in function. Worry about wetlands, or wildlife will come a very distant second to function for the Toston locals. They will ask for a straight-flat 40' wide bridge with turn lanes at both ends. Make it easy to get to Toston, Radersburg and the Bunkhouse, and do it cheap. They will be very happy. The Radersburg road has seen several significant accidents right at the Bunkhouse. I thought it had something to do with the patrons that frequent the Bunkhouse. But I have changed my outlook after I recently nearly ran that same stop sign. Even with the rumble strips on Hwy 285, optically something is misleading at that intersection. We do have a significant amount of farming traffic in that area, with equipment, trucks, etc.. But we also have a large group of people coming out of Gallatin County that use Canyon Ferry Lake. Many dread the stretch from the Bunkhouse to Townsend. Unfortunately this is affecting the local economy. I just spoke with a resident of the Rolling Glen area, whom I have been assisting to find a job. She was interested in a job in Helena, but declined the job offer because the drive was too dangerous. The Townsend South project will significantly improve this stretch when it is completed, but the bridge is still a significant worry. 2 Thank you again for providing the Corridor Planning Study. I hope we can *Brian Obert* Gateway Economic Development District Montana Business Assistance Connection 406.266.4370 129 So. Spruce Street Townsend, MT 59644

Comment Received	Comment
February 16, 2010	

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 1

February 16, 2010

Comment Sheet

Public comments are an important component to this project! You are invited to give us your comments, concerns and/or suggestions by email and/or in writing on the attached form. The filled out form may be left at this meeting or mailed to the address below. Additionally, you may email your comments to CDM's project manager, Jeff Key, at keyja@cdm.com.

CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

See Attached Exhibit A
See Back of his Sheet
Rail Road overpass I Believe
There are 2 Rail Lines Need to be
clear span for 4 Rail Line - one Tied
to Rail Sidings Needed

(406-266-5793) (Cel 9490208)

Name: Leonard Lambott
Address: 8715 US Hwy 287
Toston, MT, 59643

Email: llambott@mt.net

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Comment Received	Comment
February 16, 2010 (continued)	

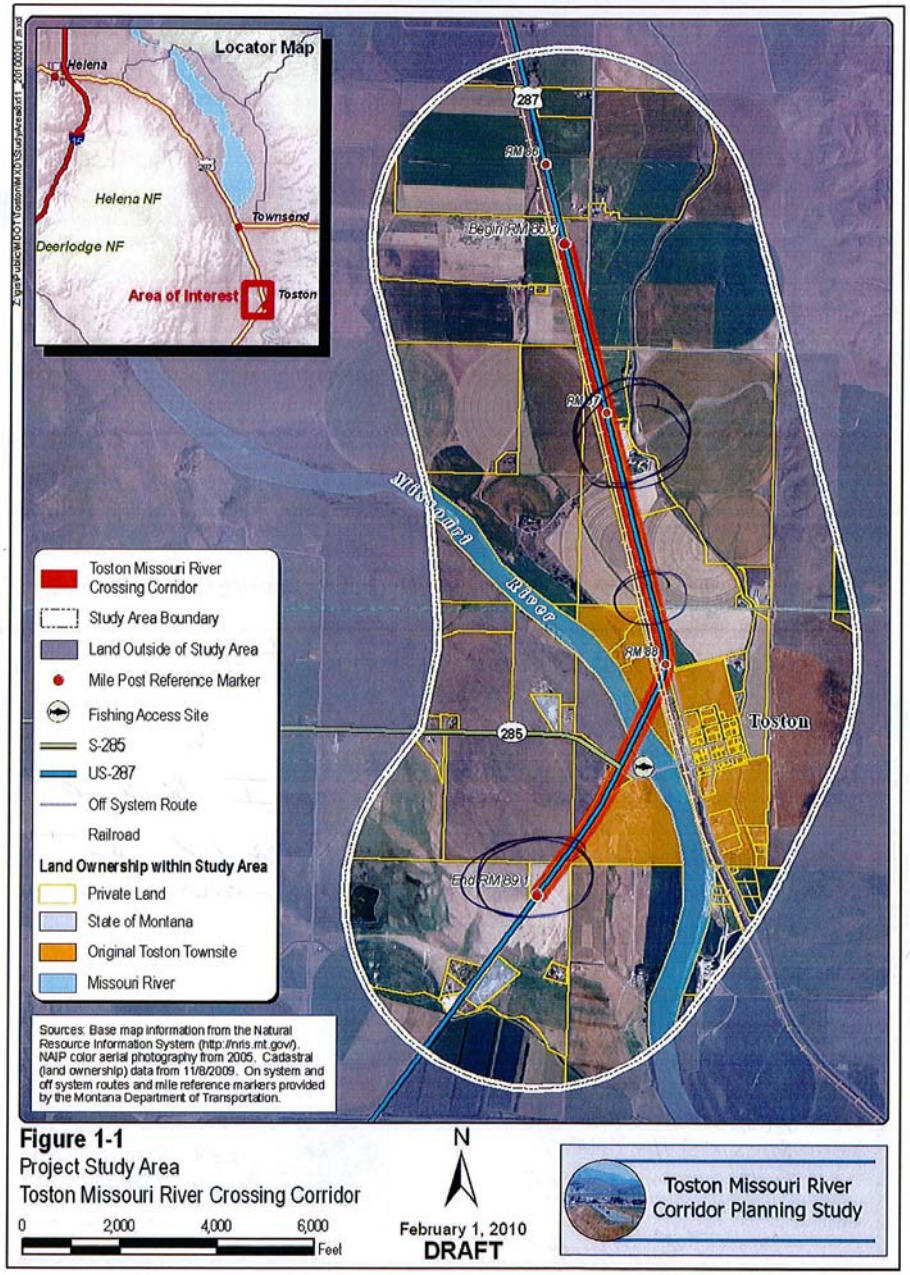
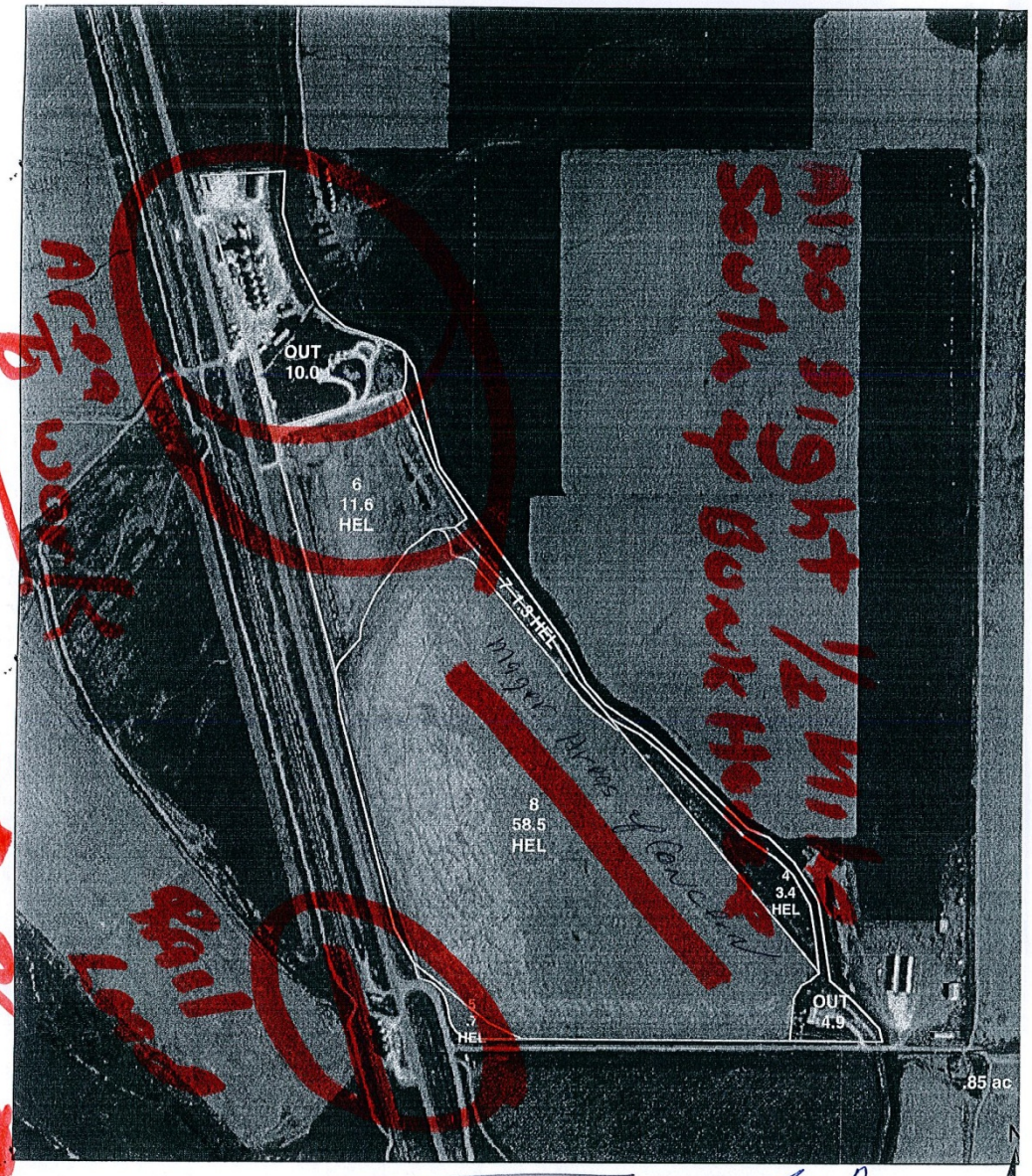


Figure 1-1
Project Study Area
Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

Comment Received	Comment
February 16, 2010 (continued)	

Date: July 17,2006

Farm: 1419

Tract: 3575

Sec 14 Twnshp 5N Range 27

BROADWATER COUNTY

Missouri River Grain
Leonard Lambert
8715 US Hwy 287
Townsend, MT 59644
(406) 949-0208 cell

USDA
Farm Service Agency

This map is for USDA-FSA Program administration only. There is no guarantee or representation as to the accuracy, currency, suitability or reliability for any other purpose. The user accepts the data "As Is" and assumes all risks associated with its use.

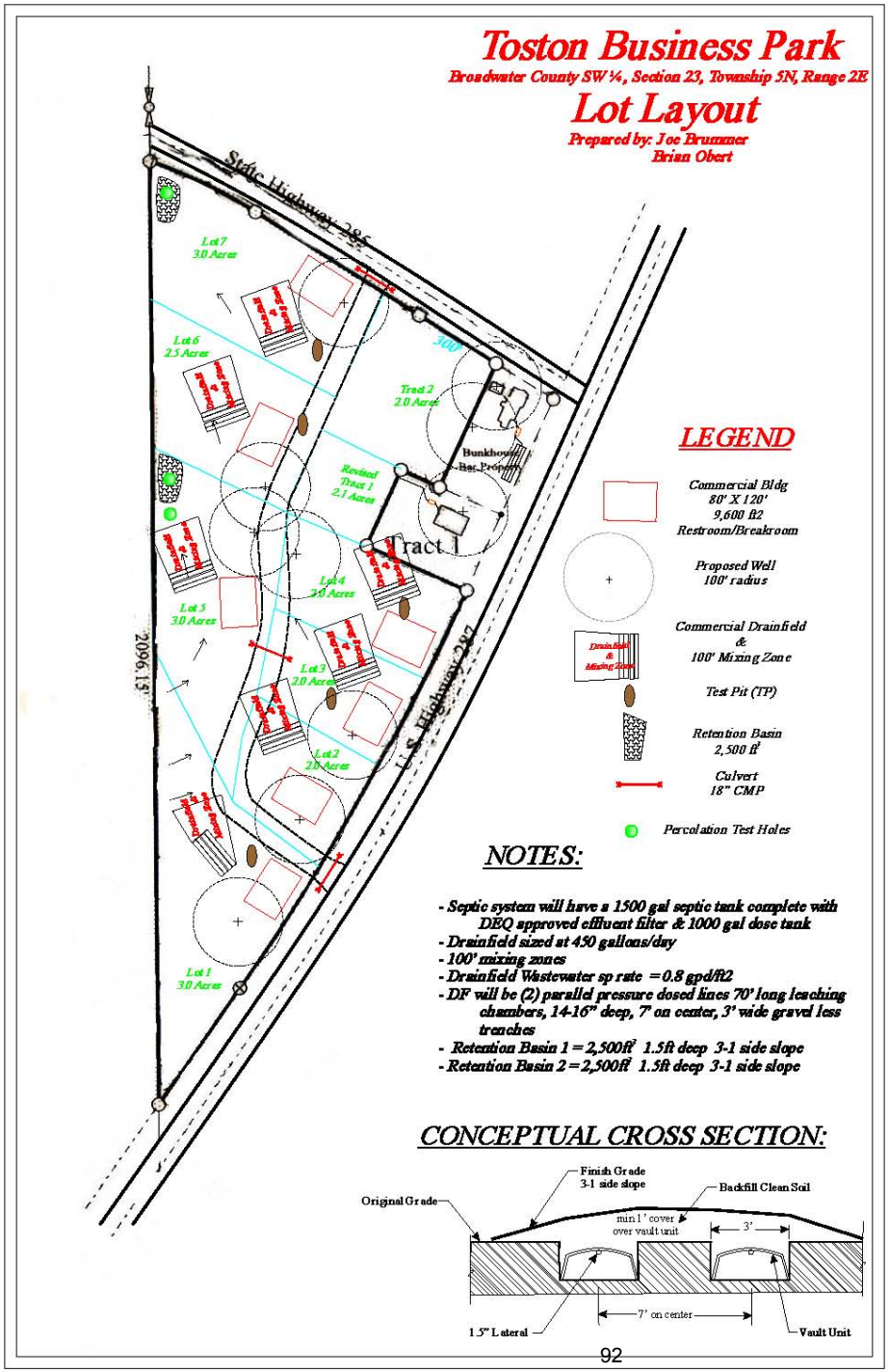
Ex A

Comment Received	Comment
February 03, 2010 12:09 PM	**From:** michael koehnke [mailto:michaelkoehnke@yahoo.com] **Sent:** Wednesday, February 03, 2010 12:09 PM **To:** Key, Jeffrey **Subject:** Toston corridor planning study Jay, Please add me to your email list for updates on the Toston Corridor Planning Study. Thanks. ***A colossal wildfire maybe coming soon to an area near you! Are you ready?*** **Mike Koehnke** **P.O. Box 506** **Townsend, MT 59644-0506** **(406) 949-3522**
January 29, 2010 3:32 PM	**From:** JAMES W WUBBENA [mailto:jwub1@verizon.net] **Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2010 3:32 PM **To:** Key, Jeffrey **Subject:** Our recent Project Mailing List memo to you! Jeff: I note that I omitted the words "and with" from the critical location sentence, and it should read,"we own the property bordering and with US 287 on the East, Montana 285 on the South, and the Missouri River on the North." Sorry to bother you again! Jim Wubbena

Comment Received	Comment
January 29, 2010 3:11 PM	**From:** JAMES W WUBBENA [mailto:jwub1@verizon.net] **Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2010 3:11 PM **To:** Key, Jeffrey **Subject:** Project Mailing List Jeff Key: Received in the mail today the proposed discussion on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor which encouraged us to join the Project Mailing List. Our name and contact information is: Wubbena Family Trust, Ruth L. Wubbena and James W. Wubbena trustees 4212 Oak Grove Drive Carrollton, Texas 75010 We own the property bordering on US 287 on the East, Montana 285 on the South, the Missouri River on the North. We are most interested in anything affecting that corridor and our property. Ruth and Jim Wubbena

Comment Received	Comment
January 28, 2010 1:53 PM	**From:** Nancy Marks [mailto:mtskydog@mt.net] **Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2010 1:53 PM **To:** Key, Jeffrey **Subject:** Hwy 287 Overpass at Toston, MT Dear Sirs: I own property near the overpass at Toston. Could you please put me on your mailing list for meeting dates and update or revisions to plans? Thank you, Nancy Marks 3597 Hwy 284, Townsend 59644 (406) 266-3710
December 23, 2009 12:03 PM	**From:** Brian Obert [mailto:bobert@mbac.biz] **Sent:** Wednesday, December 23, 2009 12:03 PM **To:** Strizich, Carol **Cc:** Gail Vennes ; Terry Myhre; Bukvich, Robert **Subject:** Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study Hello Carol Gail Vennes informed me that MDOT is creating a Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study. Our Non Profit Economic Development group MBAC/Gateway is the Certified Regional Development Corp (CRDC) in Broadwater County. In previous years, we teamed with the Broadwater County Commissioners and received property adjacent to the Bunkhouse Bar, from Broadwater County with the intent to attract Commercial Business to this 21 acre tract. We are hoping to be added to the Stakeholders contact list for this Planning Study. Changes to the alignment and access to Hwy 287 will effect the scope and accessibility of commercial interests in this location. I have attached a letter requesting to be added to the Stakeholder list, and preliminary layout of the Toston Business Park, and an economic study that we preformed a while back. Thank you. *Brian Obert* Gateway Economic Development District Montana Business Assistance Connection 406.266.4370 129 So. Spruce Street Townsend, MT 59644

Comment Received	Comment
December 23, 2009 12:03 PM (Continued)	



Comment Received	Comment
December 23, 2009 12:03 PM (Continued)	

GATEWAY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

December 22, 2009

Carol Strizich
Montana Department of Transportation
Transportation Planning
2701 Prospect Avenue
PO Box 201001
Helena MT 59620-1001

Dear Mrs. Strizich

Gateway Economic Development District (GEDD) and Montana Business Assistance Connection (MBAC) are pleased to hear that Montana DOT is creating a Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study. MBAC/Gateway in conjunction with Broadwater County own property that abuts Hwy 287 south of the Toston Fire Station. We have been reviewing many possible commercial uses of this property that best utilize this 21 acre tract of land. MBAC/Gateway has made plans to subdivide this parcel into 7 commercial lots to be used to spur small business growth in this region of the County.

Access and safety are of utmost concern to our potential new customers, as well as the existing business (Bunkhouse Bar) and the Broadwater County Rural Fire Department. The physical location and approach of State Hwy 285 which services Radersburg as well as much of Crow Creek Valley, on the south end of the Toston Bridge adds greatly to the complexity of the location. Physical access to the Town of Toston on the north end of the Bridge is of vital interest for the residents as well as services that are located on Lombard road going south of Toston.

Direct access to Hwy 287 and easy connection to I-90 are the most attractive assets that our acreage has for potential business redevelopment. These assets can either be enhanced or substantially eroded by the proposed design features of the replacement bridge. We hope that MBAC/Gateway can be included in the Stakeholders contact list for this Planning Study, and that our concerns are kept in mind as this process continues.

Thank you.
Sincerely

Brian K. Obert

Brian Obert
Gateway Economic Development District
Montana Business Assistance Connection
406.266.4370
129 South Spruce Street
Townsend, MT 59644

Comment Received	Comment

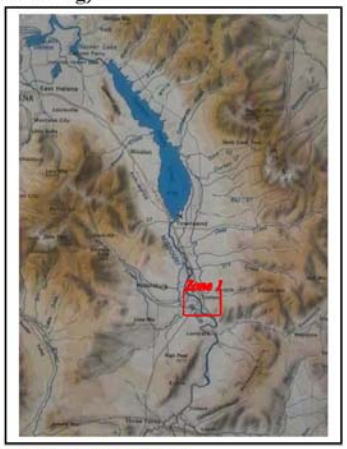
GATEWAY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Toston Business Park

Site Summary

- **21 shovel ready acres** This site is for sale at a set price. ($10,000/acre) The site can be ready for development within six months for an interested client. The community and utility providers have plans and funding in place to insure that industrial zoning, basic infrastructure and transportation capacity will be in place within that timeframe. Preliminary environmental issues have been identified.
- **Configuration** Flat alluvial plane in a triangular shape that is dividable into 4-5 Commercial sites ranging from 2.5-6.5 acres
- **Adjacent uses**: Agriculture / Recreation, Fire Station on site.
- **Existing buildings:** none
- **Height restrictions:** none
- **Zoned Light Commercial**
- **21 miles to I-90**
- **40 miles I-15**
- **1,330 feet of Hwy 287 road frontage**
- **880 feet of Hwy 285 road frontage**
- **3,530 Daily cars pass-by Hwy 287**
- **Rural Fire Station on Site**
- **850 feet to Missouri River Fishing access**
- **4 miles to Toston Dam Boat Launch (fishing, water skiing)**



Satellite Image: http://www.wikimapia.org/#y=46170990&x=-111449647&z=16&l=0&m=a

For more information, contact:
Montana Business Assistance Connection, 406-447-1510 http://www.mbac.biz
County of Broadwater: Contact Jim Hohn, 406-980-2050 http://www.townsendvalley.com

Comment Received	Comment

SITE DETAILS:
Configuration:
Flat alluvial plane in a triangular shape that is dividable into 4-5 Commercial sites ranging from 2.5-6.5 acres
Adjacent uses: Agriculture / Recreation, Fire Station on site.
Existing buildings: none
Height restrictions: none

TRANSPORTATION
Highway / Interstate Access:
1,330 feet of Hwy 287, frontage (3,530 cars daily)
20 miles to Interstate I-90 (South)
40 miles to Interstate I-15 (North)
See attached MT Dept of Transportation Info.

Airports:
Helena Regional Airport: 40 miles (Delta, Northwest, Alaska, Horizon, And Big Sky)
http://www.helenaairport.com/
Townsend General Aviation Airport: 12 miles.
Air Charter:
Exec Air (800.513.2190, 406.442.2190) http://www.execairmontana.com/index.htm
Research Air Inc, (406.585.3718)
Carisch Helicopters (406.586.4300)
Silver State Helicopters http://www.silverstatehelicopters.com/index.htm

Shipping:
Watkins Sheppard Trucking (800.824.0913) http://www.wksh.com/
Big Country Transport Brokerage, (406.266.4210)
MTS Freight (terminal 40 miles) (406.442.4356) http://www.mtsfreight.com/
USF Reddaway (terminal 20 miles) (406.285.3221) http://www.usfc.com/ltl/home/reddaway.jsp
MidWest Motor Express (terminal 40 miles) (406.442.6055) http://www.mmeinc.com/
J&S Transport (terminal 40 miles) (406.458.1912)
Mergenthaler Transfer & Storage (800.826.5463) (406.442.9470)
http://www.mergenthaler.net/company_history.htm

Rail:
Rail site available East of Property in Toston – Montana Rail Link (MRL) (406.523.1400)
http://www.montanarail.com/properties/industrial.htm

UTILITIES
Sewer service: Provided by on-site commercial septic system. (Med/Big Gravel & Crs Sand)
Water service: Provided by on-site water well. (averages 75', 30-50 gallons per minute)
Power: Provided by Vigilante Electric Electrical Co-op. (800.221.8271) (406.266.5587)
3-phase power line located in NE corner of property. http://www.vec.coop/
Vigilante Electric substation located 1 mile away in Toston.
Gas: Provided by AmeriGas. (406.266.3815) http://amerigas.com/commercial.html
Telecommunications: Phone provided by Qwest. (800.603.6000)
Internet provided by Montana Internet Corporation 2Mbps. (406.443.3347) http://www.mt.net/

Comment Received	Comment

ENVIRONMENTAL

Site Characteristics:

Site is level with exceptional Highway 287 visibility. Soil type provides adequate top soil with extensive levels of gravel providing rapid drainage.

Physical Environment:

1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (e.g., soil lump, steep slopes, subsidence, seismic activity)
   a. Level well drained agricultural property

2. Hazardous Facilities (e.g., power lines, hazardous waste sites, acceptable distance from explosive and flammable hazards including chemical/petrochemical storage tanks, underground fuel storage tanks, and related facilities such as natural gas storage facilities & propane storage tanks)
   a. 3 phase rural power at North corner of lot, fire station on site, no petrol tanks.
   b. Temporary gravel pit across Hwy 287.

3. Groundwater Resources & Aquifers (e.g., quantity, quality, distribution, depth to groundwater, sole source aquifers)
   a. Existing well **GWIC Id: 16737** http://mbmggwic.mtech.edu/
   b. 46.1708N 111.4485E
   c. Total Depth: 73, 30-50 gallons/min MED/BIG GRAVEL AND CRS SAND

4. Surface Water/Water Quality, Quantity & Distribution (e.g., streams, lakes, storm runoff, irrigation systems, canals)
   a. No surface water present

5. Floodplains & Floodplain Management
   a. Not in 100 year flood plain

6. Wetlands Protection
   a. No Wetlands

7. Agricultural Lands, Production, & Farmland Protection (e.g. grazing, forestry, cropland, prime or unique agricultural lands)
   a. Grazing property

8. Vegetation & Wildlife Species & Habitats, Including Fish (e.g., terrestrial, avian and aquatic life and habitats)
   a. Native grasses, crested wheat, with gophers, rodents, etc

9. Unique, Endangered, Fragile, or Limited Environmental Resources, including Endangered Species (e.g., plants, fish or wildlife)
   a. None exist

10. Unique Natural Features (e.g., geologic features)
    a. No unique feature

Comment Received	Comment
	11. Access to, and Quality of, Recreational & Wilderness Activities, Public Lands arid Waterways, and Public Open Space a. Missouri River fishing access - 850' from property i. Satellite Image: http://www.wikimapia.org/#y=46171785&x=-111444980&z=17&l=0&m=a b. Toston Dam Boat Launch - 2 miles (fishing, water skiing) i. Satellite Image: http://www.wikimapia.org/#y=46122057&x=-111409789&z=17&l=0&m=a c. Toston Dam / Missouri River Boat Launch – 1.8 miles i. Satellite Image: http://www.wikimapia.org/#y=46121589&x=-111398556&z=17&l=0&m=a d. York's Island Campground – 4 miles (boat ramp, 12 camping sites) i. Satellite Image: http://www.wikimapia.org/#y=46266054&x=-111492584&z=16&l=0&m=a e. Radersburg ORV designated area – 10 miles (400 acres of open riding area) i. SatelliteImage:http://www.wikimapia.org/#y=46191908&x=-111646296&z=17&l=0&m=a&v=2 f. Crow Creek Campground – 25 miles (good creek fishing, Crow Creek Falls hike) i. Satellite Image: http://www.wikimapia.org/#y=46301829&x=-111735946&z=16&l=0&m=a&v=2 g. Canyon Ferry Reservoir – 20 miles (fishing, boating, sailing, kit sailing) i. Satellite Image: http://www.wikimapia.org/#y=46413223&x=-111573318&z=16&l=0&m=a&v=2 12. Visual Quality - Coherence, Diversity, Compatibility of Use and Scale, Aesthetics of surrounding area a. Commercial area, Bar Restaurant, Potato Storage Facilities, Grain Bins 13. Nuisances (e.g. glare, fumes) a. None exist 14. Noise – suitable separation between housing & other noise sensitive activities and major noise sources (aircraft, highways & railroads,) a. Next to Hwy 287, residents, Toston Community, substantial distance away 15. Historic Properties, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources a. No historic significance, or archaeological remains (tilled for ag in past) 4 December 2007

Comment Received	Comment

Demography and Economy:
Changes in Demographic (population) Characteristics (quantity, distribution, density)
The population base of Broadwater County is 4,517 (2005 U.S. Census Bureau) and City of Townsend are 1,950 respectively. Table 1 shows the Broadwater County Socio-Economic situation as compared to Lewis and Clark and Meagher Counties. These counties comprise the Gateway service area.

Table 1. Service Area Socio-Economic Snapshot (Sources: Census 2000, CEIC 2005, 2005 ; BLS 2006)

	Broadwater	*Lewis and Clark*	*Meagher*
Area (sq mi)	1,191	3,461	2,392
Estimated County Population 2005	4,517	58,449	1,999
2000- 2005 Est. County Pop Growth	3.0%	4.9%	3.5%
1990 – 2000 Pop growth %	32%	17%	6%
Proj Population 2015	5,431	68,792	
Pop Density (people/sq mi)	3.68	16.10	0.80
% Pop in Incorporated Areas	43%	50%	51%
% Pop with Bachelors Degree or Higher	15.6%	32.3%	20%
% of Pop over age 45	43.8%	39.8%	46.2%
Estimated Labor Force 2005*	2,657	30,348	929
Total # Private Biz Estabs 2004	484	6,876	173
Non Employing Estabs 2004	377	4,815	104
Employing Estabs 2004	107	2,061	69
5 Year Growth in Total # of Private Biz Est	71	727	(54)
5 Year Growth in # of Non Employing Est	76	578	8
5 Year Growth in # of Employing Est	(5)	149	(62)
5 Year growth in Employment **	20 (2%)	2,352 (9.6%)	(52) (-12%)
Unemployment Rate (2005)	3.7%	3.6%	4.2%
Average Wage Per Job (2004)	$23,099	$26,657	$19,302
Average Proprietor Receipts (2004)	$39,072	$39,238	$45,615
Per Capita Income (2005)	$22,782	$29,721	$23,810
PCI as a % of National PCI	66%	89%	66%
% of Labor Force Working Out of County	35%	10%	18%
% of Labor Force Working in Lewis and Clark County	20%	90%	2%
Banks & Credit Unions	2	16	1

* Estimated Labor force is the number of people between ages 20 and 65.
** Net employment growth = #of employees plus # of non-employing establishments. Assume a non-employing establishment is a sole proprietor.

Broadwater County has experienced considerable population growth over the past 15 years. During this time, the population has increased by one third. In percentage terms, it has been the fastest growing County in the MBAC service area. The population is projected to grow an additional 20% over the next decade. Regardless, Broadwater County has a small labor force and low unemployment rate. In addition, more than one third of the labor force works outside of the County, with 20% of the total labor force working in Lewis and Clark County.

Table 2 provides greater detail on the Broadwater County population. This information is important for business and economic development because it shows the size and composition of the labor market in the county.

Comment Received	Comment

Table 2: Broadwater County Population Detail

Broadwater County	Census 00	2005 Est	Y2010	Y2015	Y2020
Population 19 and under	1,180	987	1,092	1,183	1,380
Population 20 through 39	890	858	1,170	1,271	1,371
Population 40 through 64	1,580	1,799	1,862	1,852	1,738
Population 65 +	721	873	946	1,125	1,323
Broadwater Total	4,371	4,517	5,070	5,431	5,812
Population 19 and under	26.9%	21.9%	21.5%	21.8%	23.8%
Population 20 through 39	20.3%	19.0%	23.1%	23.4%	23.6%
Population 40 through 64	36.0%	39.8%	36.7%	34.1%	29.9%
Population 65 +	16.4%	19.3%	18.7%	20.7%	22.8%
Workforce (20-65)	2,470	2,657	3,032	3,123	3,108
Workforce (20-65)	56.5%	58.8%	59.8%	57.5%	53.5%
Growth Rates Total Pop		3.34%	12.24%	7.13%	7.00%
Growth Rates Pop 19 and Under		-16.36%	10.63%	8.36%	16.67%
Growth Rates Pop 20 Through 39		-3.60%	36.36%	8.60%	7.90%
Growth Rate 40 - 64		13.86%	3.51%	-0.52%	-6.19%
Growth Rate 65+		21.08%	8.33%	18.96%	17.56%
Growth Rates Pop Under 5		-38.8%	0.0%	5.2%	-0.1%

The data projects the labor force participation rate is expected to decline over the coming 10 years. Labor force quantity and quality may be problematic for Broadwater County businesses seeking to expand as well as businesses seeking to relocate to the County. This situation can be resolved with a combination of payment of higher wages (at least equal to similar employment position in surrounding counties) and workforce training programs. Higher wages may draw labor into the County and/or keep residents from leaving the County for higher paying jobs. Workforce development may better prepare the existing labor supply for planned business expansion.

Local Employment & Income Patterns Quantity and Distribution of Employment, Economic Impact

This report used data from County Business Patterns (Census) to identify industry and employment developments in the period 1998 through 2004. The data was analyzed to investigate what industries in Broadwater County grew and declined, what industries had job creation and losses, and what industries paid high and low wages.

In summary, the review of Broadwater County demography and Industry and Employment trends during the period 1998 -2004 demonstrates:

- Total employment growth (includes employing and non-employing businesses) of 2% was insignificant
  - Employing businesses had a net decrease of employees on payroll
    - Employment loss was significant in manufacturing and construction businesses
    - Employment growth was significant in wholesale, retail, transportation and warehousing, and professional, scientific and technical businesses
  - There was a significant net increase in the number of non-employing businesses
    - New business/employment growth was significant in construction, manufacturing, and real estate businesses

Comment Received	Comment

- Average wage growth was equal in non-employing and employing businesses
  - Nominal average proprietor receipts grew 16%
  - Nominal average wage in employing businesses grew 18%
  - On average, the self employed earn almost 1.7 times those working for others
  - Proprietor receipts almost doubled for non-employing (self employed) businesses in construction and manufacturing industries
- One third of the labor force works outside of the County
  - Average wage per job in Lewis and Clark and Gallatin Counties are almost 10% higher for employees
  - Broadwater County has low unemployment – lower than State rate

1. General Housing Conditions – Quality, Quantity, Affordability
   a. Currently diverse from low entry level, to above average
   b. Survey of County Realtors/MLS finds:
      i. Average Price of Residential Home $163,200
      ii. Median Price of Residential Home $149,900

2. Local & State Tax Base & Revenues
   a. Broadwater County at below state average
      i. See attached Tax info

Public Safety

1. Health Care – Medical Services
   a. Broadwater Health Service http://www.hospital-data.com/hospitals/BROADWATER-HEALTH-CENTER-TOWNSEND.html

2. Public Safety – Police
   a. Provided by Broadwater County

3. Fire Protection – Hazards
   a. Rural Firehouse on site
   b. Satellite Image: http://www.wikimapia.org/#y=46171079&x=-111448349&z=17&l=0&m=a&v=2

4. Emergency Medical Services
   a. Broadwater EMS services
   b. Broadwater Health Services
   c. Satellite Image: http://www.wikimapia.org/#y=46321764&x=-111516209&z=17&l=0&m=h&v=2

Comment Received	Comment

Social, Cultural, and Recreation Development:

1. Educational Facilities – Schools, Colleges, Universities
    a. Townsend – Elementary/High School http://www.greatschools.net/modperl/browse_school/mt/168
    b. Helena - College of Technology http://www.umhelena.edu/FriendsVisitors/AboutUMHelena/ProgramOfferings/tabid/398/Default.aspx
    c. Helena - Carroll College http://www.carroll.edu/academics/majors.cc
    d. Bozeman – Montana State University http://www.montana.edu/

2. Social Services – Governmental Services (e.g. demand on)

3. Parks, Playgrounds, & Open Space
    1. Yellowstone National Park – 140 miles (2.5 hrs)
        a. Satellite Image: http://www.wikimapia.org/#y=44658519&x=-111096239&z=14&l=0&m=h&v=2
    2. Glacier National Park – 230 miles (3.5 hrs)
        a. Satellite Image: http://www.wikimapia.org/#y=48442412&x=-113216858&z=12&l=0&m=h&v=2
    3. Missouri River fishing access - 850' from property
        a. Satellite Image: http://www.wikimapia.org/#y=46171785&x=-111444980&z=17&l=0&m=a
    4. Toston Dam Boat Launch - 2 miles (fishing, water skiing)
        a. Satellite Image: http://www.wikimapia.org/#y=46122057&x=-111409789&z=17&l=0&m=a
    5. Toston Dam / Missouri River Boat Launch – 1.8 miles
        a. Satellite Image: http://www.wikimapia.org/#y=46121589&x=-111398556&z=17&l=0&m=a
    6. York's Island Campground – 4 miles (boat ramp, 12 camping sites)
        a. Satellite Image: http://www.wikimapia.org/#y=46266054&x=-111492584&z=16&l=0&m=a
    7. Radersburg ORV designated area – 10 miles (400 acres of open riding area)
        a. Satellite Image:http://www.wikimapia.org/#y=46191908&x=-111646296&z=17&l=0&m=a&v=2
    8. Crow Creek Campground – 25 miles (good creek fishing, Crow Creek Falls hike)
        a. Satellite Image: http://www.wikimapia.org/#y=46301829&x=-111735946&z=16&l=0&m=a&v=2
    9. Canyon Ferry Reservoir – 20 miles (fishing, boating, sailing, kit sailing)
        a. Satellite Image: http://www.wikimapia.org/#y=46413223&x=-111573318&z=16&l=0&m=a&v=2

January 31, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information:
Lori Ryan, Public Information, MDT, (406) 444-6821

MDT will hold final informational meeting to discuss the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study

Toston - The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is holding the final informational meeting on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study on Thursday, February 10, 2011, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Townsend High School Community Room, 201 North Spruce Street, Townsend, MT. The purpose of the meeting is to present the Draft Study, answer questions, and solicit input from the public.

Public input is a very important part of the process, and attendance is welcomed and encouraged. Comments may be submitted at the toll free comment line (1-800-714-7296), in writing at the meeting, or by mail to Carol Strizich, Project Manager, MDT Statewide and Urban Planning, (406) 444-9240, 2960 Prospect Avenue, Helena, MT. 59620. Please indicate comments are for the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study.

MDT initiated the corridor study along US 287 near Toston, Montana, to assess and identify improvement options for the 2.8-mile segment crossing the Missouri River (from reference marker 86.3 to reference marker 89.1). This segment is the remaining section of roadway between Toston and Three Forks without planned improvements. This corridor study is a planning study and not a design project. Improvement options, including realigning U.S. 287, were evaluated based on engineering and environmental data as well as public, stakeholders, and resource agencies input. Through screening and analysis two corridor "paths" are identified as potential locations for development of a new U.S. 287 alignment. Exact roadway configurations will be determined once funding is identified and a project moves forward with design activities.

The Public Draft of the Corridor Study will be made available on January 31, 2011, for review and comment. Copies of the Draft can be accessed via the study website at:
www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/toston. Hard copies will also be made available at the following locations:
* MDT Butte District Office - 3751 Wynne, Butte, MT
* MDT Statewide and Urban Planning Office - 2960 Prospect Ave, Helena, MT
* Townsend Public Library - 201 North Spruce Street, Townsend, MT
* Broadwater County Commission - 515 Broadway Street, Townsend, MT

MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person's participation in any service, program or activity of our department. If you require reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting, please call Jeff Key, CDM, (406) 444-1400 at least two days before the meeting. For the hearing impaired, the TTY number is (406) 444-7696 or 1-800-335-7592, or call Montana Relay at 711. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request
----------end---------
Project name: Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study
Broadwater County

MONTANA MDT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Informational Meeting

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study
Thursday, February 10, 2011 6:00 p.m.
Townsend High School - Community Room
201 N. Spruce St., Townsend, MT

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) invites the public to attend an informational meeting to discuss the pre-NEPA/MEPA Corridor Study along U.S. Hwy. 287 near Toston. The purpose of the meeting is to present the Draft Study, answer questions, and solicit input from the public.

The meeting is open to the public. MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person's participation in any department service, program or activity. For reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting, please contact Jeff Key at (406) 444-1400 at least two days before the meeting. For the hearing impaired, the TTY number is (406) 444-7696 or (800) 335-7592, or Montana Relay at 711. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request.

Comments may be submitted in writing at the meeting, by mail to Carol Strizich, Project Manager, MDT, P.O. Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620 or online at www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/comment_form.shtml Please indicate comments are for the Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study.

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 3

February 10, 2011

Sign-In Sheet

Name	Address	Email
Riley Phelps	717 N Davis	
Nancy Marks	#9 Shifka Lane/3597 Hwy 287	
Hugh Van Swearingen	PO Box 885 Townsend	
Cory Davis	150 Dry Creek Rd Townsend	
Mike Koehnke	PO Box 506 Townsend MT	
Laura Obert	PO Box 196 "	lauraobert@mt.net
Brian Obert	129 So. Spruce	bobert@mbrc.biz
Larry Wright	119 Broadway	B.gSkyE@qwestoffice.net
Kathy Wilcox	23 Lombard Road	kathybehhlz@aol.com
Rod Kitto	275 Hwy 285 Toston	
Chuck Nahan	7996 Hwy 287 Townsend	
Gail Vennes	8393 Hwy 287	gvennes@mtinet
Micki Vaccell	PO Box 13	
Howard Heasley	261 Hwy 437	
John Ferrat	168 Johnson Loop Tstn	
Brian Patrick	200 S. Cedar	
Clayton Rockwell	77 Hwy 285	Toston MT 59643
Tom Williams	48 Hwy 437	Toston MT 59643

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 3

February 10, 2011

Sign-In Sheet

Name	Address	Email
Bill Lane	Toston, MT.	
Marilyn Lane	Toston, MT.	
Neil O. Hazel	Toston, MT	
Wally J. Hazel	Toston, mt	
Angela Hazel	Toston, MT	
James Hazel	Toston, MT	
Gordon Brug	Toston, MT	
Florence Brug	Toston, MT	
Barb DeMarb	Toston	
Rick DeMarb	Toston	
Carol Strizik	MDT - Planning	
Andy Allen	MDT - Planning	
Rick Van Dyken	Toston	
HERB HEADBRIGHT	TOSTON	
Reba Johnson	Toston MT	
Franklin Sliska	Toston MT	
Bob & Linda Davis	Townsend, MT	
Leonard & Pam Lambert	Toston	
Bill Robinson	Townsend, MT	
Bob & Brenda HASEMAN	TOSTON MT	

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Welcome!

TOSTON MISSOURI RIVER CROSSING CORRIDOR PLANNING STUDY

Public Meeting

Thank you for coming!

Your input is greatly appreciated.

MONTANA MDT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CDM

TOSTON MISSOURI RIVER CROSSING CORRIDOR PLANNING STUDY

Looking northeast at Missouri River Bridge.

Looking northeast at Historic Toston Bridge.

Looking north at US Highway 287 and adjacent lands.

Looking east at railway, MRL Bridge, and adjacent lands.

Looking northwest at Montana Rail Link and adjacent lands.

Looking southeast at MRL Bridge and access road.

TOSTON MISSOURI RIVER CROSSING CORRIDOR PLANNING STUDY

Looking north at US Highway 287 (left) and Flynn Lane (right).

Looking west at US Highway 287, Montana Rail Link, and adjacent lands from Flynn Lane.

Looking north at Flynn Lane and adjacent lands.

Looking south at Flynn Lane (left) and US Highway 287 (right).

Looking northeast at Missouri River.

Looking northeast at MRL Bridge and Missouri River Bridge.

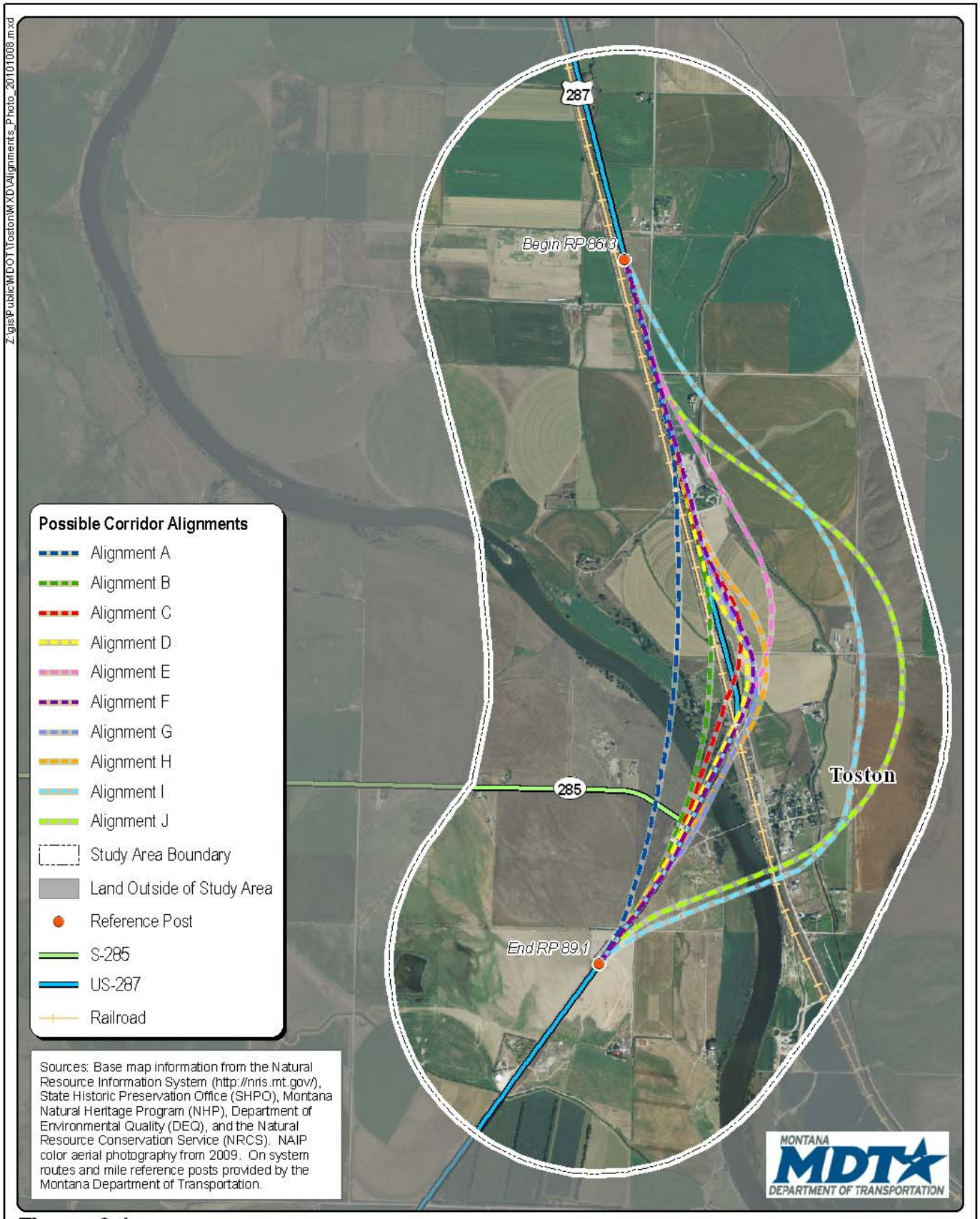


Figure 6-1

Possible Corridor Alignments (on Aerial Photo)

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

N

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

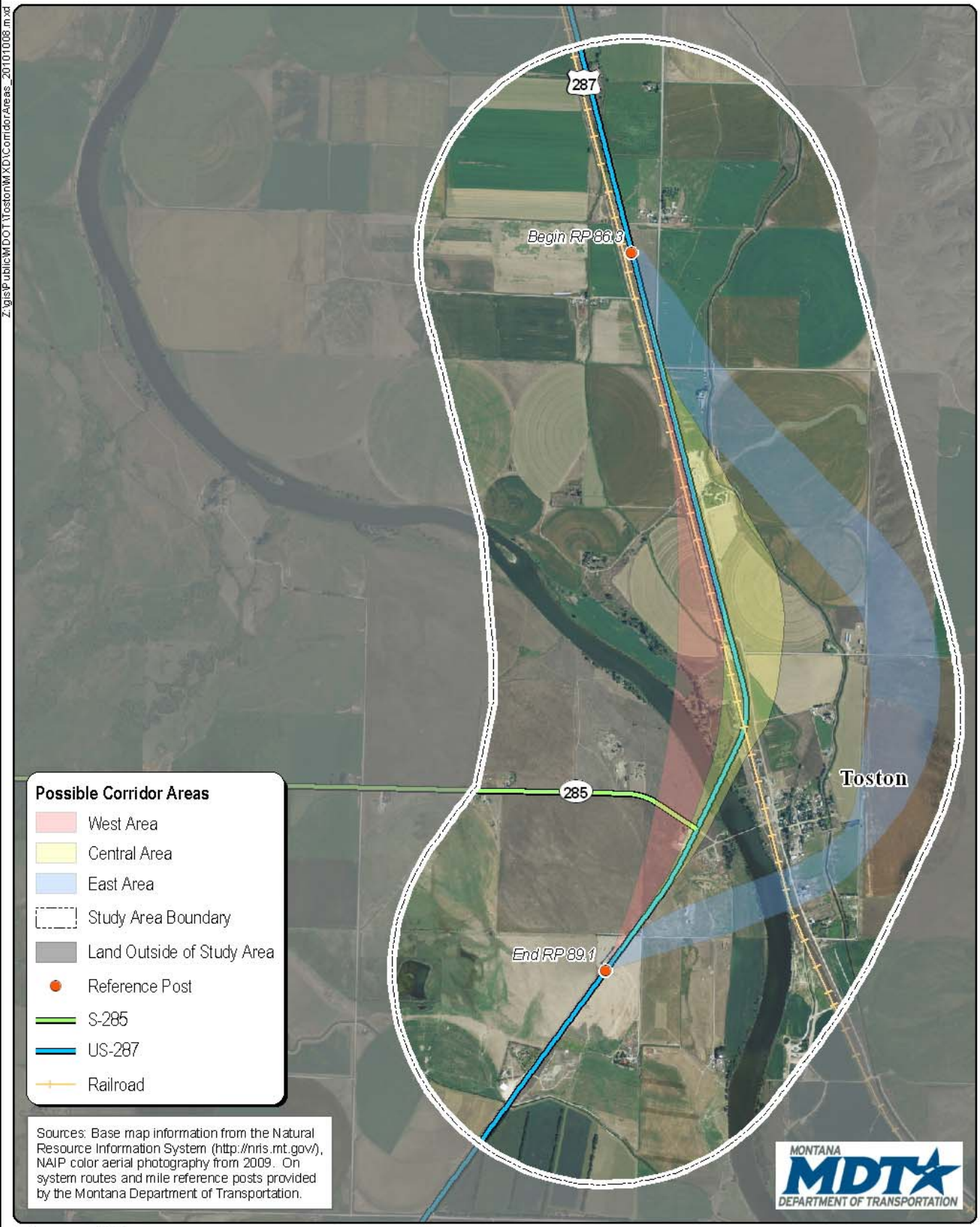


Figure 6-2

Possible Corridor Areas

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

N

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

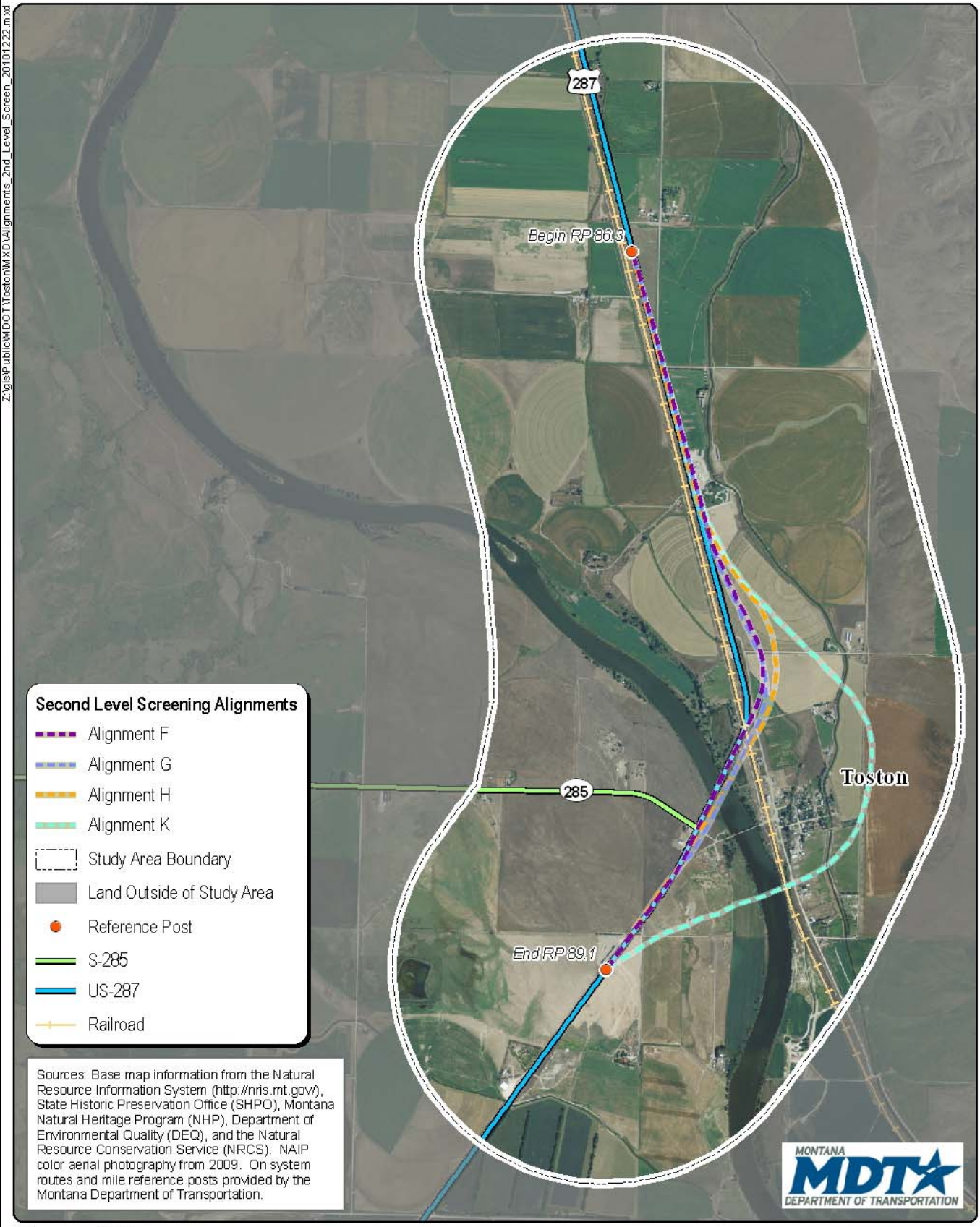


Figure 6-3

Alignments Carried Forward to Second Level Screening
Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

N

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

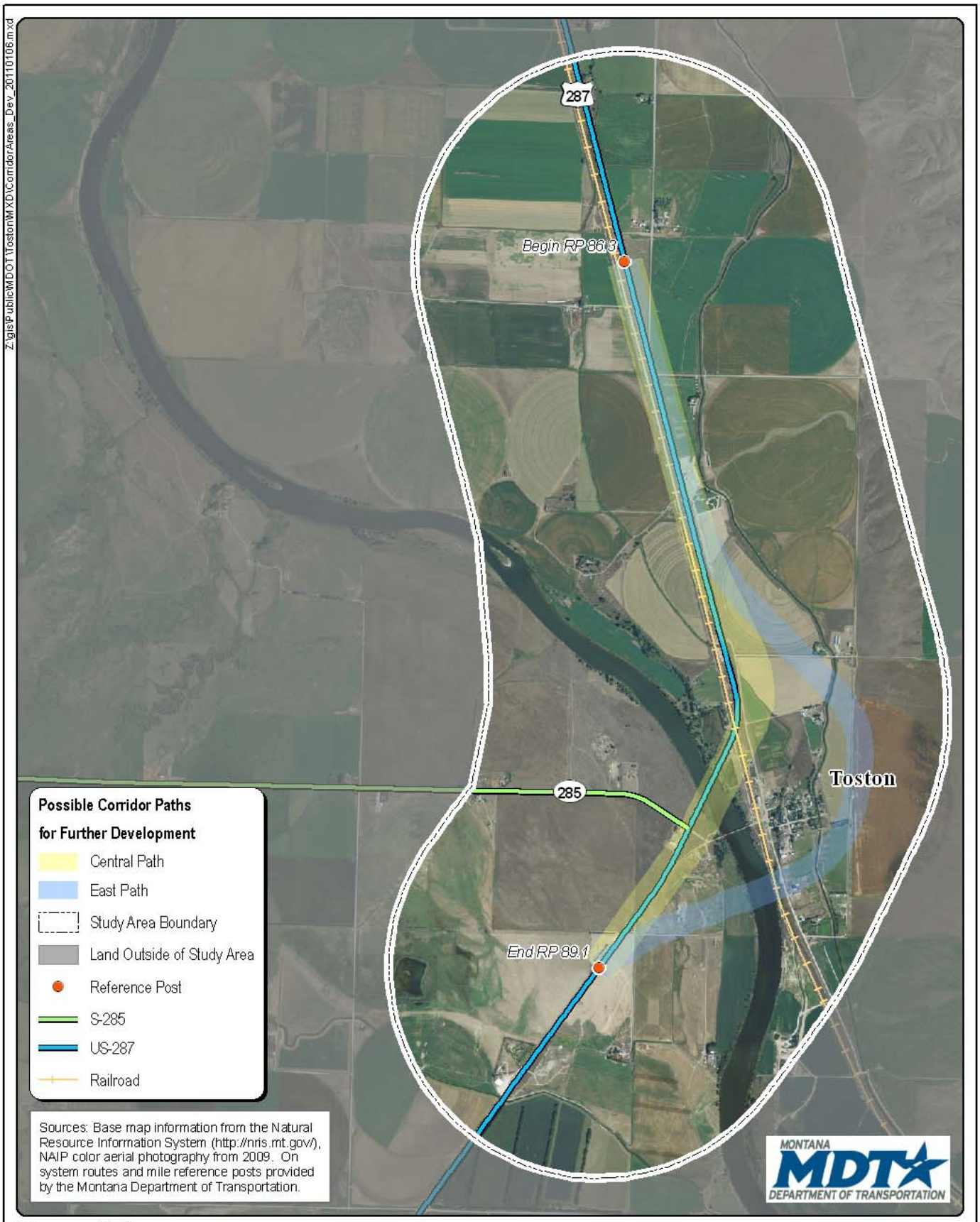


Figure 6-4

Possible Corridor Paths for Further Development
Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

N

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 3

February 11, 2011

Comment Sheet

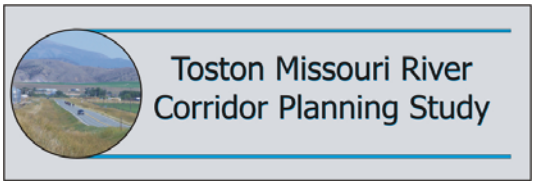
Public comments are an important component to this study! You are invited to give us your comments, concerns and/or suggestions by email and/or in writing on the attached form. The filled out form may be left at this meeting or mailed to the address below. Additionally, you may email your comments to CDM's project manager, Jeff Key, at keyja@cdm.com. All comments must be received **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 21, 2011.**

CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

Name:
Address:

Email:



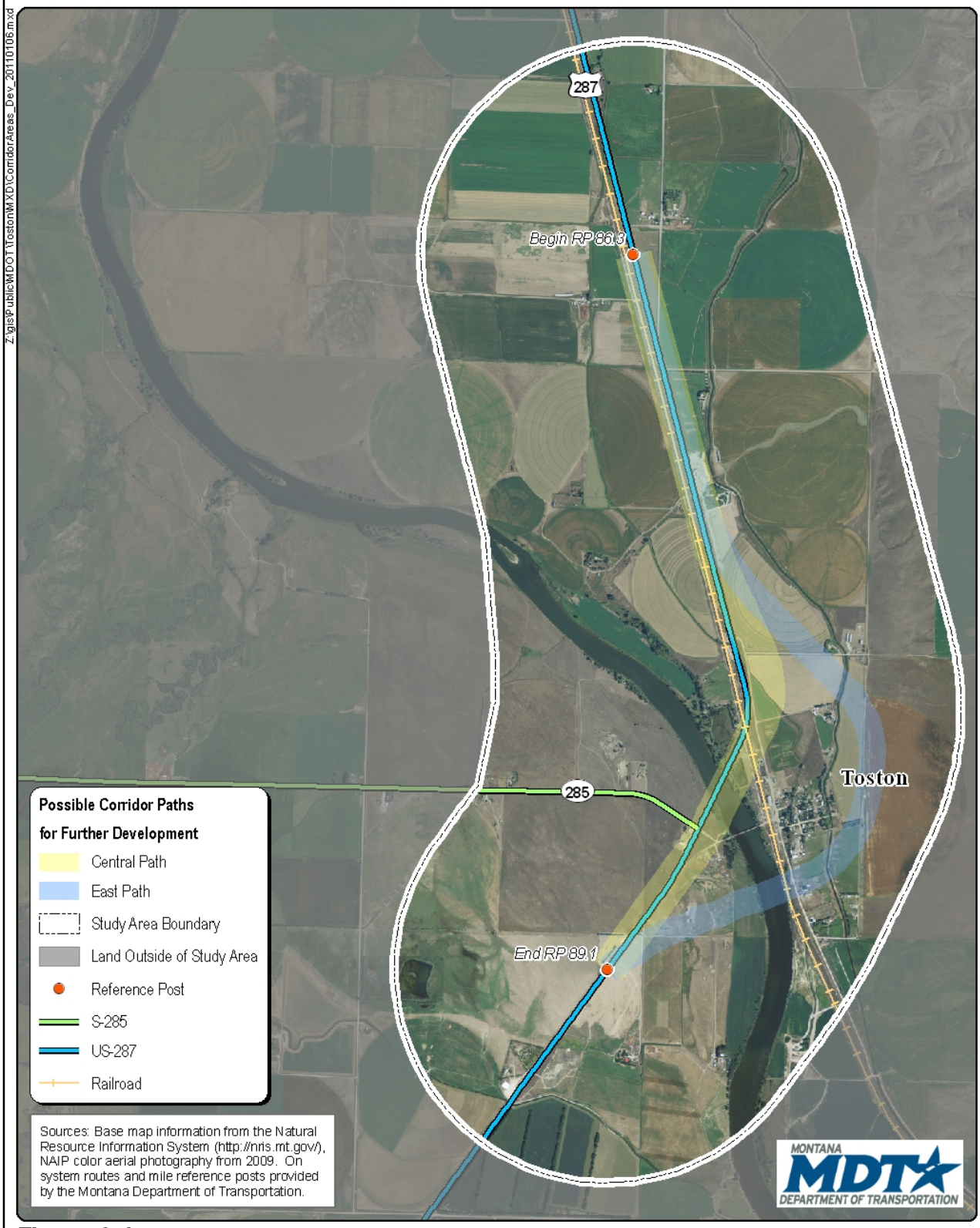


Figure 6-4

Possible Corridor Paths for Further Development
Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

N

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Toston Missouri River Corridor Study

(Pre-NEPA/MEPA Planning Effort)

Public Informational Meeting No. 3

February 10, 2011

115

MONTANA MDT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Outline of Presentation

- Planning Process
- Corridor Study Public Draft Available
- Long Term Improvement Options
  - Central Corridor Path
  - Eastern Corridor Path
- Short Term Improvement Options
- Next Steps

Planning Process

- Research and analysis of existing roadway conditions
- Environmental Scan
- Documentation of future conditions
- Public, stakeholder and resource agency outreach

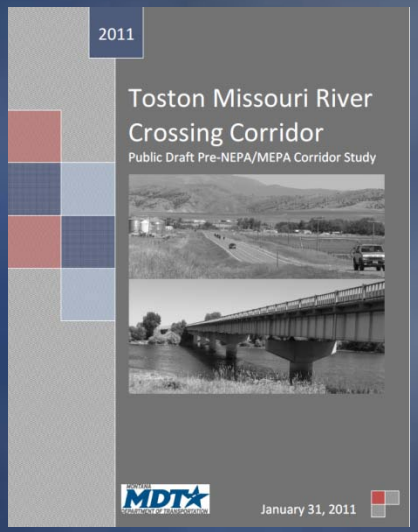
Planning Process (continued)

- Development of corridor needs and objectives
- Identification and screening of short and long term improvement options
- Identification of potential funding mechanisms for improvement options.

Corridor Study Public Draft

Public Draft is available at:

- **Townsend Public Library**
- **Broadwater County Commission**
- **MDT Statewide and Urban Planning (Helena, MT)**
- **MDT Butte District Office (Butte, MT)**
- **Online: www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/toston/**



Your comments and input are greatly appreciated!

Deadline for comments is February 21, 2011

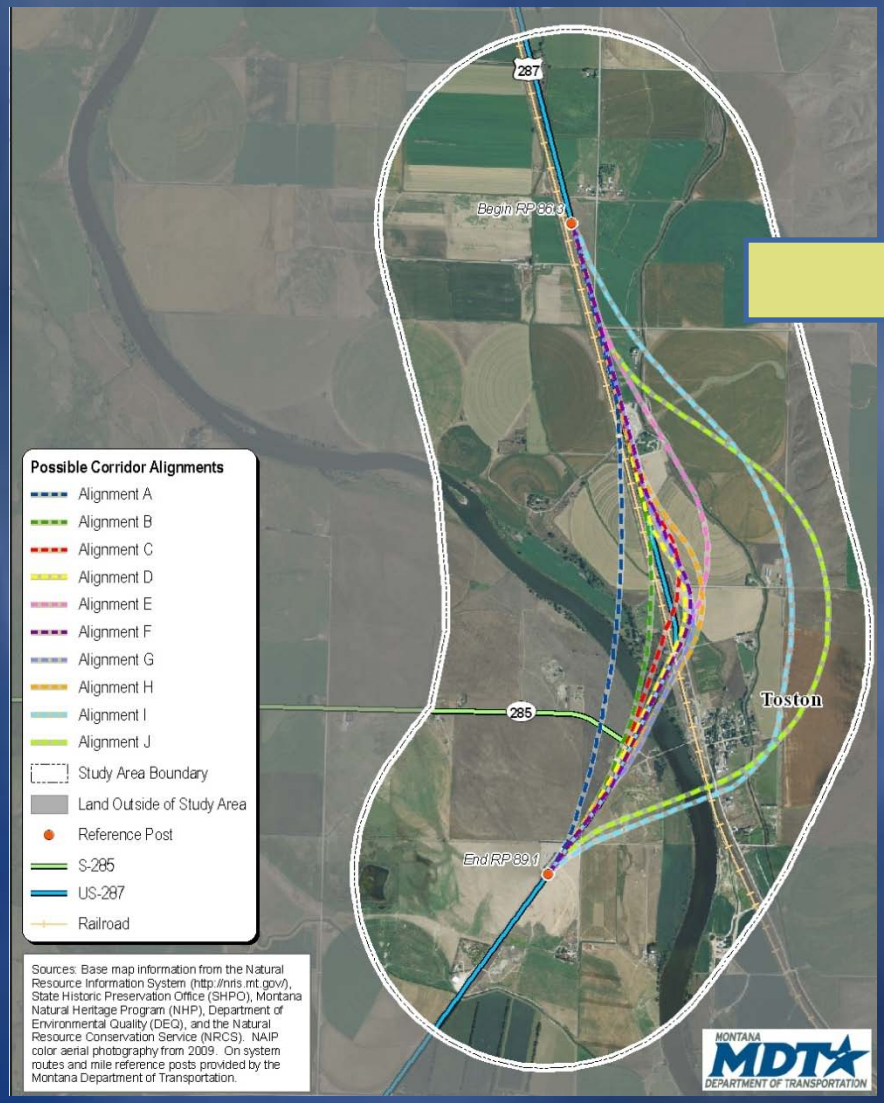
Long Term Improvement Options - 2nd Level Screening

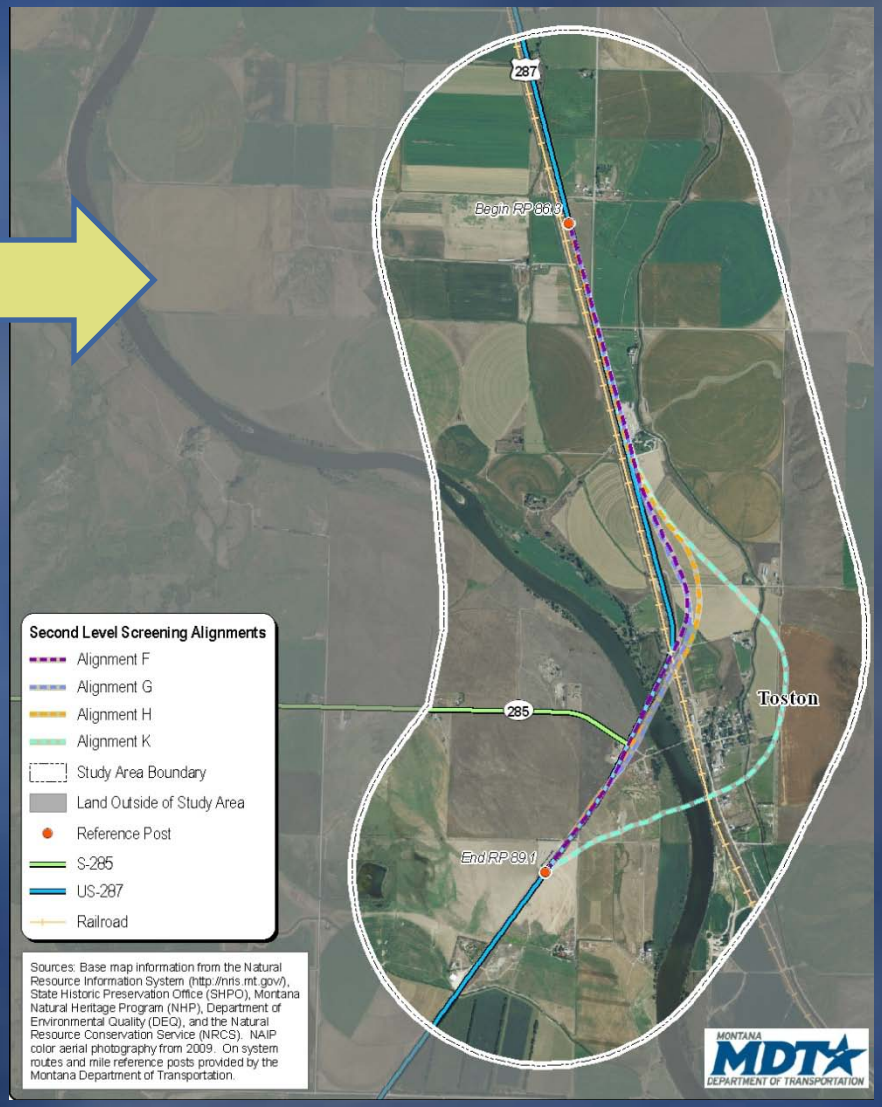
- Does the alignment meet the corridor needs and objectives?
- Environmental / resource impacts
- Construction / ROW Costs (in 2010 dollars)
- ROW impacts
- Constructability
- Length of Alignment
- Public Preference

Table 6.6 Second Level Screening Criteria Factors

Screening Factors	Central Corridor Area			Eastern Corridor Area
	Alignment F	Alignment G	Alignment H	Alignment K
Does the alignment meet the corridor needs and objectives? (YES or NO)				
Improve safety by reducing traffic conflicts and potential crashes within the US 287 corridor study area	YES	YES	YES	YES
Improve operation and functionality of the roadway	YES	YES	YES	YES
Other				
Recognize and accommodate the diverse nature of corridor "thru" traffic such as recreational vehicles, farm equipment and semi-truck/trailers	YES	YES	YES	YES
Provide reasonable access to the town of Toston, Secondary Highway 285, and other public and private approaches	YES	YES	YES	YES
Accommodate agricultural and other unique vehicle movements during construction	YES	YES	YES	YES
Environmental / Resource Impacts				
1. Suitability Analysis Results (per mile) *(NOTE: Lower value equates to lower overall environmental / resource impacts. Bar scale limits of 350 (Low) and 650 (High) based on previous analysis of ten alignments.)*	520 	544 	564 	390
4(f) Impacts? *(NOTE: All alignments have some level of environmental resource impact, but impacts to 4(f) property differ among alignments.)*	YES (0.98 acres in the northwest corner of the 4(f) fishing access site property is impacted. The total acreage of the property is 4.24 acres.)	YES (1.94 acres in the western half of the 4(f) fishing access site property is impacted. The total acreage of the property is 4.24 acres.)	YES (1.98 acres in the western half of the 4(f) fishing access site property is impacted. The total acreage of the property is 4.24 acres.)	NO
Construction/ROW Cost (in 2010 dollars)				
1. Roadway *(Includes road construction costs per mile, and ROW costs per acre for irrigated farmland and rural pasture land.)*	$6.6 Million	$6.7 Million	$6.8 Million	$8.0 Million
2. Bridges *(Bridge construction costs for second level of screening based on two bridge width scenarios: 3 travel lanes resulting in 52 feet total width at $150/SF and 5 travel lanes resulting in 76 feet total width at $250/SF for alignments F, G, and H only, and $150/SF for alignment K.)*	$11.2-27.2 Million (depending on lane configurations)	$10.6-25.9 Million (depending on lane configurations)	$10.1-24.5 Million (depending on lane configurations)	$8.5-12.5 Million (depending on lane configurations)

2nd Level Screening Results



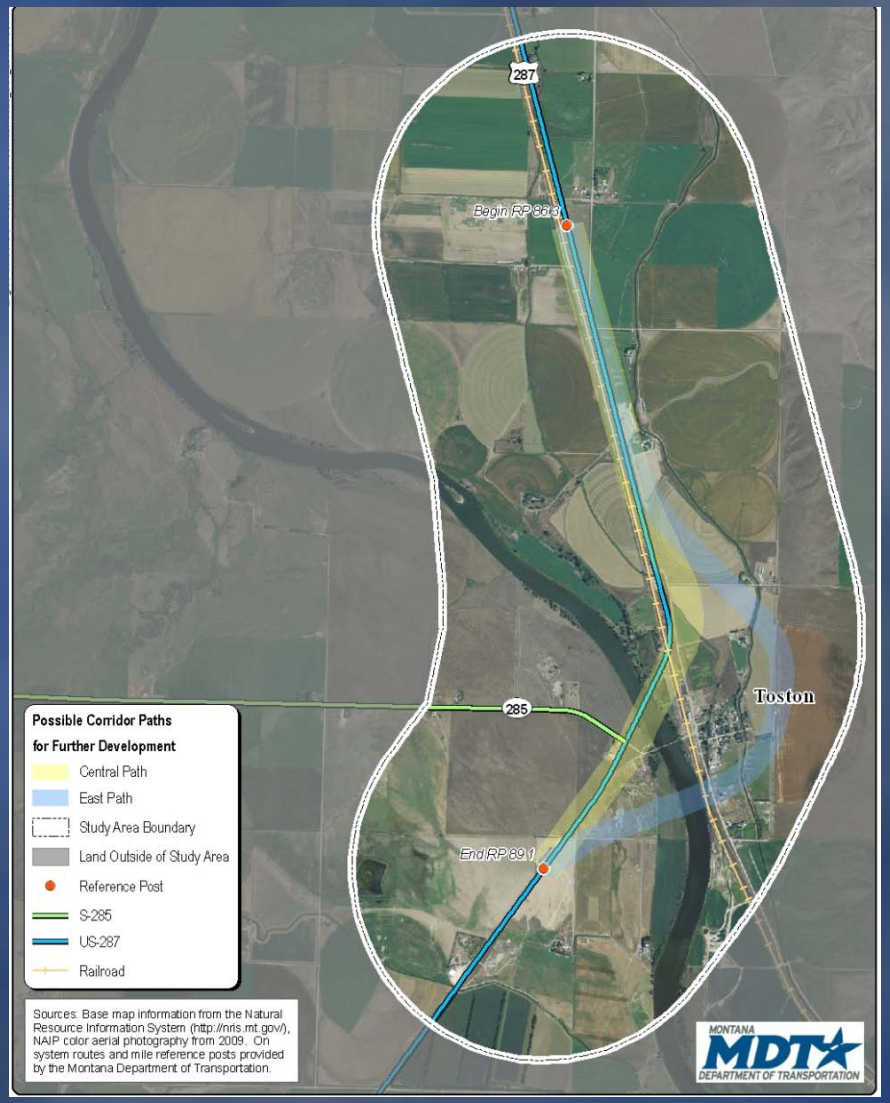


Central Corridor Path

- **Pros:**
  - Greatest <u>public</u> preference
  - Closest to existing travel way, resulting in lowest overall impacts
  - Least impact to irrigated farmland
  - Improvement over existing conditions

- **Cons:**
  - Impacts 4(f) fishing access site
  - ROW acquisition will be necessary

Approximate cost range (2010 dollars):
$18-41 Million
(depending on lane configuration)

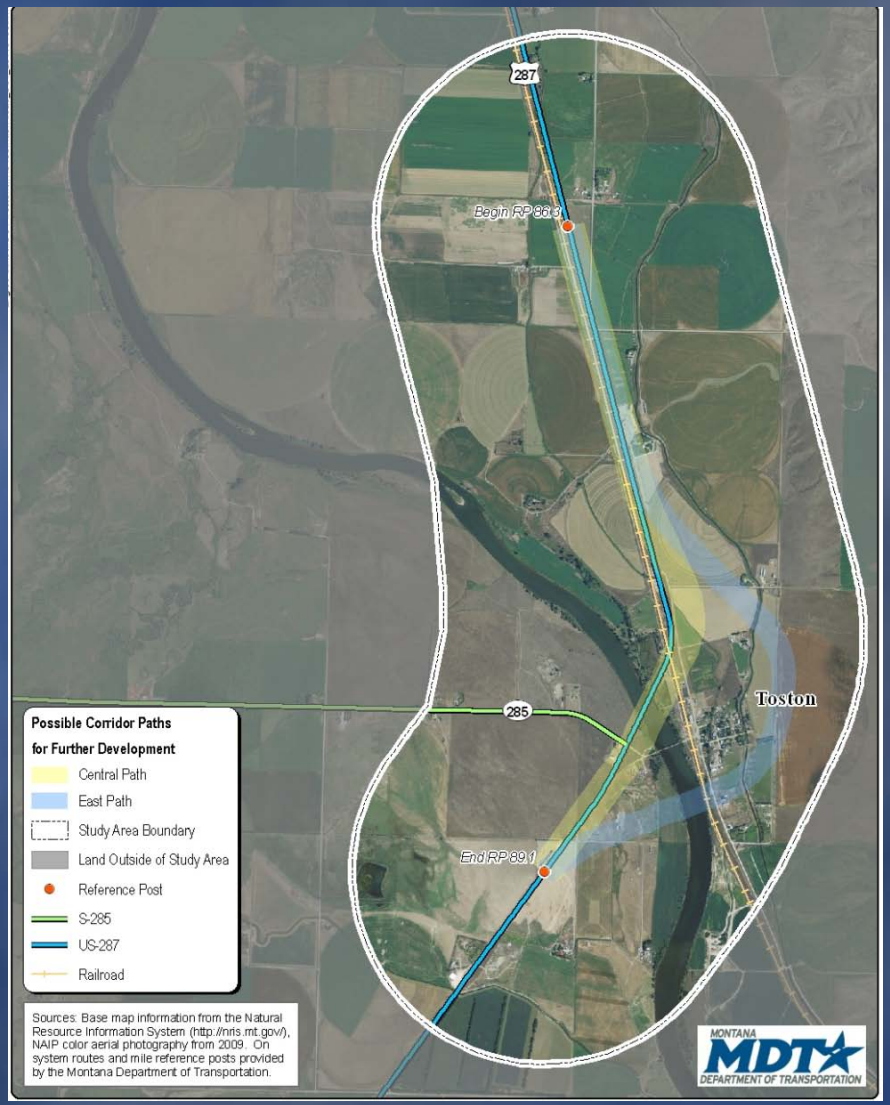


Eastern Corridor Path

- **Pros:**
  - Improvement over existing conditions
  - Lowest cost
  - Lowest <u>environmental</u> resource impacts
  - Shortest bridge length
- **Cons:**
  - Affects irrigation pivots and cropland
  - Public opposition
  - ROW acquisition will be necessary
  - Increased route length by 0.59 miles (compared to existing)

Approximate cost range (2010 dollars): $17-25 Million

(depending on lane configuration)



Short Term Recommendations

1. Add Southbound Left Turn Bay to US 287 at Toston Frontage Road (*0 to 3 years*)
2. Address Sight Distance Obstructions – Intersection of US 287 & S 285 (*0 to 3 years*)
3. US 287 Shoulder Widening (*3 to 5 years*)
4. S 285 Realignment (*>5 years*)
5. US 287 and S 285 Intersection Reconfiguration (*3-5 years*)

Next Steps

- MDT and Broadwater County work together to Identify a funding mechanism
- Pursue project development
  - Develop a formal environmental document
  - Initiate preliminary engineering activities
  - Finalize design and prepare construction plans package
  - Let construction contract

Funding Sources

- Federal Funds
  - NHS
  - Secondary
  - Bridge
  - Safety
- Local
  - Congressionally directed funds

Conclusion

Questions?

Study Website:

http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/toston/

CDM Helena, ATTN: Jeff Key, P.E.

keyja@cdm.com

50 West 14th Street, 2nd Floor
Helena, Montana 59601
Tel: 406-441-1400 Fax: 406-449-7725

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study
Public Meeting No. 3 (Notes)

Thursday, February 10, 2011 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Townsend High School – Community Room

Introduction

The third public meeting for the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study was held on Thursday, February 10, 2011, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Townsend High School Community Room. The purpose of the meeting is to present the Draft Study, answer questions, and solicit input from the public. The following Planning Team members were present at the meeting:

- Jeff Ebert (MDT Butte District Administrator)
- Carol Strizich (MDT Statewide and Urban Planning Section)
- Jeff Patten (FHWA)
- Gail Vennes (Broadwater County Commissioner)
- Jeff Key (CDM Project Manager)
- Naomi Fossen (CDM Project Engineer)

Additionally, Audrey Allums from MDT was in attendance. Welcome, introductions, and opening remarks were made by CDM's project manager, Jeff Key, who also facilitated the meeting.

A total of 38 members of the public signed in at the meeting and others were present but didn't sign in. This number does not include those individuals on the planning team noted above.

Discussion Items

The meeting began with a PowerPoint presentation discussing the *Public Draft Pre-NEPA/MEPA Corridor Study Report*. This report has been made available for public viewing at the Townsend Public Library, Broadwater County Commission, MDT Statewide and Urban Planning office in Helena, MDT Butte District office in Butte, and online at: www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/toston/

The deadline for comments is February 21, 2011.

Since the last public meeting held in October, 2010, a second level screening further analyzed potential alignment options using to the following criteria:

- Does the alignment meet the corridor needs and objectives?
- Environmental and resource impacts
- Construction and ROW costs (in 2010 dollars)
- ROW impacts
- Constructability
- Length of alignment
- Public Preference

The results of the second level screening identified the central corridor and eastern corridor as potential paths for realignment.

The *Public Draft Pre-NEPA/MEPA Corridor Study Report* also presents short term recommendations for the corridor area. These short term recommendations include the following:

1. Add southbound left turn bay to US 287 at Toston Frontage Road
2. Address sight distance obstructions – particularly at the intersection of US 287 and S 285
3. Shoulder widening along US 287
4. Realignment of S 285
5. Intersection reconfiguration of US 287 and S 285

The next steps to move a project forward from this corridor study include:

- Identify funding source(s)
- Develop a formal environmental document
- Initiate preliminary engineering activities
- Finalize design and prepare construction plans package

- Let construction contract

After CDM's presentation, the floor was opened for questions and comments. The questions, discussion topics and responses from the meeting are presented below:

- How are land value/costs estimated?
    - Conventional ROW appraisals would take place.
- Where did the traffic data originate?
    - Traffic data was obtained from MDT. A weighted average was taken at different count locations within the corridor. Within the study area, there were two count locations used for traffic data.
- Are bridge structures related with traffic volumes?
    - Yes. This will be a design phase determination.
- The Townsend-South EA references 8,000 vehicles per day (vpd) out to the planning horizon and a growth rate of 4.9%. What are the data sources? What were the count locations? Funding available from Townsend-South EA?
    - Jeff explained that he isn't knowledgeable about the Townsend-South numbers, but that for the Toston Corridor Study the traffic projections were based on the accepted methodology of going back in time to develop a growth rate for the future. For example, the roadway planning horizon for the Toston Corridor Study is 20 years, so traffic volumes from the two count locations were analyzed going 20 years back to calculate a growth rate for the future. This results in a 1.87% growth percentage per year.
    - He also explained that since the bridges are typically assessed for a 75 year time frame, the data analyzed is longer term going back. For this segment of the corridor, there was 38 years of data available, so analyzing that data resulted in a 2.51 percent growth percentage per year.
    - The starting point for future growth projections was the year 2009 ADT's.
- Isn't a 4-lane bridge necessary?
    - This corridor study is a high level planning study that does not determine the design of a project.

- Where will fill material go?
    - This is a design phase determination, but Jeff Ebert stated appropriate material will be reclaimed to the extent practicable.
- Was growth and development in the county taken into consideration in the report?
    - This is a design phase element, with possible growth modeling. This study includes a planning level cost estimate for the improvement options that includes a range of costs depending on the roadway configurations.
- If bridge life is 75 years, would a 5-lane be needed by that time?
    - The design of the bridge will be determined as a project moves forward from this study.
- There is a need for a southbound left turn to Toston.
    - This has been documented in the report as a short term improvement option.
- Highway sign obstructions are a concern.
    - This has been identified in the report.
- High speeds are a safety concern.
- Controlled access will be similar to the remaining US 287 corridor.
- Pedestrian and bicycle crossing needs to be incorporated.
- Send report to the Toston Post Office.
- A flashing light should be installed at the bus stop across from the Bunkhouse Bar.

Conclusion

Written comments on the Draft Report may be sent to by mail, email, or through the study website.

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 3

February 10, 2011

Sign-In Sheet

Name	Address	Email
Bill Lane	Toston, MT.	
Marilyn Lane	Toston, MT.	
Neil D. Hazel	Toston, MT	
Dolly J. Hazel	Toston, MT	
Angela Hazel	Toston, MT	
James Hazel	Toston, MT	
Gordon Bring	Toston, MT	
Florence Bring	Toston, MT	
Barb DiMarco	Toston	
Rick DeMarco	Toston	
Carol Strizich	MDT - Planning	
Cindy Albus	MDT - Planning	
Rick Van Dyken	Toston	
HERB HEADBRIGHT	TOSTON	
Reba Johnson	Toston MT	
Franklin Sliska	Toston MT	
Bob & Linda Davis	Townsend, MT	
Leonard & Jan Lambert	Toston	
[illegible]	Townsend, MT	
Bob & Brenda HASEMAN	TOSTON [illegible]	

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 3

February 10, 2011

Sign-In Sheet

Name	Address	Email
Riley Phelps	717 N Davis	
Nancy Marks	#9 Sliffka Lane/3597 Hwy 284	
Hugh Van Swearingen	PO Box 885 Townsend	
Gary Davis	150 Dry Creek Rd Townsend	
Mike Koehnke	PO Box 506 Townsend MT	
Laura Obert	PO Box 196 "	lauraobert@mt.net
Brian Obert	129 So. Spruce	bobert@mbrc.biz
Larry Wright	119 Broadway	BigSkyEl@qwestoffice.net
Kathy Wilcox	23 Lombard Road	kathybchhlz@aol.com
Rod Kitto	275 Hwy 285 Toston	
Chuck Nahn	7996 Hwy 287 Townsend	
Gail Vennes	8393 Hwy 287	gvennes@mt.net
Micki Vardell	PO Box 13	
Howard Hensley	261 Hwy 437	
John Ferrat	168 Johnson Loop Toston	
Brian Patrick	200 S. Cedar	
Clayton Rockwell	77 Hwy 285	Toston MT 59643
Tom Williams	48 Hwy 437	Toston MT 59643

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

- How are costs estimated?
  - conventional ROW appraisals
- Traffic data from MDT
  - weighted average @ count locations
  - ex: year 2006 - varies by 500
- Relate bridge structures w/traffic volumes
  - → Design phase determination
- Townsend-South EA - 8,000 vpd (4.9%)
  - Data Sources? Count Locations?
  - Funding
- Isn't 4-lane bridge necessary?

1

- Where will fill material go?
  - → Design phase determination (clean, reclaim)
- Growth / Development in County
  - → Design phase → Growth Modeling
  - 75 yr. bridge - 5-lane needed?
- Southbound Left turn to Toston
  - Short term recommendation
- Sign obstructions
- High Speeds
- Controlled Access will be similar to remaining US 287 corridor

2

- Pedestrian / Bicycle Crossing needs to be incorporated
- Send Report to Toston post office
- Flashing light @ bus stop across from Bunkhouse Bar

3

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 3

February 10, 2011

Comment Sheet

Public comments are an important component to this study! You are invited to give us your comments, concerns and/or suggestions by email and/or in writing on the attached form. The filled out form may be left at this meeting or mailed to the address below. Additionally, you may email your comments to CDM's project manager, Jeff Key, at keyja@cdm.com. All comments must be received **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 21, 2011.**

CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

~~M~~ Do Center Area - Least Impact

Not East - To Hyer Farm & Ranch Land - Loss of Income And livelyhood.

Left Bay @ frontage Road - To Toston
~~Put~~ Move sign @ 287 and Toston & Radersburg Rd.
Widen shoulders for farm equipment
Can move.
Move sign that is on Top of the new Bridge

Name: Marilyn & Bill Lane
Address: Box 56
Toston, Mt. 59643

Email: racing36@mt.net

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

From: Grant, Paul [pgrant@mt.gov]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 7:23 AM
To: AP (E-mail); Carroll Radio 88.5; Helena Civic Television (E-mail); IR; Jefferson County Courier (E-mail); KBLL-AM/FM Helena (E-mail); KCAP; KFBB Helena (E-mail); KHBB; KRTV-TV; KTVH-TV; KVCM-FM; KXLH-TV; Lee State Bureau (E-mail); Montana Living (E-mail); Prospector (E-mail); Queen City News (E-mail); Shawna Swanz; Townsend Star; Three Forks Herald
Cc: Strizich, Carol; Fossen, Naomi; Watt Levis, Charity; Grant, Paul; Broadwater Commissioners; Ebert, Jeff; Olsen, Joe; Brosten, Barry; Bruner, Heidy
Subject: MDT will hold public meeting to discuss the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study - Broadwater County No CN#

February 8, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information:
Carol Strizich, MDT Statewide and Urban Planning, Project Manager, (406) 444-9240

MDT will hold public meeting to discuss the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study

Toston - The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is holding the first public meeting on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2010, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at the Townsend High School Community Room, 201 North Spruce Street, Townsend, MT. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the public on the corridor planning study project scope and purpose, take questions, and solicit input from the community on the existing conditions and concerns within the corridor.

Community participation is a very important part of the process, and the public is encouraged to attend. MDT has provided a toll free comment line at 1-800-714-7296. Opinion, comments and concerns may also be submitted in writing at the meeting, by mail to Carol Strizich, MDT Statewide and Urban Planning, Project Manager, (406) 444-9240,, 2960 Prospect Avenue, Helena, MT. 59620. Please indicate comments are for the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study. The MDT and CDM will collect and consider all public comments to better understand the public view of potential issues and concerns within the corridor.

MDT has initiated the process to develop the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study. The project study area is a 2.8-mile segment established along U.S. Highway 287 from Reference Marker 86.3 (end point of Townsend-South Project) to Reference Marker 89.1 (beginning point of Toston-South). The corridor planning study will determine cost-effective ways to address transportation needs within the U.S. 287 corridor near Toston, Montana. The Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study is a pre-NEPA/MEPA study that allows for earlier planning-level coordination with the public; state and federal environmental agencies and other agencies, and will develop specific factors that can be used in the subsequent environmental review process as projects are moved forward from the study. The corridor study is designed to help facilitate a smooth and efficient transition from transportation planning to project development/environmental review. It is important to note that the Corridor Planning Study is developed strictly as a planning project and not a design project. The results of the study will be applied to determine the level of environmental documentation to be used prior to continuation of the NEPA/MEPA process and project implementation.

Future announcements will be made prior to all public events through the local media and the project mailing list. Interested parties are encouraged to join the project mailing list by submitting their name and contact information to Jeff Key at KeyJA@cdm.com.

A project website has been developed and can be access at

www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/toston

MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person's participation in any service, program or activity of our department. If you require reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting, please call Jeff Key, CDM, (406) 444-1400 at least two days before the meeting. For the hearing impaired, the TTY number is (406) 444-7696 or 1-800-335-7592, or call Montana Relay at 711. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request

----------end---------

Project name: Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study Broadwater County

MONTANA MDT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Public Meeting

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study
Wednesday, October 13, 2010 6:00 p.m.
Townsend High School - Community Room
201 N. Spruce St., Townsend, MT

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) invites the public to attend a public meeting to discuss the U.S. Hwy. 287 corridor near Toston. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the public on the corridor planning study progress, take questions, and solicit input from the community on the potential improvement options in the corridor.

The meeting is open to the public. MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person's participation in any department service, program or activity. For reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting, please contact Jeff Key at (406) 444-1400 at least two days before the meeting. For the hearing impaired, the TTY number is (406) 444-7696 or (800) 335-7592, or Montana Relay at 711. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request.

Comments may be submitted in writing at the meeting, by mail to Carol Strizich, Project Manager, MDT, P.O. Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620 or online at www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/comment_form.shtml Please indicate comments are for the Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study.

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 2

October 13, 2010

Sign-In Sheet

Name	Address	Email
Bob Davis	131 Dry Hollow Rd	
Linda Davis	" "	
Riley Phelps	Helena	
Carol Strizich	MDT - Helena	
Deb Wambach	MDT - Helena	
Jeff Ebert	MDT - Butte	
Elaine Gramley	Broadwater County Commissioner	
Jerry & Muriel Reller	300 Goose Bay Townsend	
Franklin Slifka	Box 63 Toston	59643
Chuck Hahn	7996 Hwy 287 Townsend	59644
Rod Kitto	275 / Hwy 285 Toston	59643
Rodger Vetter	PO Box 60 TOSTON	59643
Reba M Johson	P.O. Box 11 Toston MT	
Gail Vennes	8393 Hwy 287	
Brian Obert	129 So. Spruce	bobert@mbac.biz
Howard Hensley	261 Hwy 287 Toston	
Sam Ranson	102 Ranson Lane Toston	
Tom Helm	52 Lombard Rd.	Toston

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Welcome!

TOSTON MISSOURI RIVER CROSSING CORRIDOR PLANNING STUDY

Public Meeting

Thank you for coming!

Your input is greatly appreciated.

MONTANA MDT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CDM

TOSTON MISSOURI RIVER CROSSING CORRIDOR PLANNING STUDY

Looking northeast at Missouri River Bridge.

Looking northeast at Historic Toston Bridge.

Looking north at US Highway 287 and adjacent lands.

Looking east at railway, MRL Bridge, and adjacent lands.

Looking northwest at Montana Rail Link and adjacent lands.

Looking southeast at MRL Bridge and access road.

TOSTON MISSOURI RIVER CROSSING CORRIDOR PLANNING STUDY

Looking north at US Highway 287 (left) and Flynn Lane (right).

Looking west at US Highway 287, Montana Rail Link, and adjacent lands from Flynn Lane.

Looking north at Flynn Lane and adjacent lands.

Looking south at Flynn Lane (left) and US Highway 287 (right).

Looking northeast at Missouri River.

Looking northeast at MRL Bridge and Missouri River Bridge.

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 2

October 13, 2010

Comment Sheet

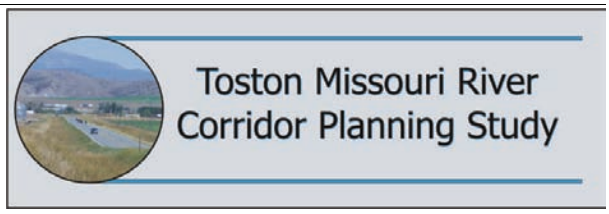
Public comments are an important component to this project! You are invited to give us your comments, concerns and/or suggestions by email and/or in writing on the attached form. The filled out form may be left at this meeting or mailed to the address below. Additionally, you may email your comments to CDM's project manager, Jeff Key, at keyja@cdm.com.

CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

Name:
Address:

Email:



Toston Corridor Area Survey

Your input is highly valued. Please complete the following survey indicating your preferred choice of general corridor area locations for a roadway alignment and bridge crossing on US 287. Please also include the reason for your preferred selection, this information is important for us in understanding the public opinion.

Note: You may select more than one option. The "No Preference" option indicates that any option would be acceptable.

Thank you for your time and input.

Of the three (3) possible corridor areas shown, my preferred area for a re-aligned US 287 corridor is in the:

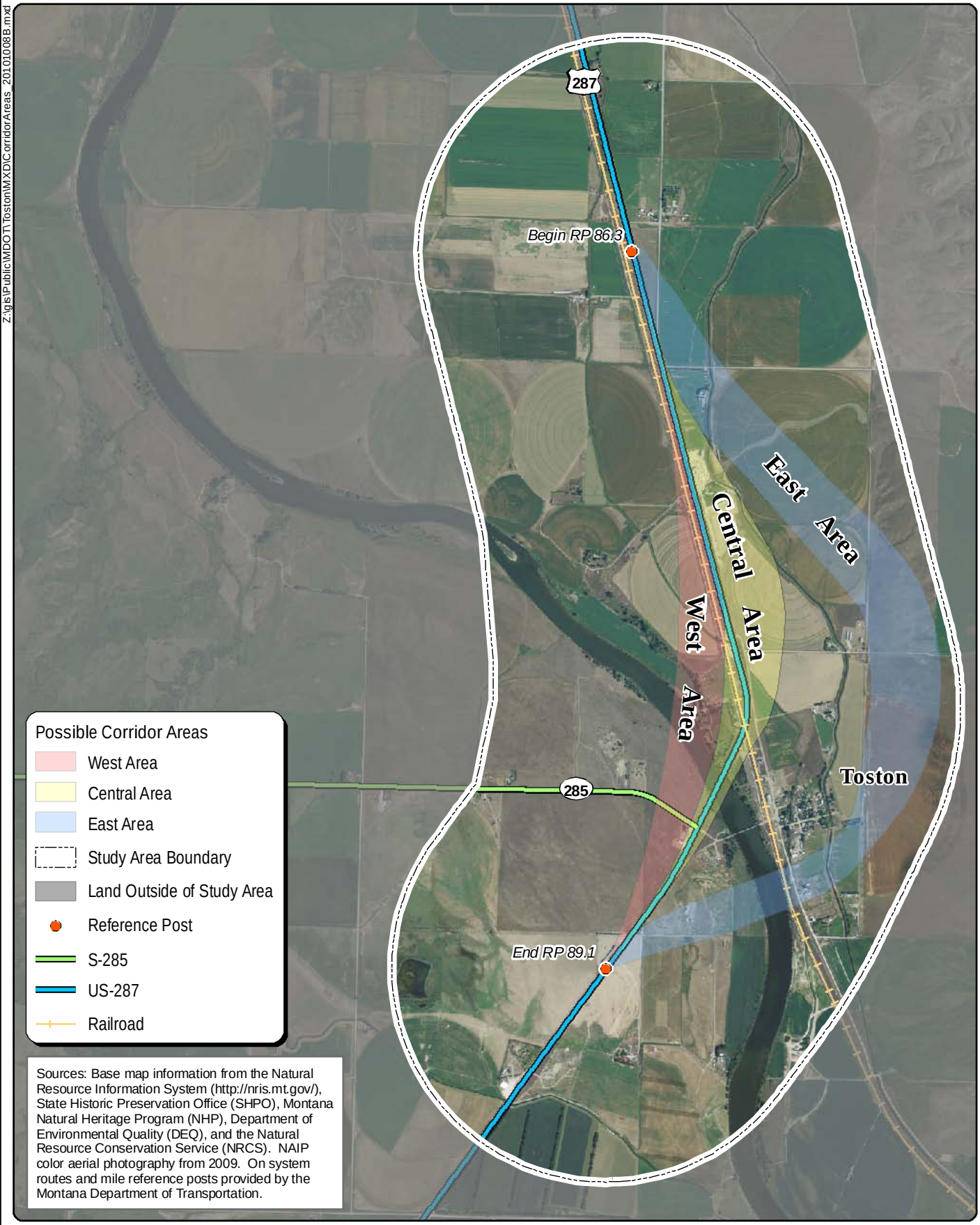
- ☐ West Area (Red)
- ☐ Central Area (Yellow)
- ☐ East Area (Blue)
- ☐ No Preference

The reason for this is:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS SURVEY!

PLEASE LEAVE SURVEY ON SIGN-IN TABLE WHEN DONE....



Corridor Area Survey

Possible Corridor Areas

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

N

October 8, 2010

DRAFT

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Toston Missouri River Corridor Study

(Pre NEPA/MEPA Planning Effort)

Public Informational Meeting No. 2

Outline of Presentation

- Goals and Purpose
- US 287 Corridor Needs and Objectives
- Resource Suitability Analysis
- Corridor Concept Areas
- Potential Alignment Options
- Conclusions, Questions and Comments

Goals and Purpose of Study

Purpose of Meeting

- Present Corridor Concept Areas
- Gather public input!

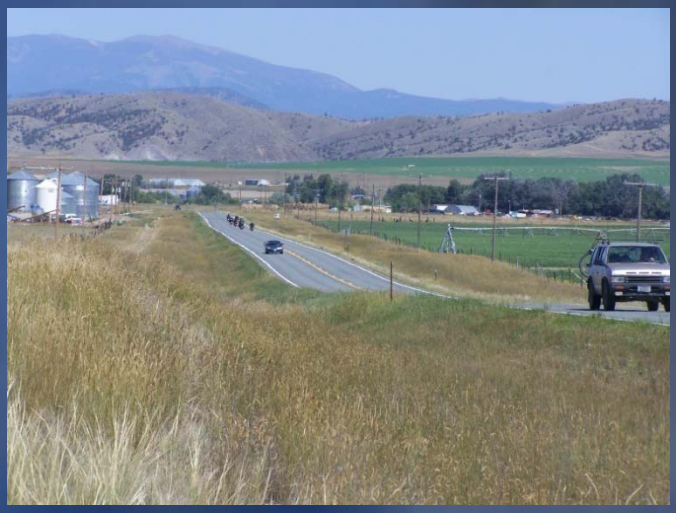
Purpose of Study

- Engage the public early!
- Identify constraints
- Identify short-range and long-range improvements
- Identify funding opportunities and prepare planning level cost estimates
- Develop information and data to be forwarded into the environmental process if a project moves forward from the study

US 287 Corridor Overview

&

Needs and Objectives



Project Study Area

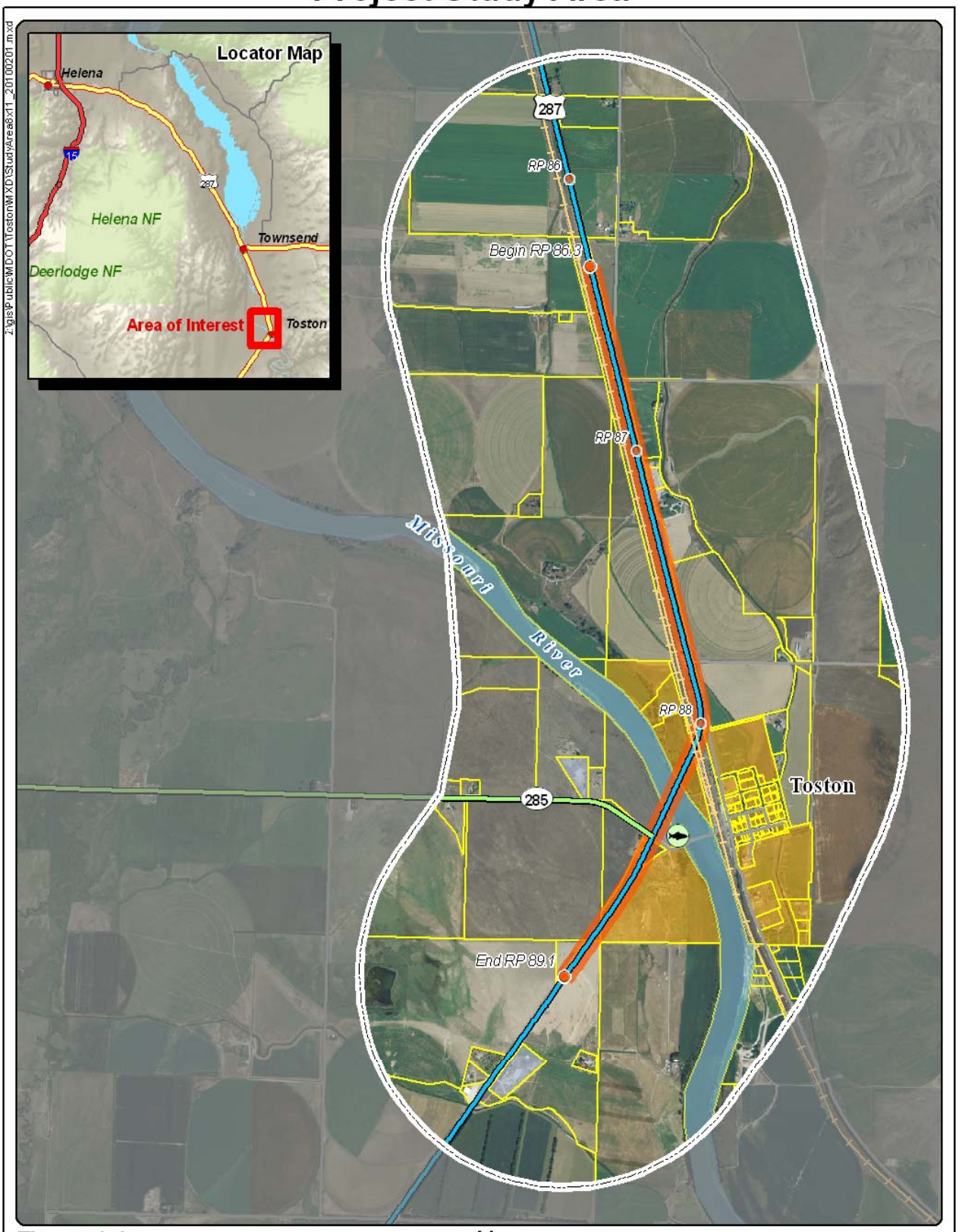


Figure 1-1
Project Study Area
Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

N

February 1, 2010
DRAFT

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Other Planned Work in the Area

- Toston – North
  - Pavement Preservation Project
- Toston – South
  - Reconstruction
- Townsend – South Passing Lanes
  - Reconstruction

US 287 Corridor Issues

- Substandard horizontal and vertical curve on the MRL Bridge
- Substandard vertical curve south of the Missouri River Bridge
- Inadequate roadside clear zone (~width)
- Substandard cut and fill slopes
- Narrow roadway width
- Inadequate sight distance
- High crash trends compared to similar routes statewide
- Driver expectancy (corridor continuity relative to alignment & grade)

Corridor Needs & Objectives

Need

Improve safety by reducing traffic conflicts and crashes within the US 287 corridor study area

Objectives

- **Upgrade the sub-standard horizontal and vertical alignments** **to meet current MDT design standards to the extent practicable**
- **Provide adequate clear zones** **by upgrading shoulder widths and cut and fill slopes to meet current MDT design standards to the extent practicable**
- **Improve vehicle turning movements** **at public access points and private approaches by providing appropriate features commensurate with the types of traffic encountered at specific access locations**

Corridor Needs & Objectives

Need

Improve operation and functionality of the roadway

Objectives

- **Improve the surfacing width** **for consistency with other segments of US 287 and to meet current MDT design standards**
- **Provide a roadway that accommodates existing and future capacity demands** **to the extent practicable**
- **Provide modifications to the roadway horizontal alignment and vertical profile** **to meet current MDT design standards to the extent practicable**
- **Meet design and construction criteria** **relative to horizontal and vertical clearances from railroad service and track infrastructure**
- **Consider non-motorized needs** **within the corridor**

Corridor Needs & Objectives

Other Objectives

- **Minimize the environmental resource impacts** of improvement options for the corridor
- **Maintain traffic** within the corridor to the extent practicable
- **Provide appropriate access** to the town of Toston, Secondary Route 285, and other public and private approaches during construction
- **Perpetuate agricultural and other unique vehicle movements** during construction
- **Recognize and accommodate** the diverse nature of corridor **"thru" traffic** - such as recreational vehicles and semi-truck/trailers

Resource "Suitability Analysis"

Suitability Analysis

- Broad view assessment of areas that may be most suitable for potential roadway re-alignment
- Previously identified resources and “areas of concern”
- ArcGIS software tool utilized to “weigh” different resource areas according to a scaled system
- When combined, a “weighted overlay” is calculated to identify desirable and undesirable areas to consider

Weighted Overlay Results

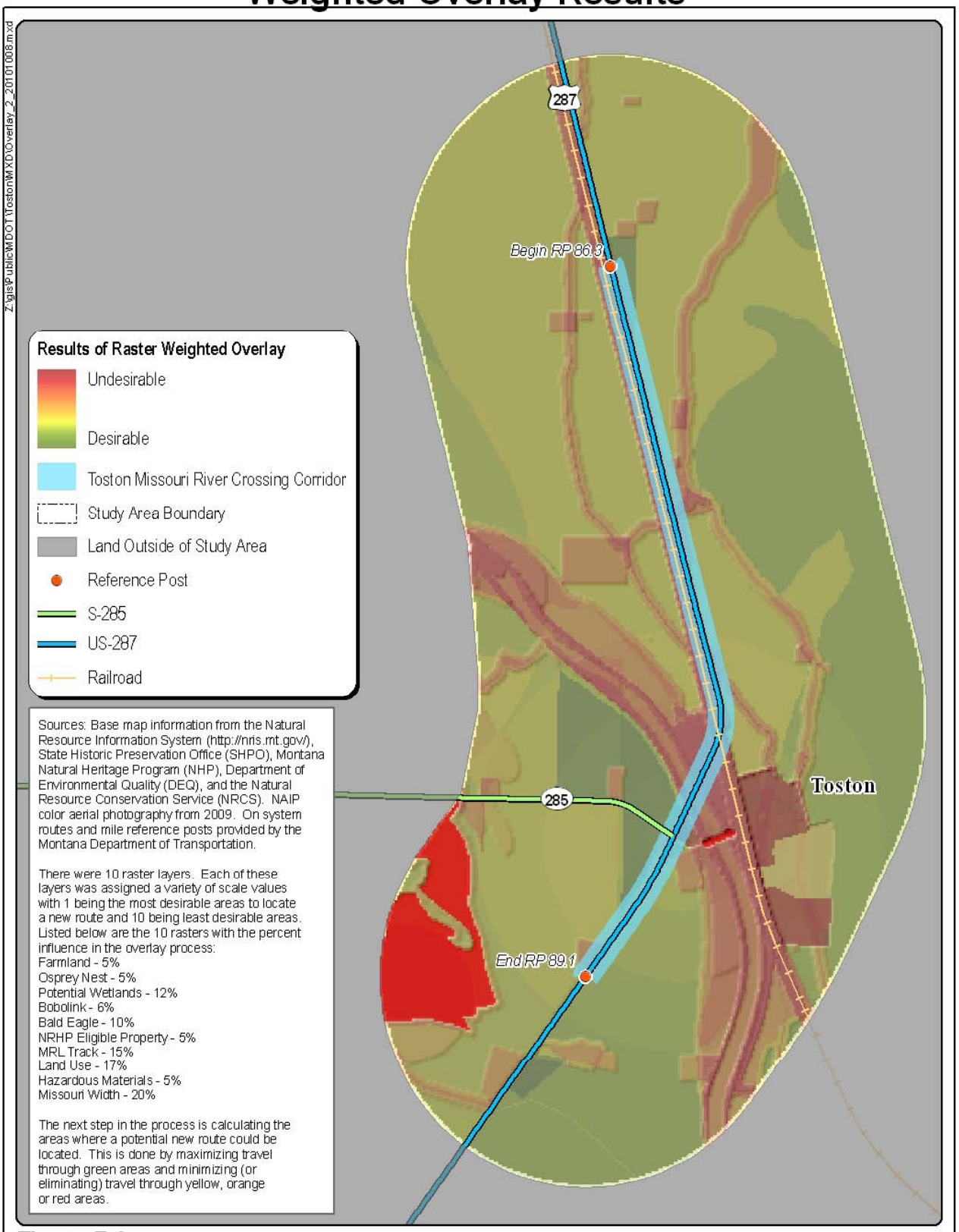


Figure 7-2
Weighted Overlay Results
Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

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October 8, 2010
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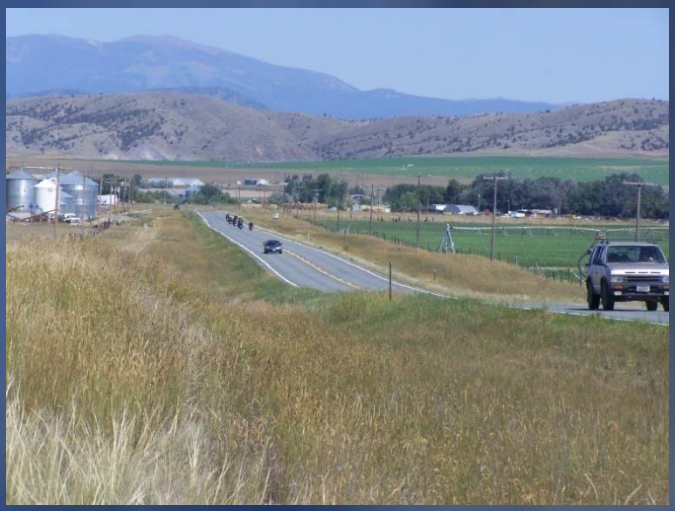
Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Corridor Concept Areas



Possible Corridor Areas

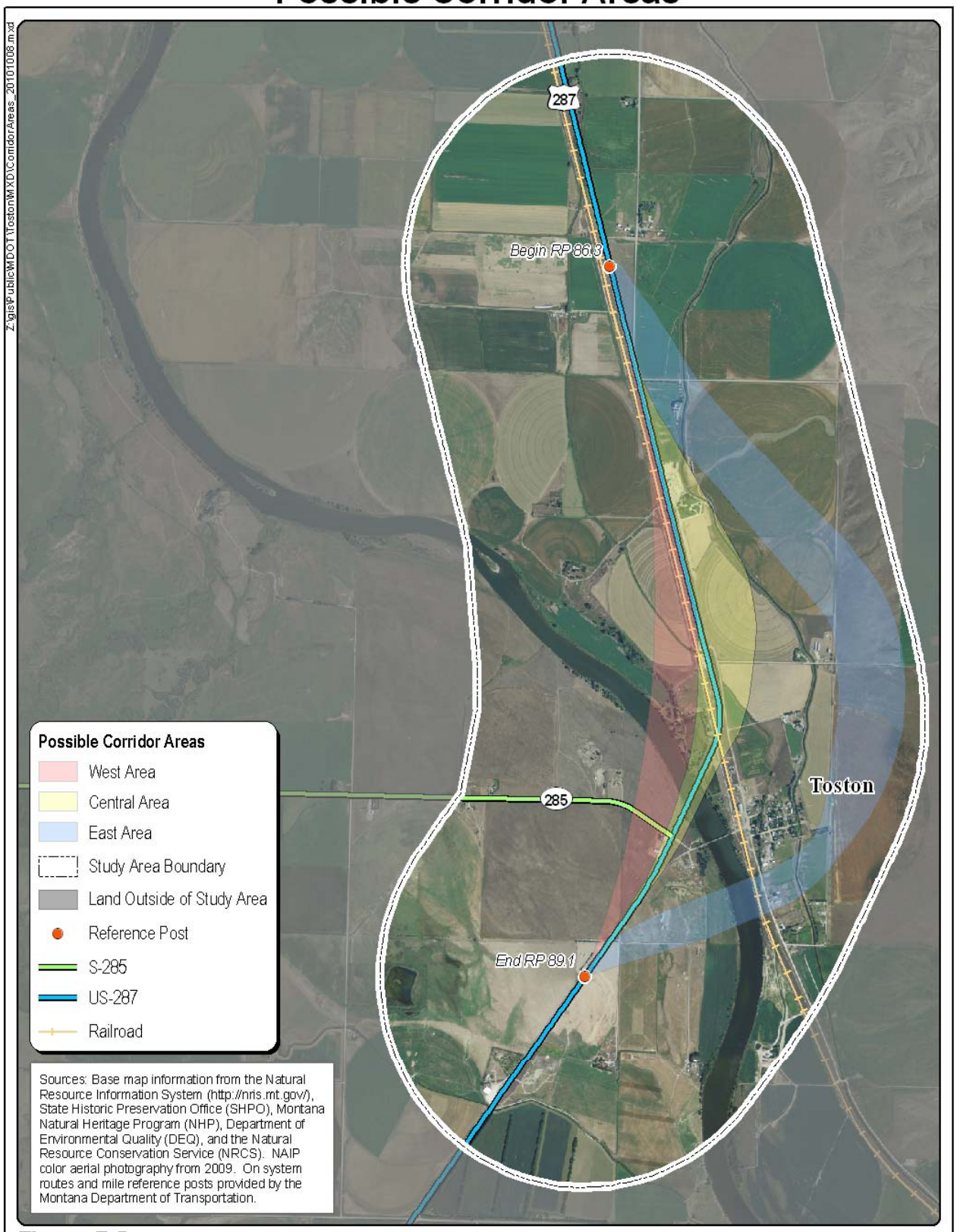


Figure 7-5
Possible Corridor Areas
Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

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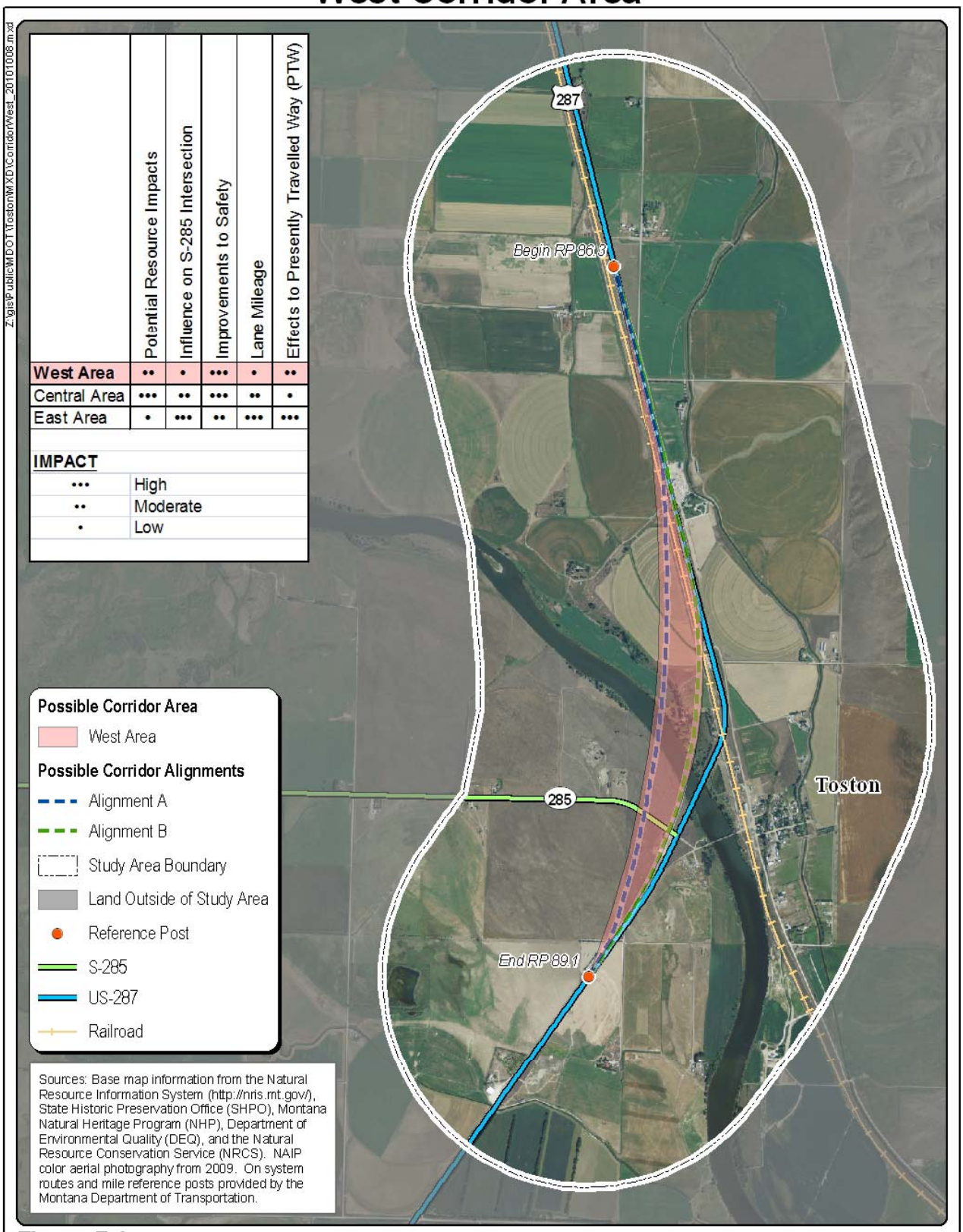
Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Corridor Concept Areas (West)

- Large sweeping curve to the west of the existing US 287 highway
- Results in longer bridges skewed to the river and tracks (high $$$)
- Possible impacts to Bunkhouse Bar and County development plans
- Moves highway farther away from Toston
- Reduces overall lane-mileage of highway
- High fills, long bridges & difficult access considerations

West Corridor Area



	Potential Resource Impacts	Influence on S-285 Intersection	Improvements to Safety	Lane Mileage	Effects to Presently Travelled Way (PTW)
West Area	••	•	•••	•	••
Central Area	•••	••	•••	••	•
East Area	•	•••	••	•••	•••

IMPACT	
•••	High
••	Moderate
•	Low

Figure 7-6
West Corridor Area
Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

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Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Corridor Concept Areas (Central)

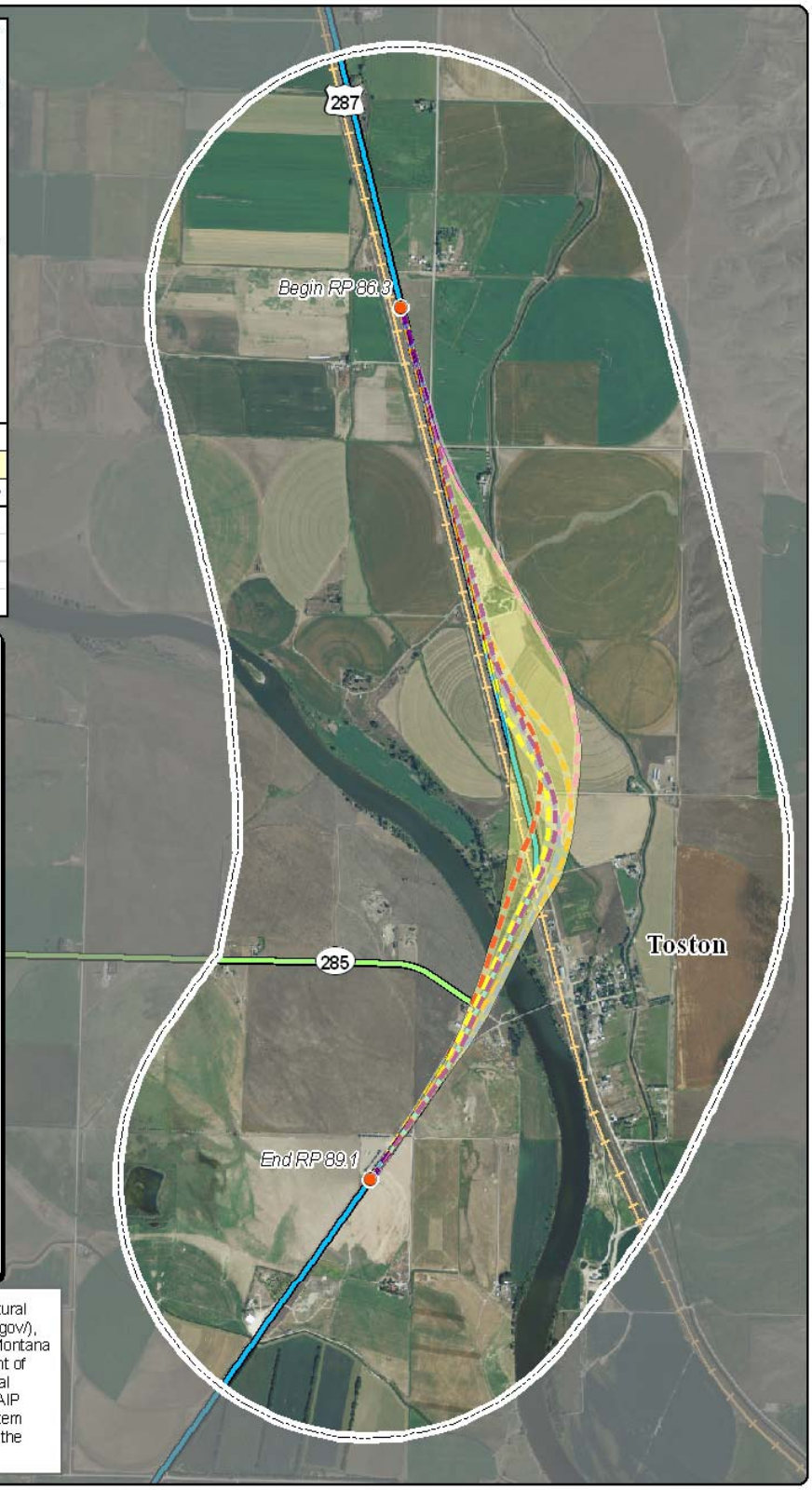
- Utilizes existing US 287 corridor to the greatest extent possible
- Constructs bridges on a tangent over the river and rail lines
- Can use existing PTW and associated fill ($$$ savings)
- Possible impact to corner of fishing access site
- Keeps approximate same lane-mileage as current US 287 roadway
- Fills extended & possible irrigation impacts

Central Corridor Area

Z:\gis\Public\MDOT\Toston\MXD\CorridorCentral_20101008.mxd

	Potential Resource Impacts	Influence on S-285 Intersection	Improvements to Safety	Lane Mileage	Effects to Presently Travelled Way (PTW)
West Area	••	•	•••	•	••
Central Area	•••	••	•••	••	•
East Area	•	•••	••	•••	•••

IMPACT	
•••	High
••	Moderate
•	Low



Possible Corridor Area

- Central Area

Possible Corridor Alignments

- Alignment C
- Alignment D
- Alignment E
- Alignment F
- Alignment G
- Alignment H
- Study Area Boundary
- Land Outside of Study Area
- Reference Post
- S-285
- US-287
- Railroad

Sources: Base map information from the Natural Resource Information System (http://nris.mt.gov/), State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Montana Natural Heritage Program (NHP), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). NAIP color aerial photography from 2009. On system routes and mile reference posts provided by the Montana Department of Transportation.

Figure 7-7

Central Corridor Area

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

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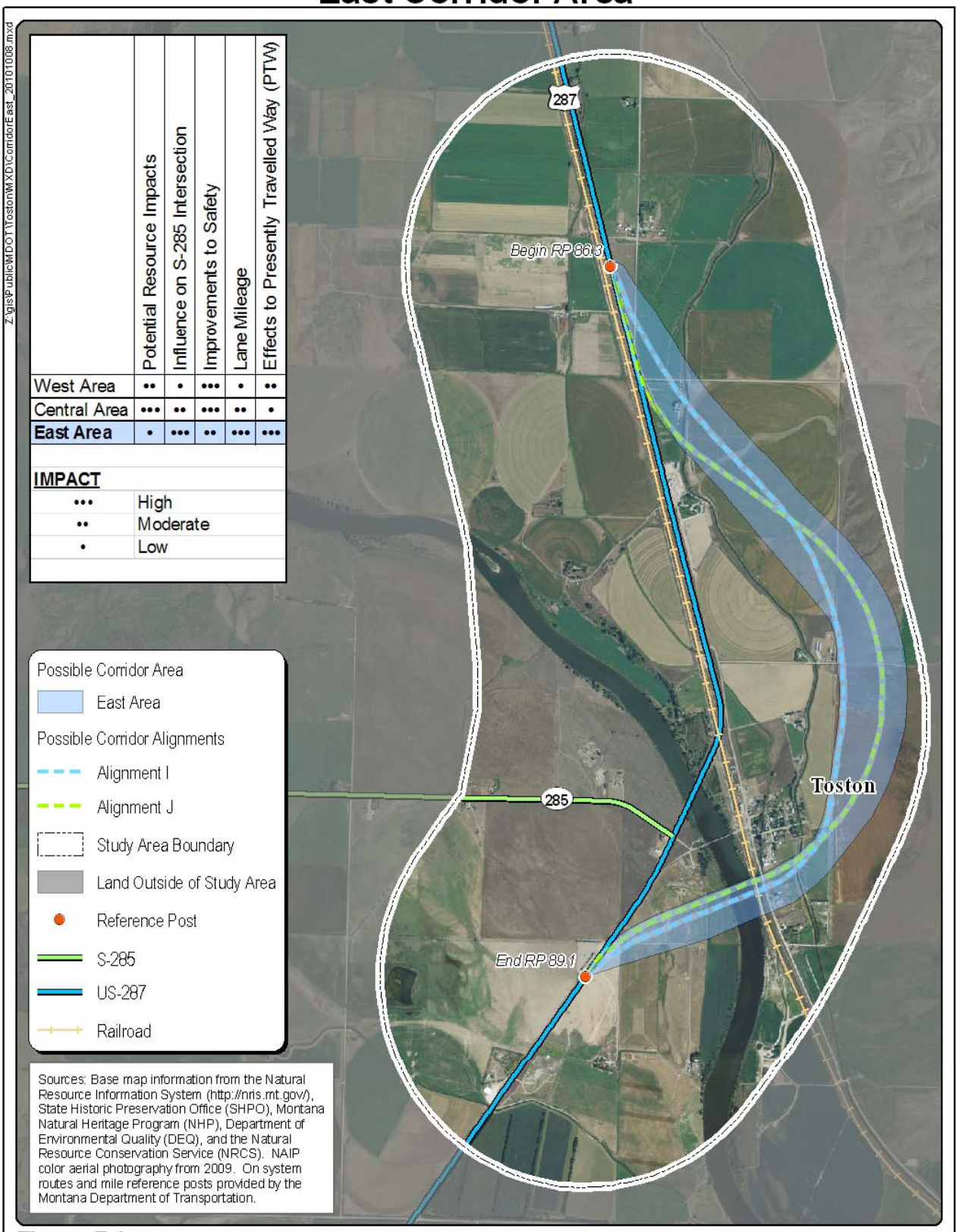
Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Corridor Concept Areas (East)

- Routes highway east of Toston
- Perpendicular bridge crossing over river and rail results in shortest span length (less $$$)
- Route would have least overall impacts to identified resources areas
- Route would increase lane-mileage compared to existing
- S-285 connection would be reconfigured
- Would not meet driver expectancy
- High fills, shorter bridges & access considerations

East Corridor Area



	Potential Resource Impacts	Influence on S-285 Intersection	Improvements to Safety	Lane Mileage	Effects to Presently Travelled Way (PTW)
West Area	••	•	•••	•	••
Central Area	•••	••	•••	••	•
East Area	•	•••	••	•••	•••

IMPACT

•••	High
••	Moderate
•	Low

Figure 7-8
East Corridor Area
Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

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October 8, 2010
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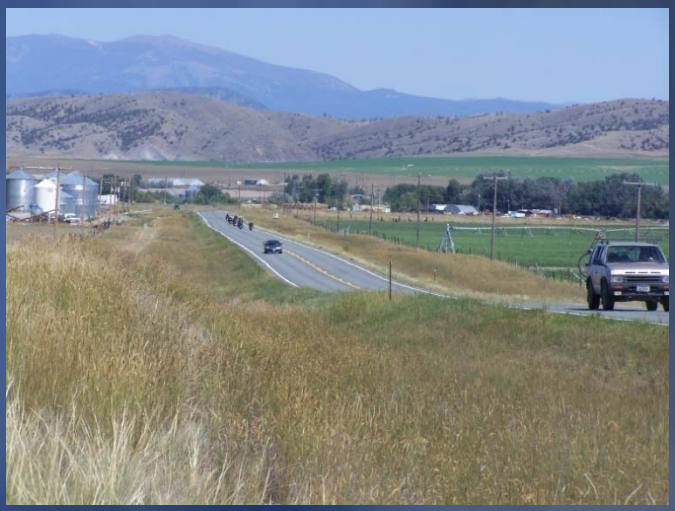
Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Potential Alignment Options



Potential Alignment Options

- Ten (10) initial alignment options
  - Two options west of existing roadway
  - Six options near/around existing roadway
  - Two options east of Toston
- Options are broad concepts that can meet FHWA design criteria
- Options are developed to minimize impacts to resources
- Other options could be developed as well

Next Steps

- Solicit public input on possible corridor areas
- Evaluate public input with other factors to "screen" possible corridor areas
- Select one possible corridor area for future alignment development
- Identify potential improvement options and document accordingly
- Develop Draft Corridor Study Report
- Final public meeting to present Corridor Study Report and recommendations

Conclusion

Questions, answers and/or comments?

Study Website:

http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/toston/

Study Newsletters:

Study Contact:

CDM Helena, ATTN: Jeff Key, P.E.

keyja@cdm.com

50 West 14th Street, 2nd Floor
Helena, Montana 59601
Tel: 406-441-1400 Fax: 406-449-7725

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study
Public Meeting No. 2 (Notes)

Wednesday, October 13, 2010 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Townsend High School – Community Room

Introduction

The second public meeting for the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study was held on Wednesday, October 13, 2010, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Townsend High School Community Room. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the public on the progress of the study and solicit comments and concerns about the west, central, and east corridors. The following Planning Team members were present at the meeting:

- Jeff Ebert (MDT Butte District Administrator)
- Carol Strizich (MDT Statewide and Urban Planning Section)
- Deb Wambach (MDT Environmental Services Bureau)
- Gail Vennes (Broadwater County Commissioner)
- Jeff Key (CDM Project Manager)
- Jamie Jespersen (CDM Project Planner)

In addition, Elaine Gravelley, Broadwater County Commissioner, was in attendance. Welcome and opening remarks were made by CDM's project manager, Jeff Key, who also facilitated the meeting.

A total of 15 members of the public attended this second public meeting. This number does not include those individuals on the planning team noted above. All new attendees will be added to the project mailing list.

Discussion Items

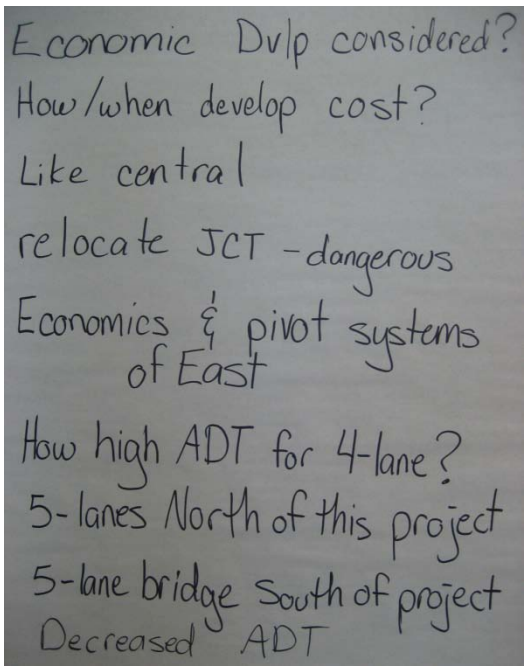
The meeting began with a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the goals, purpose, needs and objectives of the Corridor Study. Additionally, the suitability analysis, corridor concept areas, and potential alignment options were presented.

After CDM's presentation, the floor was opened for questions. The results of the questions and discussion topics evolving from the meeting are presented below:

- Were economic development opportunities considered in developing the east corridor?
- Were impacts to pivot systems considered in the east corridor?
- How and when will the project develop precise costs?
- Overall support for the central corridor.
- The Radersburg Road junction needs to be moved because its current location is dangerous.
- How high do traffic volumes need to get to consider a 4-lane roadway?
- There is a 5-lane section to the north and south of the corridor study area. Additionally there is a 5-lane bridge to the south of the corridor study area. With this project, MDT should look into designing bridges with 5 lanes for future expansion.
- Decreased ADT.

Conclusion

The next public meeting is scheduled for early December, 2010.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 19, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Carol Strizich
MDT Project Manager
406-444-9240

Toston – The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is holding the first public meeting on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2010, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, at the Townsend High School Community Room, 201 North Spruce Street. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the public on the corridor planning study project scope and purpose, take questions, and solicit input from the community on the existing conditions and concerns within the corridor.

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) has initiated the process to develop the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study. The project study area is a 2.8 mile segment established along US Highway 287 from Reference Post (RP) 86.3 (end point of Townsend-South Project) to RP 89.1 (beginning point of Toston-South). The corridor planning study will determine cost-effective ways to address transportation needs within the US 287 corridor near Toston, Montana. The Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study is a pre-NEPA/MEPA study that allows for earlier planning-level coordination with the public, resource and other agencies, and will develop specific factors that can be used in the subsequent environmental review process as projects are moved forward from the study. The corridor study is designed to help facilitate a smooth and efficient transition from transportation planning to project development/environmental review. It is important to note that the Corridor Planning Study is developed strictly as a planning project and not a design project. The results of the study will be used to determine the level of environmental documentation to be used prior to continuation of the NEPA/MEPA process and project implementation.

The general public is invited to participate in the public meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2010. Announcements will be made prior to all public events through local media and the project mailing list. Those with specific interest in the study are encouraged to join the project mailing list by submitting their name and contact information to Jeff Key at KeyJA@cdm.com. A project website has been developed and can be access at www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/toston. MDT has provided a toll free comment line at 1-800-714-7296. The public may also provide input or questions by contacting Carol Strizich, the MDT Project Manager, at 406-444-9240 or mailing 2960 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, 59620. The MDT and CDM will collect and consider all public comments to better understand the public view of potential issues and concerns within the corridor.

To:

Helena Independent Record, Newsroom, IRStaff@HelenaIR.com
The Townsend Star, News Department, TStarMT@MT.net
Associated Press Montana, News Department, APMontana@ap.org
Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Press Release Department, citydesk@dailychronicle.com
The Belgrade News, Managing Editor, AMalby@belgrade-news.com

MONTANA MDT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Public Meeting

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Tuesday, February 16, 2010 6:00 p.m.
Townsend High School – Community Room
201 North Spruce Street, Townsend

The Montana Department of Transportation invites the public to attend a public meeting to discuss the US 287 corridor near Toston. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the public on the corridor planning study scope and purpose, take questions, and solicit input from the community on the existing conditions and concerns within the corridor.

The meeting is open to the public. MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person's participation in any department service, program or activity. For reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting, please contact Jeff Key at (406) 441-1400 at least two days before the meeting. For the hearing impaired, the TTY number is (406) 444-7696 or (800) 335-7592, or Montana Relay at 711. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request.

Comments may be submitted in writing at the meeting; by mail to Carol Strizich, MDT at
P.O. Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620; or online at
www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/toston/
Please indicate comments are for the Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study.

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 1

February 16, 2010

Sign-In Sheet

Name	Address	Email
Jeff Patten - FHWA	585 Shepherd Way Helena	
Barry Brosten	MDT - Helena	
Bob Burkhardt	FHWA	
Carol Strizich	MDT - Helena	
Deb Wambach	MDT - Helena.	
Gordon + Florence Brug	8889 Hwy 287 Toston	
Rodger VETTER	8846 Hwy 287 TOSTON	
LEONARD Lamboll	8715 US Hwy 287	lamboll@mt.net
Missouri River Grony	Toston, MT 59643	
Bob Hossfeld	35 Hossfeld Lane Toston 59643	hossfeldranch.msn.com
Franklin Slifka	Box 63 Toston Mt 59643	
Chuck HAHN	7996 Hwy 28 TOWNSEND MT 59644	
Bill & MARILYN LANE	P.O. Box 56 TOSTON,	MT 59643
Walter + Ann Ramen	102 Ramen Lane, Toston	59643
Stanley Kimm	101 Wheatland Rd	59752 Three Forks
Kathy Wilcox	23 Lombard Road	Toston 59643
Elaine Graveley	2 Riley Rd	Townsend 59644
Gail Bruckner	68 MT Hwy 285	Toston 59643
Clayton Rockwell	77 Hwy 285	Toston MT 59643
Jerry & Muriel Reller	20 Hwy 285	Toston

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 1

February 16, 2010

Sign-In Sheet

Name	Address	Email
Rick DeMartin	31 Hwy 287 Bypass	RDem@MT.net
Barb DeMartin	" "	" "
Rick Van Dyken	83 Lone Mtn Rd	bikcattle@aol.com
Doris Hossfeld	43 Hossfeld Ln.	dhossfeld@mt.net
Wellis Hossfeld	" "	"
Rod Kitto	275 Hwy 285	kittohay@mt.net
Dennis Williams	306 Lone Mtn, Toston	
Mike Koehler	PO Bx 506 Townsend	
Curt Dreis	4547 Flynn Lane	
Laura Obert	PO Bx 196	Lauraobert@mt.net
Brian Obert	129 So. Spruce	bobert@mbac.biz
Tom Helm	52 Lombard Rd. Toston	
John Hahn	53 Carson Lane	hahnsupply@mt.net

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Welcome!

TOSTON MISSOURI RIVER CROSSING CORRIDOR PLANNING STUDY

Public Meeting

Thank you for coming!

Your input is greatly appreciated.

MONTANA MDT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CDM

TOSTON MISSOURI RIVER CROSSING CORRIDOR PLANNING STUDY

Looking northeast at Missouri River Bridge.

Looking northeast at Historic Toston Bridge.

Looking north at US Highway 287 and adjacent lands.

Looking east at railway, MRL Bridge, and adjacent lands.

Looking northwest at Montana Rail Link and adjacent lands.

Looking southeast at MRL Bridge and access road.

TOSTON MISSOURI RIVER CROSSING CORRIDOR PLANNING STUDY

Looking north at US Highway 287 (left) and Flynn Lane (right).

Looking west at US Highway 287, Montana Rail Link, and adjacent lands from Flynn Lane.

Looking north at Flynn Lane and adjacent lands.

Looking south at Flynn Lane (left) and US Highway 287 (right).

Looking northeast at Missouri River.

Looking northeast at MRL Bridge and Missouri River Bridge.

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Public Informational Meeting No. 1

February 16, 2010

Purpose of this Meeting

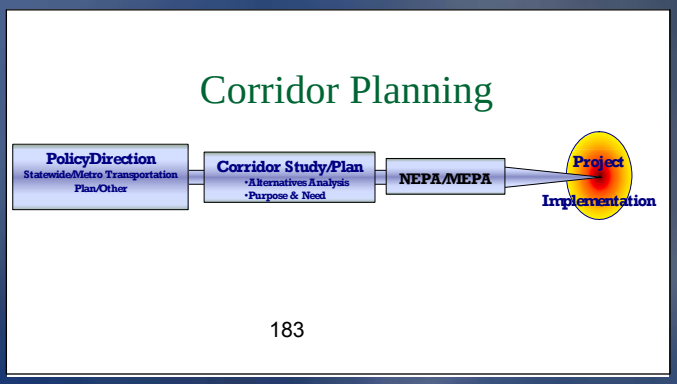
- Introduce the *Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study*
- Identify partners & stakeholders
- Explain public involvement process
- Describe initial work completed on study and scope of remaining tasks
- Solicit comments and concerns from the public in attendance
- Informal discussions after the presentation

Outline of Presentation

- Goals and Purpose
- US 287 Corridor Overview
- Corridor Planning vs. NEPA/MEPA
- Stakeholders / Public Involvement / Schedule
- Existing Conditions in the Corridor
- Conclusions, Questions and Comments

Goals and Purpose of Study

- Engage the public early!
- Identify constraints
- Identify short-range and long-range improvements
- Develop planning level cost estimates
- Develop information and data to be forwarded into the environmental process as a project moves forward from the study



US 287 Corridor Overview

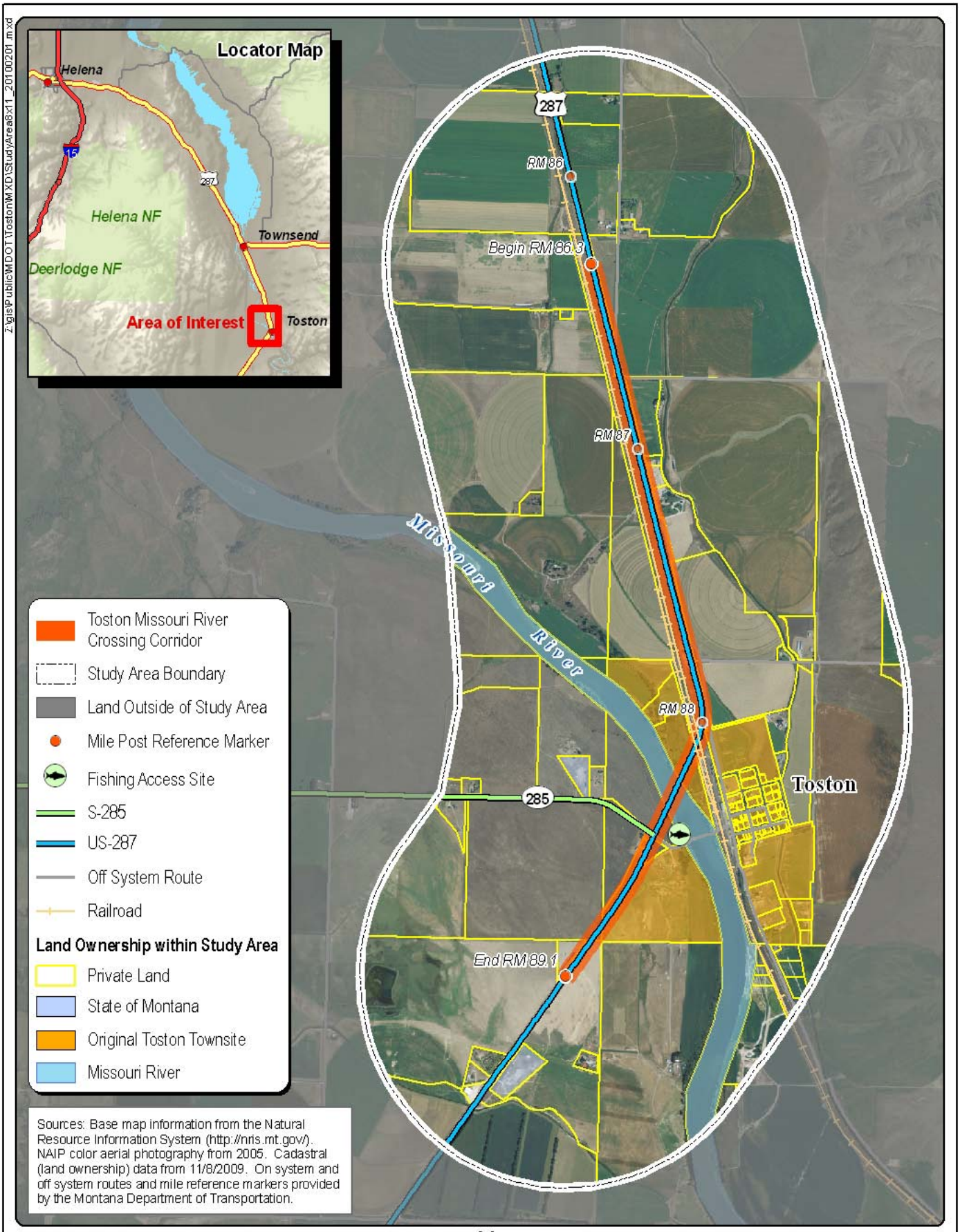


Figure 1-1

Project Study Area

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

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February 1, 2010

DRAFT

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Proposed Improvements for US 287 Within Corridor Study Area

- Toston – North
  - Pavement Preservation Project
- Toston – South
  - Reconstruction
- Townsend – South Passing Lanes
  - Reconstruction

Corridor Planning

vs.

NEPA/MEPA

What is a Corridor Planning Study?

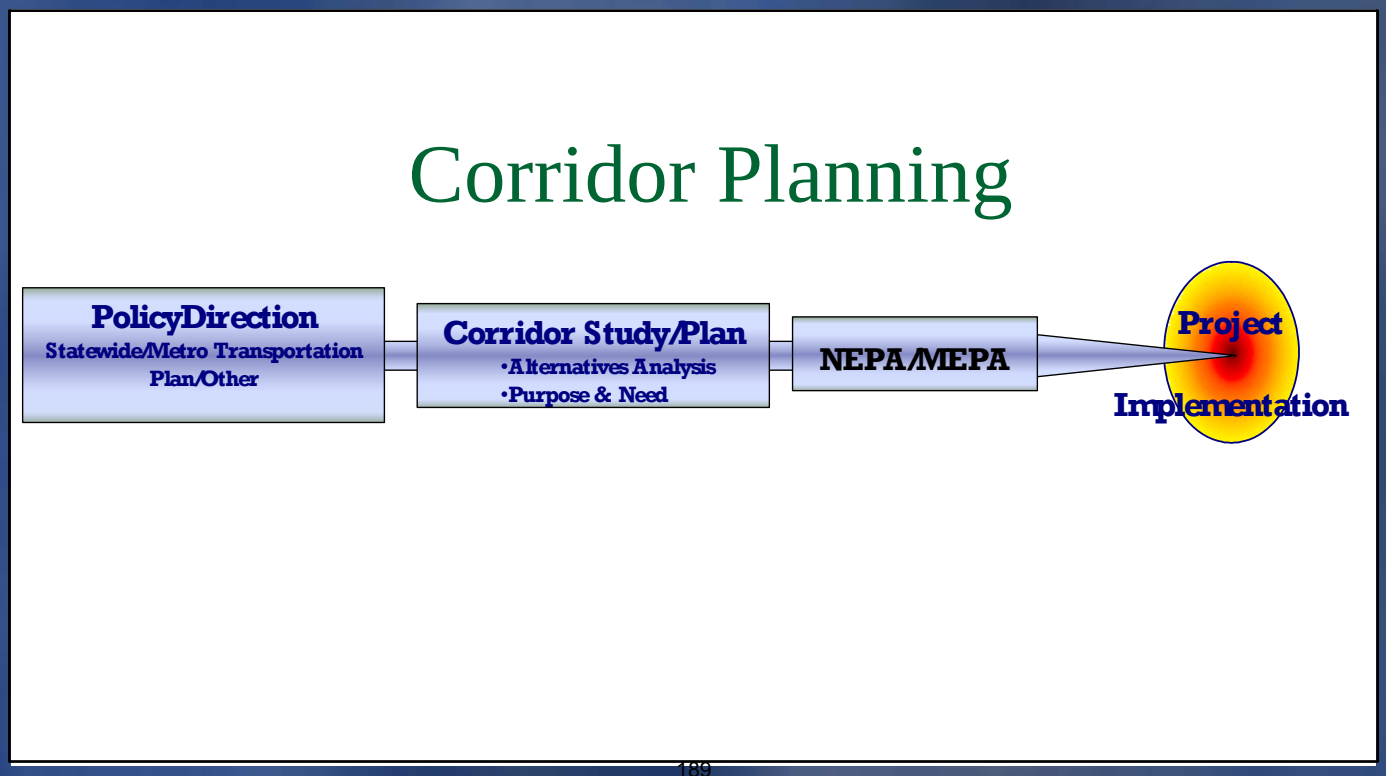
- Pre-NEPA/MEPA Corridor Study
  - Not a NEPA/MEPA* Study or Environmental Study
  - Not a Preliminary or Final Design Project
  - Not a Construction or Maintenance Project
  - Not a Right of Way Acquisition project

*** The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) / Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) is a policy for the protection of the natural environment and human health and welfare and is carried out by promoting efforts to prevent or eliminate damage to the environment.**

Corridor Planning and Corridor Studies

Corridor Study

A detailed evaluation of an existing transportation system within a designated corridor including factors and issues affecting the system and recommendations for how the system should be changed to meet long-term transportation needs



Corridor Planning Approach

- A corridor is identified for analysis
- Corridor studies:
  - Are a “high level scan”
  - Define transportation issues/problems
  - Assesses a broad range of options
  - Considers social, economic, and environmental effects at an early stage
  - Provides a level of analysis that can support informed and sustainable decisions

Corridor Planning Approach

- Corridor studies:
  - Identify cost-effective and feasible strategies
  - Consider community concerns and values
  - Fosters greater cooperation among agencies and other stakeholders
  - Extends the participation of these parties through the NEPA/MEPA process
  - Can streamline the overall process

Corridor Planning Approach

- Corridor planning:
  - Informs the NEPA/MEPA process
    - Issues Identification
    - Purpose and Need
    - Alternatives Development
    - Technical Analyses
    - Information on Impacts
  - Reduces the cost of environmental process
  - Speeds project delivery

Corridor Planning Approach

- Corridor planning:
  - Provides early and continuous involvement
  - Prioritize future transportation improvements based on financial feasibility
  - Identifies corridor management strategies

Stakeholders

Public Involvement

Schedule

Stakeholders

- Study Planning Team
  - MDT
  - FHWA
  - Broadwater County
  - Consultant
- Stakeholders
  - City of Townsend
  - Broadwater County
  - Montana Rail Link
  - BNSF Railway
  - Economic Development Corporations

Stakeholders

- Stakeholders
  - Townsend School District
  - US 287 User's Group
  - Water User's Group (Missouri River)
  - Toston Irrigation District
  - Pat Barnes Chapter of Trout Unlimited
  - County Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Personnel
  - County Sheriff and Montana State Highway Patrol
  - Landowners in the Corridor
  - Resource and Regulatory Agencies

Public Involvement Activities

- Three public informational meetings
- Presentations to Broadwater County Commission
- One-on-one outreach to select landowners and project stakeholders
- Other Outreach Efforts
  - Project newsletters
  - Website/Toll Free line
  - Informal meetings

Project Schedule

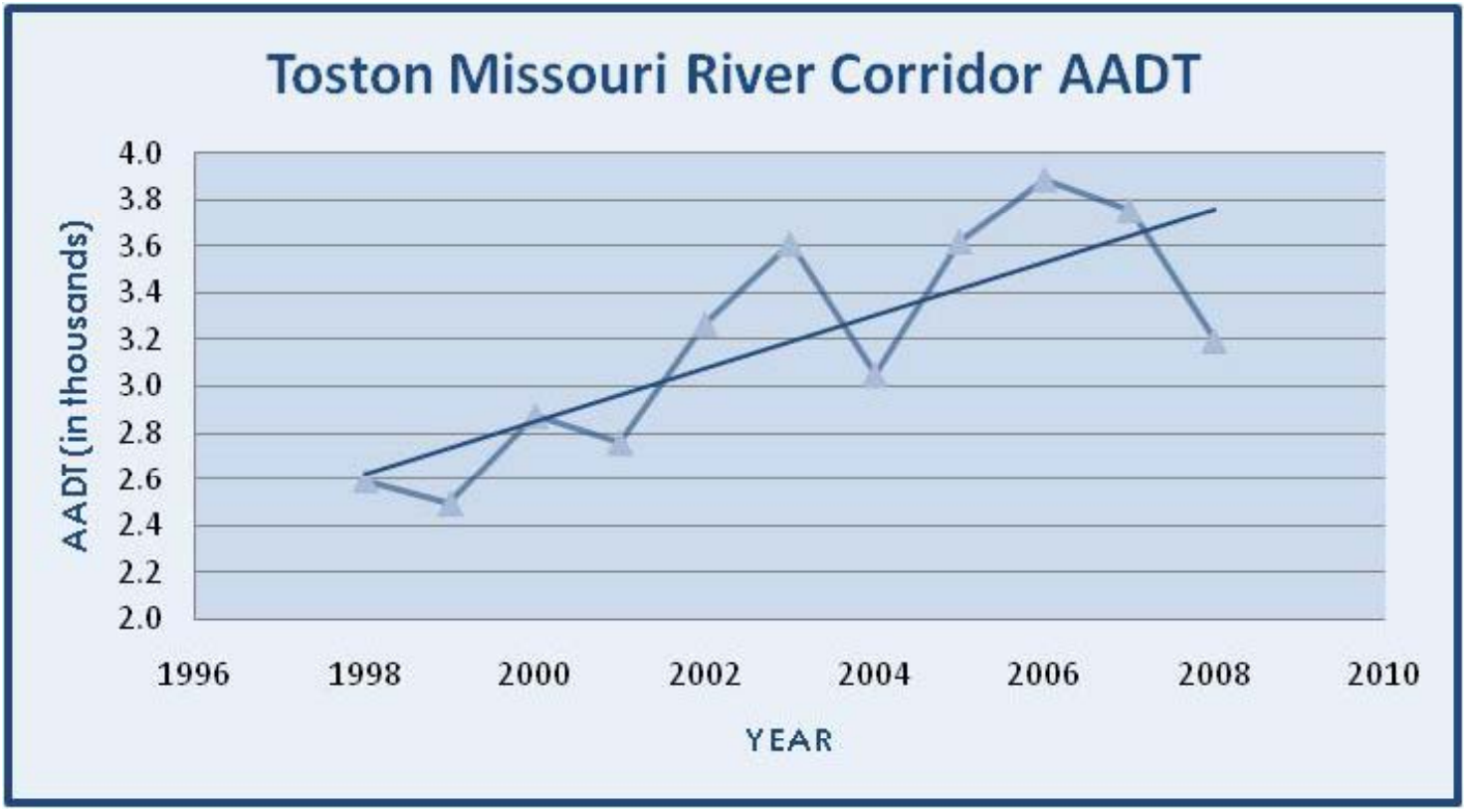
- Project Kick-off Meeting Held December 16, 2009
- Draft Corridor Study Document (~ August 2010)
- Final Corridor Study Document (~October 2010)

Existing Conditions in the Corridor

Corridor Overview

- Rural Principal Arterial – Non-Interstate National Highway System (NHS) route
- Predominant route between major cities and towns
- Significance to interstates
- Functional classification determines design speed and associated highway geometrics

Existing Traffic Volumes



Existing Crash Trends

- Safety issues are a significant concern
- A 10-year period of crash data was analyzed (01/01/1999 – 12/31/2008)
- 59 total crashes in the 10-year period
  - 26 occurred on bridge near MP 88
  - 45 were single vehicle crashes (76.3 %)
    - 10 involved wild animals (17.0 %)
    - 14 involved guardrail (23. 7%)
- Rumble strips installed 2006

US Highway 287 Crash Statistics (MP 86.1 – 89.1)
(from January 1, 1999 – December 31, 2008

Statewide Average	NINHS Routes	Study Area
All Vehicles Crash Rate	1.07	1.32
All Vehicles Severity Index	2.20	2.64
All Vehicles Severity Rate	2.36	4.28
Total Recorded Crashes		59

Source: MDT Traffic and Safety Bureau, 2009.

Railroad Bridge Crossing

- US 287 bridge crossing over the MRL track (MP 88.05)
- Existing bridge structure is ~386 feet in length
- Bridge rail was retrofitted with concrete barrier
- Horizontal separation and vertical clearance criteria exists
- Important for this study's conceptual improvement option(s)

Missouri River Bridge Crossing

- Existing bridge structure is ~690 feet in length
- 28 feet in width
- Bridge rail was retrofitted with concrete barrier
- Continuous steel girders (main span)
- Concrete T-beam for end spans

Environmental Resources

- Surface Waters
- Floodplain
- Irrigation Systems
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Species of Special Concern
- Wetlands
- Wildlife
- Fisheries
- Cultural Resources
- Recreation
- Prime Farmland
- Hazardous Waste Sites
- Noise
- Air Quality
- Geology
- Noxious Weeds
- Private Development

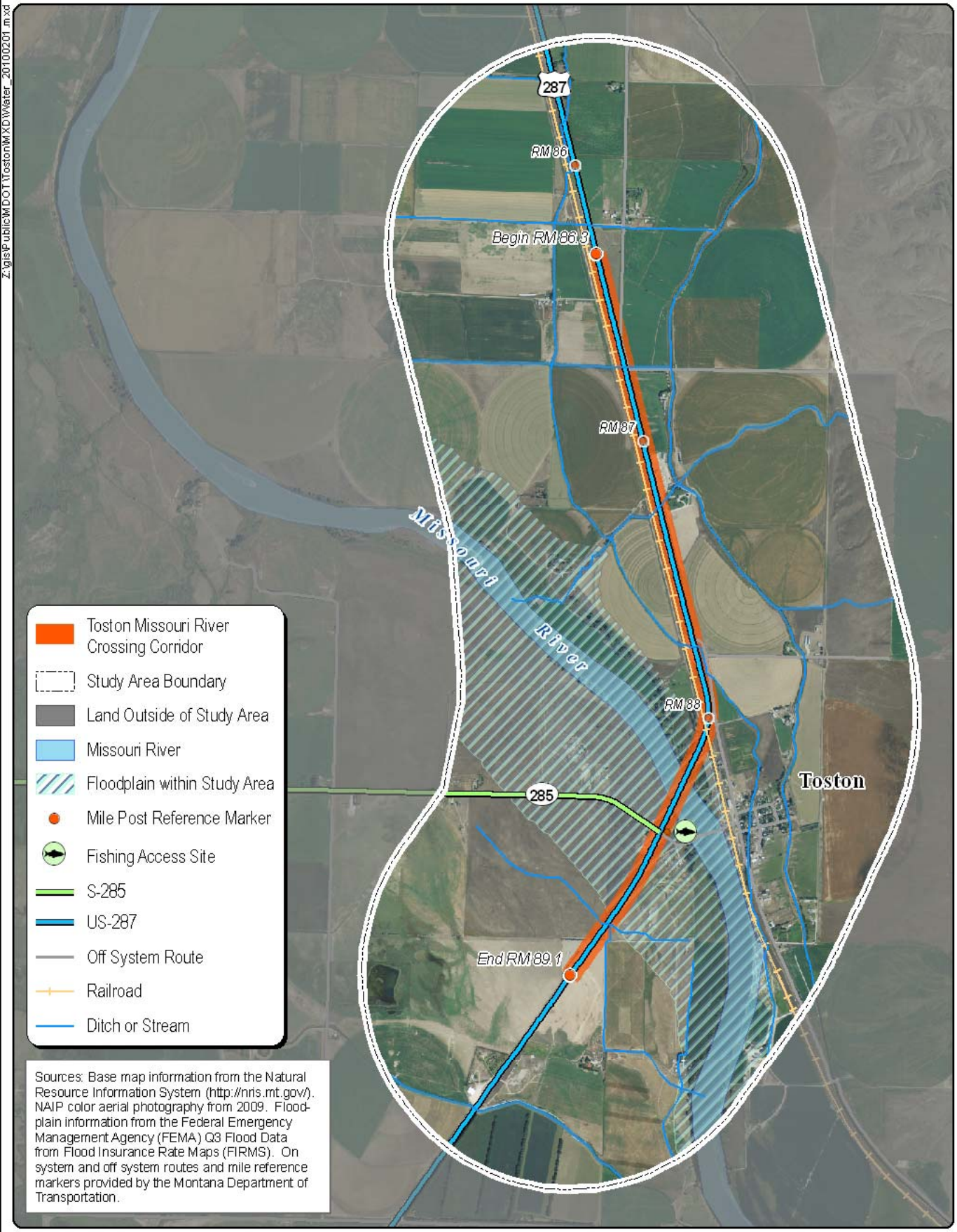


Figure 3-1

Surface Waters and Floodplain

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

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February 1, 2010

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Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

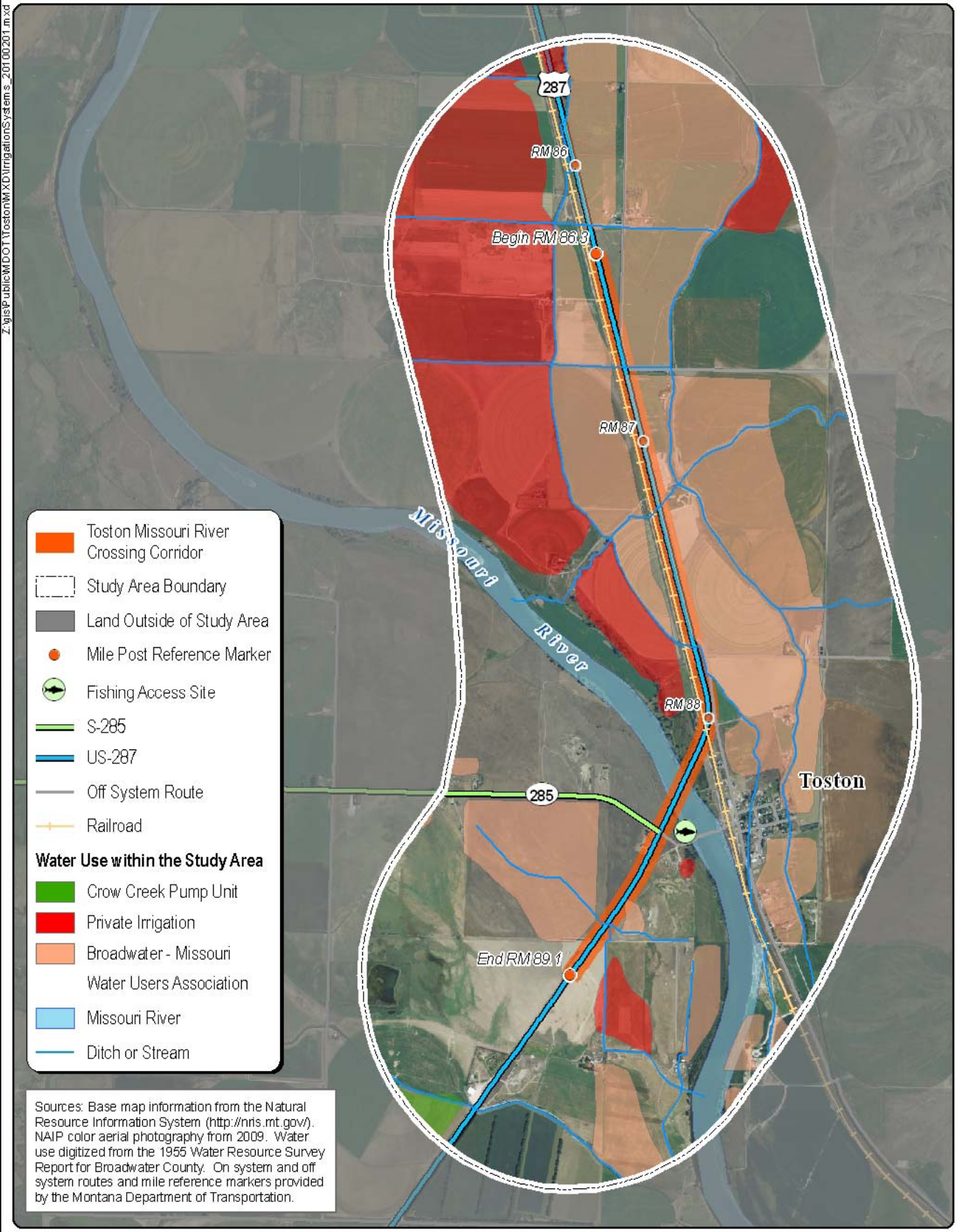


Figure 3-2

Irrigation Systems

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

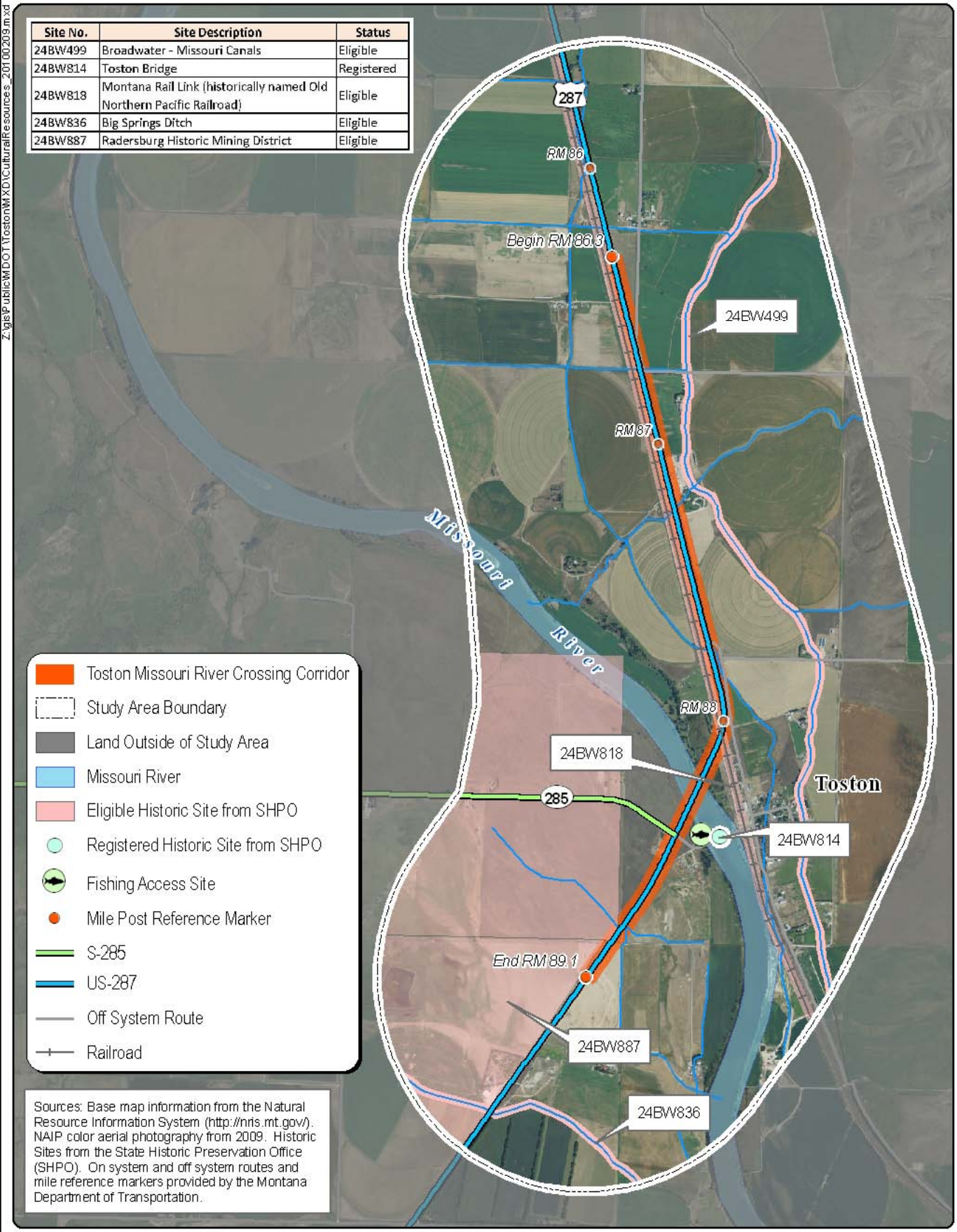
0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

N

February 1, 2010

DRAFT

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study



Site No.	Site Description	Status
24BW499	Broadwater - Missouri Canals	Eligible
24BW814	Toston Bridge	Registered
24BW818	Montana Rail Link (historically named Old Northern Pacific Railroad)	Eligible
24BW836	Big Springs Ditch	Eligible
24BW887	Radersburg Historic Mining District	Eligible

Figure 3-3

Cultural Resources and Recreation
Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

N

February 9, 2010

DRAFT

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

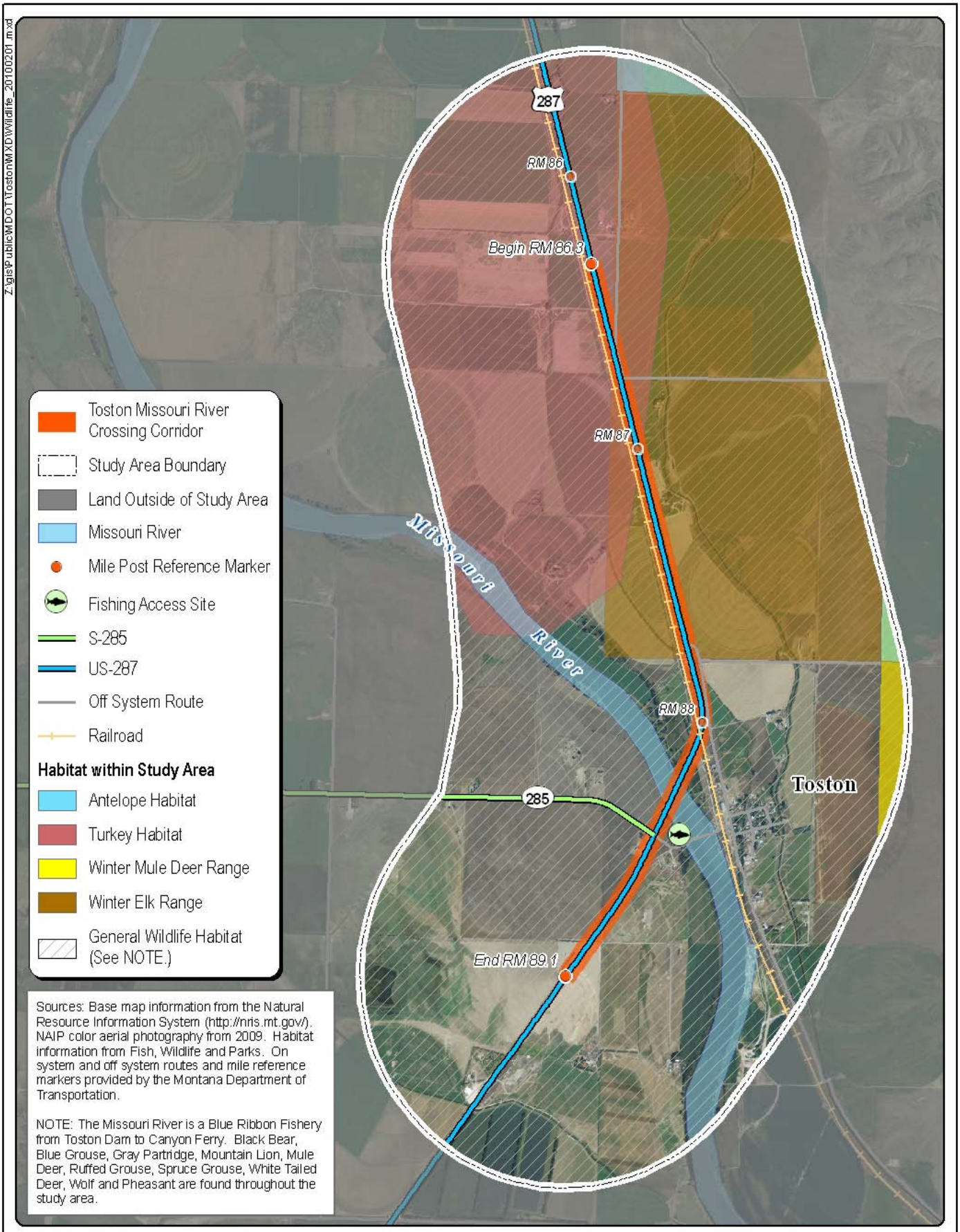


Figure 3-4

Wildlife Corridor Areas

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

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February 1, 2010

DRAFT

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

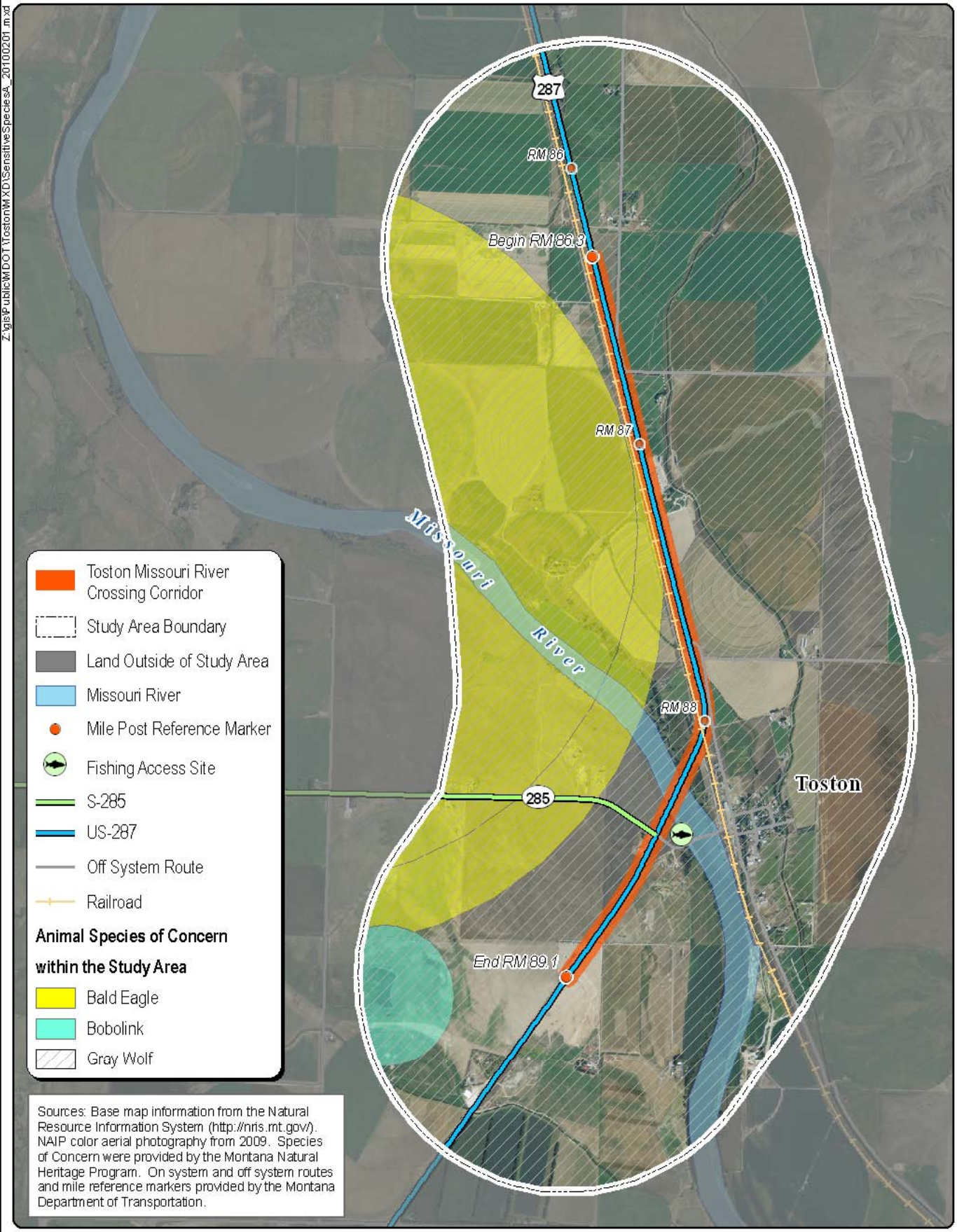

Figure 3-5

Animal Species of Concern

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

N

February 1, 2010

DRAFT

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

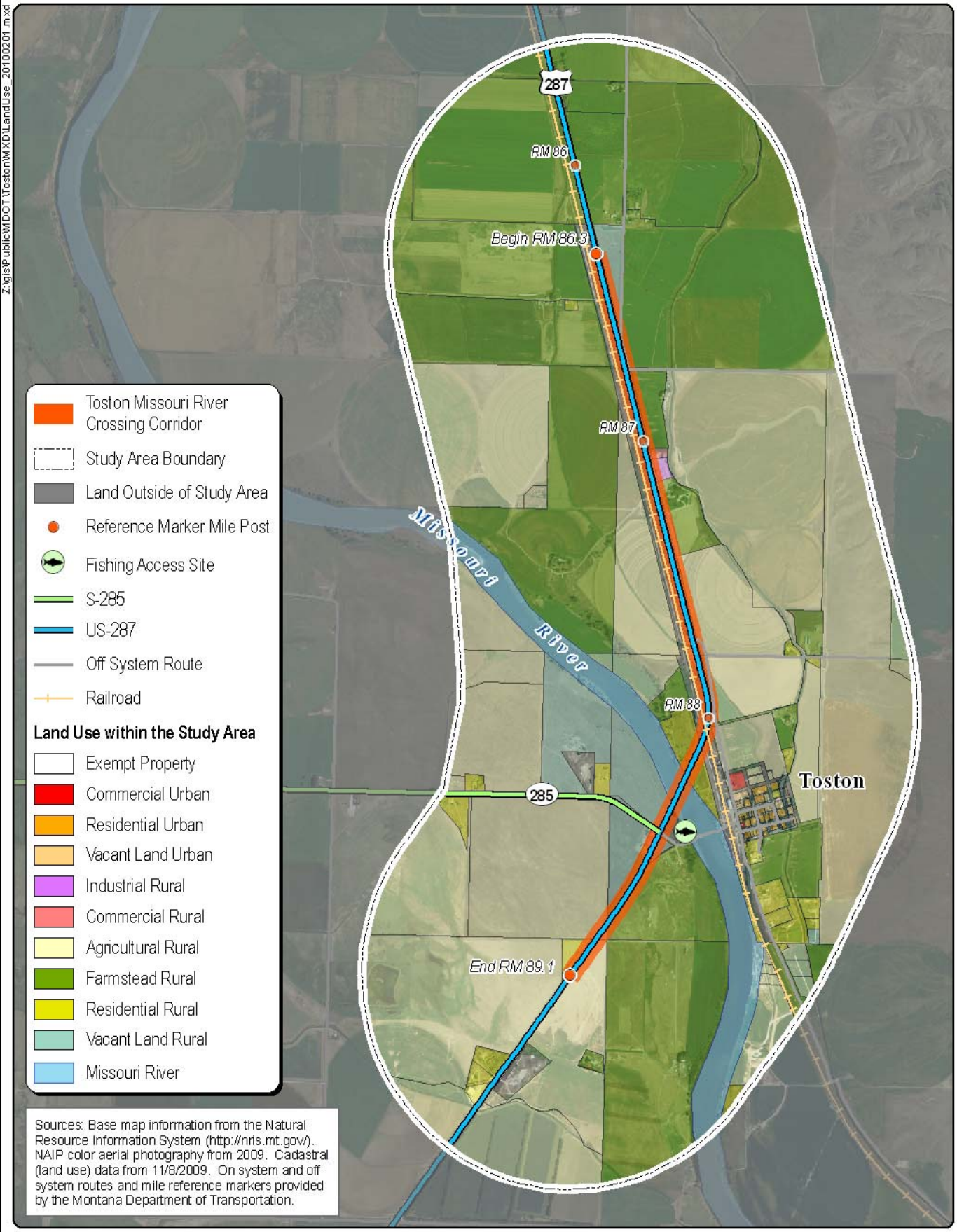

Figure 3-8

Land Use

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

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February 1, 2010

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Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

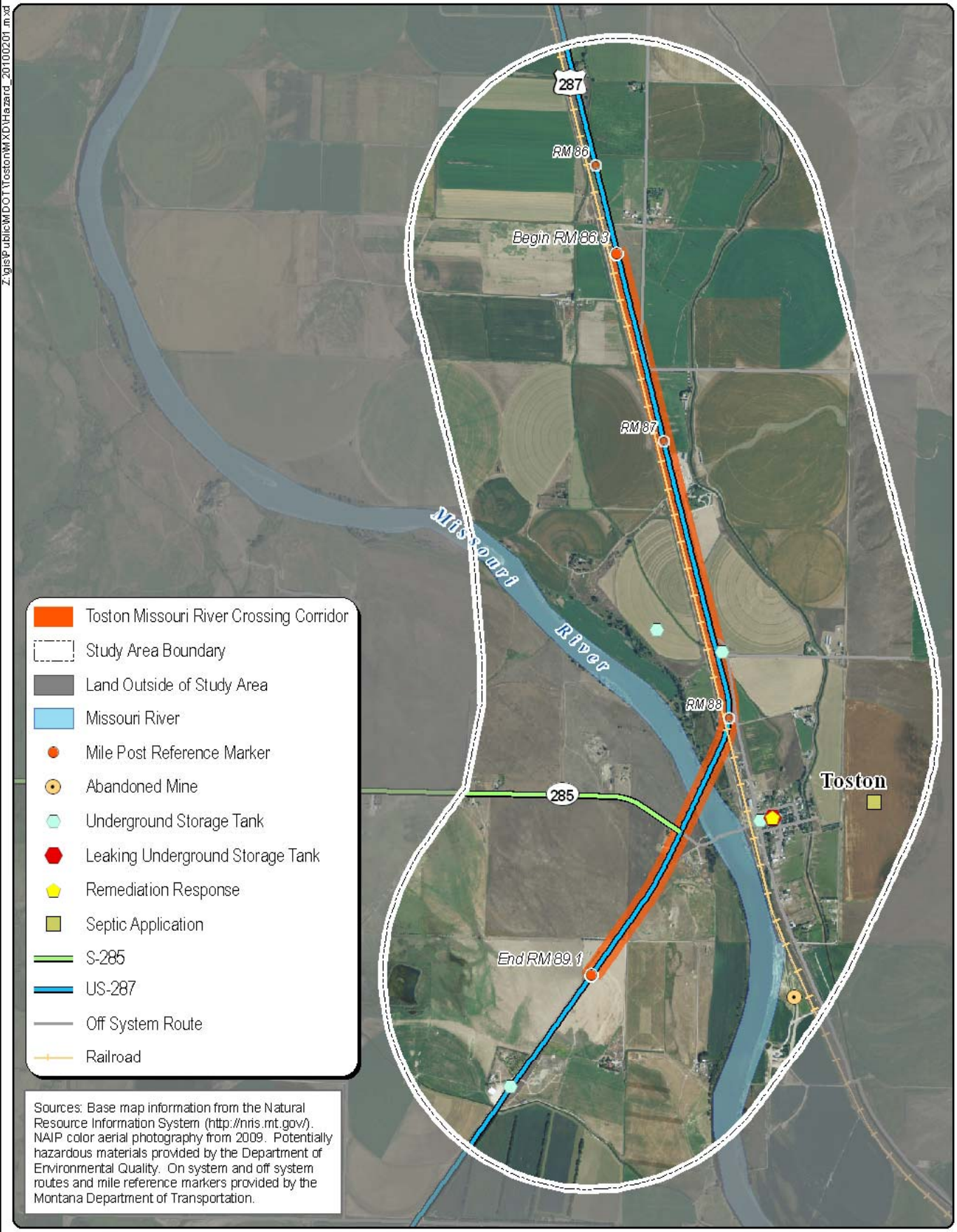

Figure 3-9

Hazardous Material in the Project Study Area
Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

N

February 1, 2010
DRAFT

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

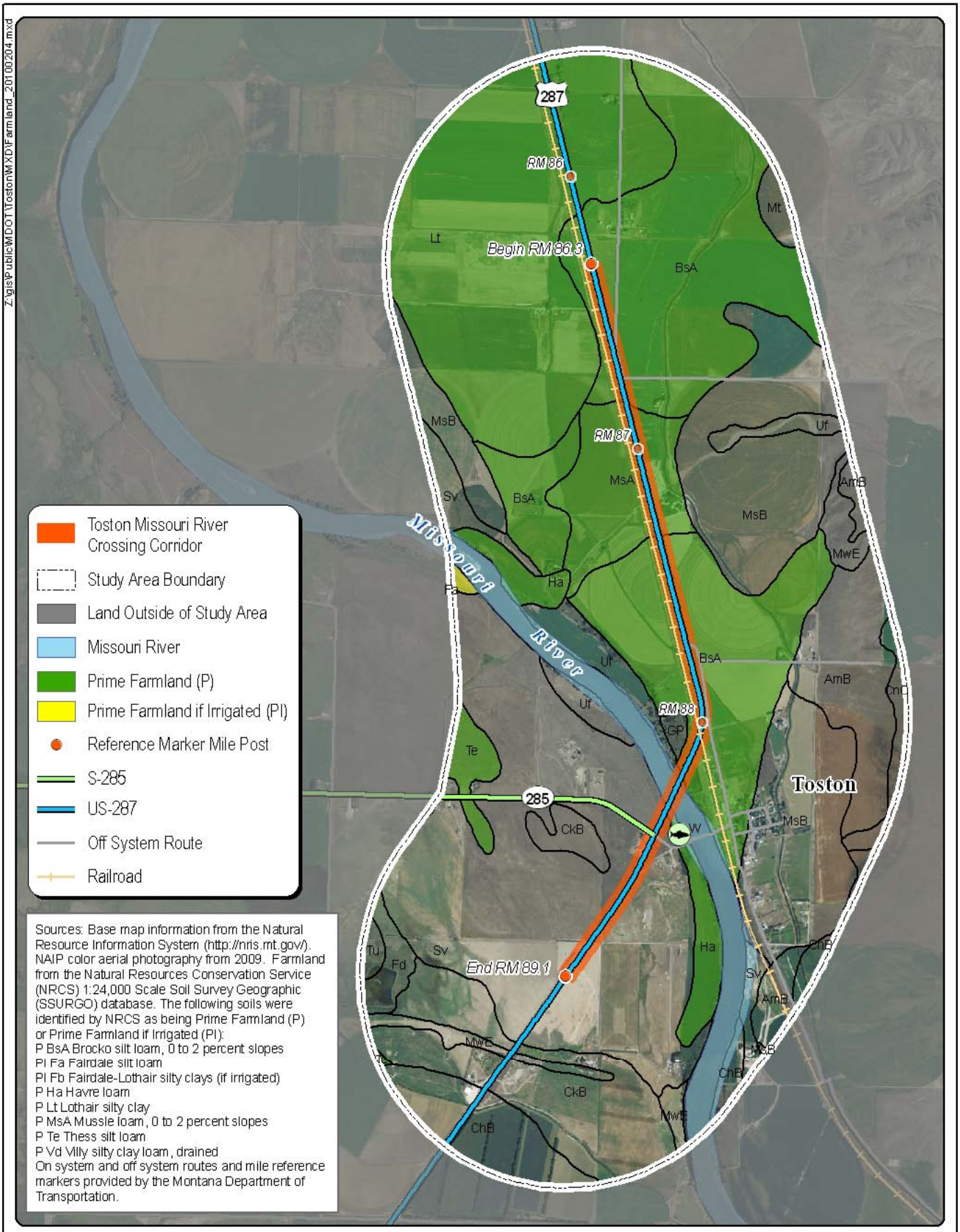

Figure 3-10

Farmland and Soils

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

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February 1, 2010

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Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

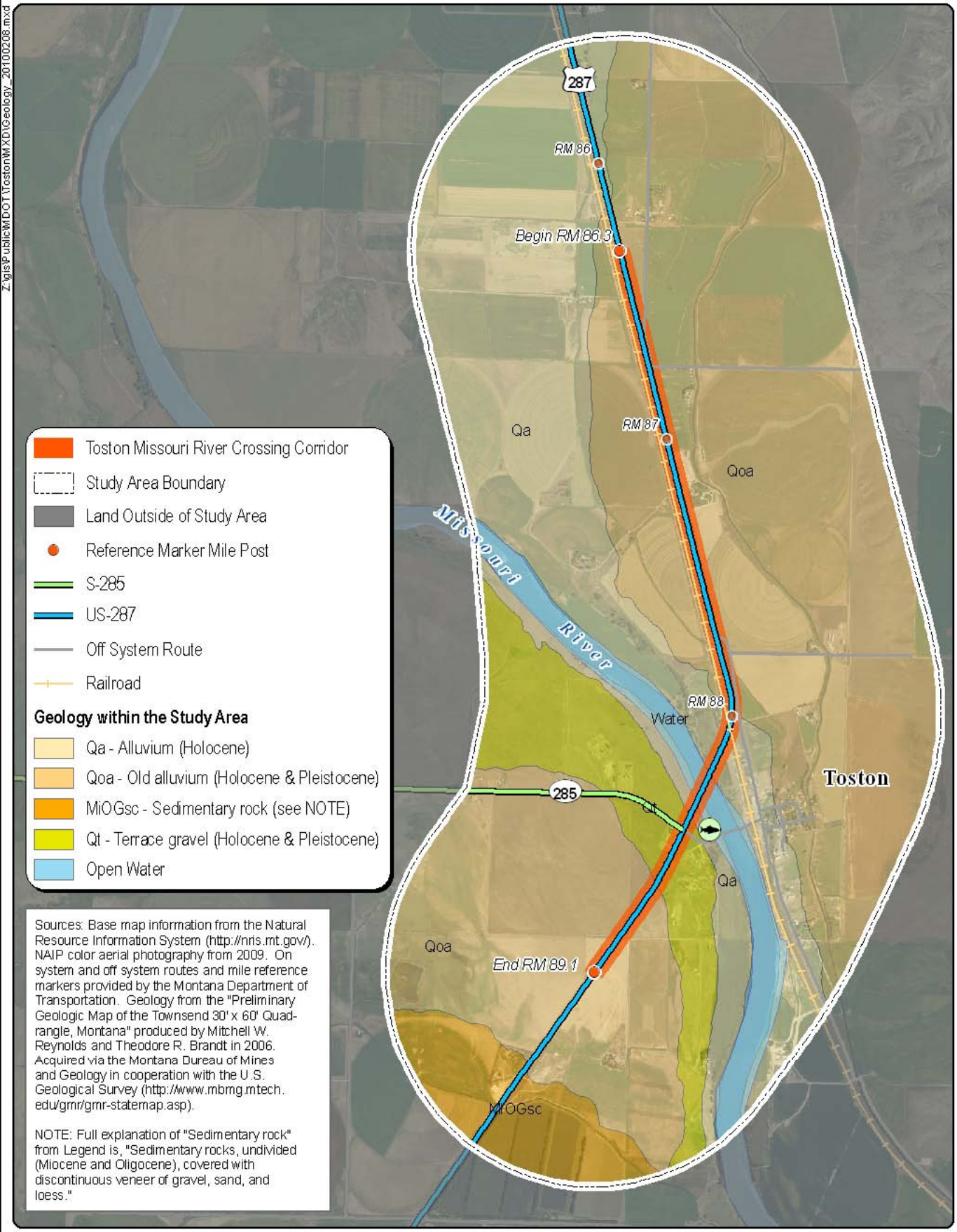


Figure 3-11

Geology

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

N

February 8, 2010

DRAFT

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Environmental Scan

- Environmental scan will be completed in short term
- Helps provide sufficient information to compare conceptual improvement options
  - Fatal flaws?
  - Greater or lesser impacts
  - Can impacts be avoided, minimized or mitigated – and at what cost?
  - Procedural hurdles?
  - Environmental resource & regulatory agencies input

Next Steps

- Continue study coordination and outreach
- Complete existing conditions and data gathering efforts
- Begin analysis of transportation needs
- Begin identification of potential improvement options for the corridor

Next Steps

- Solicit comments from the public
- Review the displays - comment/edit preliminary information
- Areas of concern
- Known constraints
- General perception / ideas about the corridor

Conclusion

Questions, answers and/or comments?

Study Website:

http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/toston/

Study Newsletters:

Study Contact:

CDM Helena, ATTN: Jeff Key, P.E.

keyja@cdm.com

50 West 14th Street, 2nd Floor
Helena, Montana 59601
Tel: 406-441-1400 Fax: 406-449-7725

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study
Public Meeting No. 1 (Notes)

Tuesday, February 16, 2010 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Townsend High School – Community Room

Introduction

The first public meeting for the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2010, from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm at the Townsend High School Community Room. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the public on the study and solicit comments and concerns about the corridor. The following Planning Team members were present at the meeting:

- Jeff Ebert (MDT Butte District Administrator)
- Carol Strizich (MDT Statewide and Urban Planning Section)
- Barry Brosten (MDT Environmental Services Bureau)
- Deb Wambach (MDT Environmental Services Bureau)
- Jeff Patten (FHWA Operations Engineer)
- Bob Burkhardt (FHWA Statewide Planning & Structures Engineer)
- Gail Vennes (Broadwater County Commissioner)
- Jeff Key (CDM Project Manager)
- Naomi Fossen (CDM Project Engineer)

In addition, Elaine Graveley and Laura Obert, Broadwater County Commissioners, were in attendance. Welcome and opening remarks were made by MDT's Jeff Ebert. CDM's project manager, Jeff Key, facilitated the meeting.

A total of 28 members of the public attended this first public meeting. This number does not include those individuals on the planning team noted above. Of the 28 members of the public in attendance, eleven individuals were neither on the corridor landowner list or the list of Toston residents. Accordingly, these eleven individuals have been added to the project mailing list.

Discussion Items

The meeting began with a PowerPoint presentation introducing the corridor planning study, a description of NEPA/MEPA, and the approach for the study. An overview of the corridor was presented including the significance of the highway classification, traffic volumes, crash statistics, and bridge crossings over the railroad and Missouri River. Graphics of known environmental constraints were shown as potential areas of concerns throughout the corridor.

After CDM's presentation, the floor was open for any questions. The results of the questions and discussion topics evolving from the meeting are presented below:

- Consideration should be given for a 50-year planning horizon for the planning study versus a 20-year study.
- Thought should be given to holding future public meetings in Toston at the Fire Hall.
- There are several school bus and postal routes through the corridor. Thought and consideration should be made to these routes and the affect they have on the function and flow of the corridor.
- There is a lot of activity south of the bridge with the Fire Department and the Bunkhouse Bar.
- There are several restrictions at the bridge approaches. In particular, geometric and pavement issues on both ends of the bridge.
- Visual obstructions are caused by several signs posted at the intersection of Hwy 285 and 287. Special comment being given when making a left turn from Hwy 285 onto Hwy 287.
- The sight distance at the south end of the bridge should be further investigated. It was thought that the original construction resulted in the grade being 5 feet lower in this location, likely adversely affecting the sight distance.
- Reference was made to the Laurel Bridge and icy road conditions. That structure is on a long curve and can be very dangerous during winter conditions. Such winter conditions and the bridge should be given significant consideration.
- Bicycle and pedestrian facilities should be addressed throughout the corridor. Bicycle and pedestrian usage is permitted along all public roads within Montana.
- The location of the Bunkhouse Bar and the Fire Station at the south end of the bridge has resulted in an important access point within the corridor.

- A larger corridor study area should be explored. In particular, the entire corridor from Helena to Three Forks.
- Consider introducing a reduction in the speed limit through the corridor.
- The potential for new dumpster sites may influence the flow of traffic within the corridor, and mainly along Hwy 285.

One-On-One Discussion Items

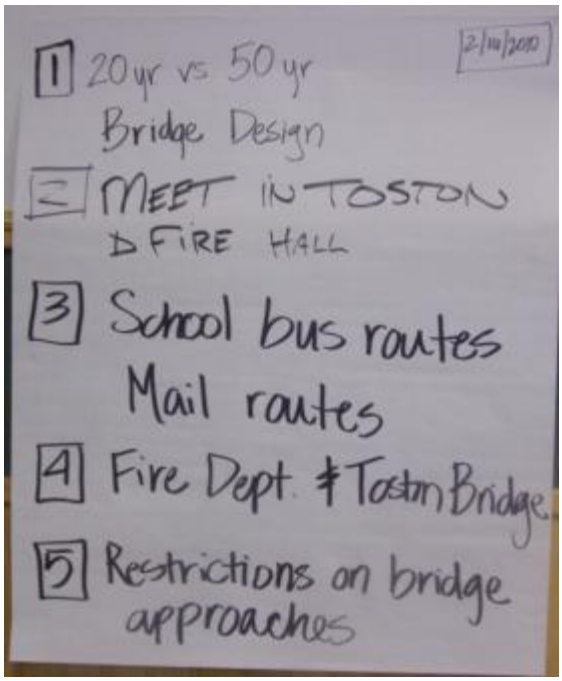
The meeting concluded with an opportunity for the public to look at the display boards and graphics and provide any comments, suggestions, and/or concerns to the Planning Team members. The public was encouraged to write on the display boards and offer additional information. The following topics were discussed with Planning Team members:

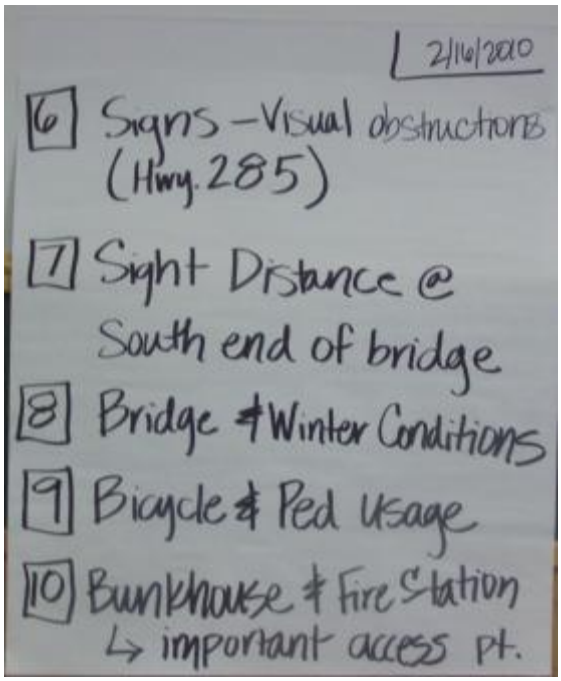
- There has been discussion of potentially opening a dumpster site south of Hwy 285 in an old gravel spot. This would increase traffic and safety concerns on Hwy 285 and the intersection with Hwy 287.
- Suggest a preferred bike route to detour the bridges over the railroad and the Missouri River and take the Historic Toston Bridge. The route would be more scenic and safer for bicyclists. Introduce a beautification aspect to the study to encourage the alternative bike route.
- Consider placing a new bridge at MP 88 in the location of the old sugar beet farm.
- In addition to the crash data, there is interest to see the number of fatalities through the corridor.
- A landowner has observed the Fishing Access Site gets light to moderate use. The main use is either the Toston Dam to the Fishing Access Site or the Fishing Access Site to York Island or Townsend.
- A main irrigation canal is located at approximately MP 88.
- There have been numerous sightings of wildlife within the corridor. Particularly, antelope, elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, mountain lions, and black bear.
- In the *Note* section of the Wildlife Corridor Areas graphic, consider replacing the words ***are*** and ***throughout*** with ***maybe*** and ***within/near***, respectively.

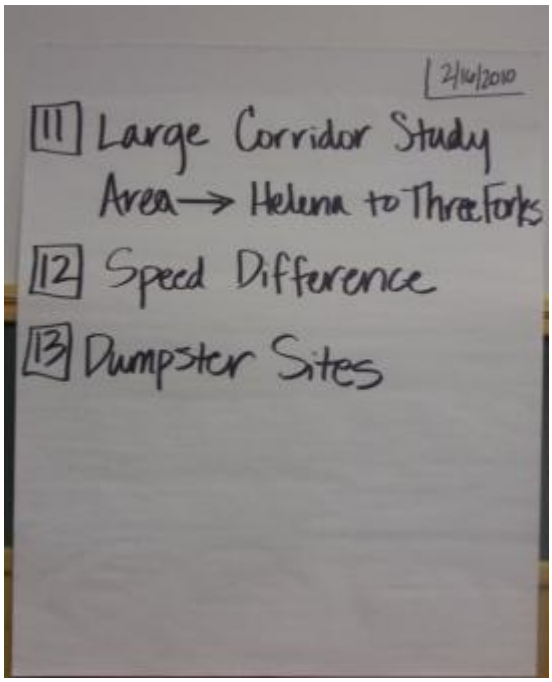
- The Osprey nest located near the Fishing Access Site has not been shown on the Wildlife Corridor Areas graphic. Consider showing this location on the graphic? The Environmental Scan Report documents the presence of Osprey within the corridor and its protection under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- A landowner indicated an area on the Animal Species of Concern graphic indicating a known area in which bald eagles have a winter roost area.
- A member of the public indicated that MDT received a revocable easement from the railroad that allows them to have the bridge crossing over the tracks. The individual thought that the railroad could revoke the easement at any time, which concerns this individual if time and expense for a new bridge is made but the railroad can prohibit any future construction.
- Involve the safety of postal carriers into future planning throughout the corridor.
- Further investigate where land use classifications come from.
- The abandoned mine displayed on the Hazardous Material graphic was remediated in the summer of 2009.

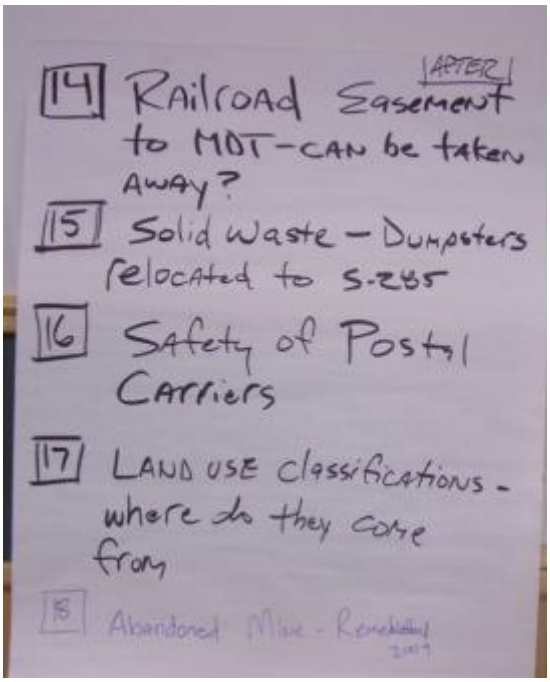
Conclusion

The next public meeting is scheduled for early August, 2010.


2/16/2010
1 20 yr vs 50 yr
Bridge Design
2 MEET IN TOSTON
& FIRE HALL
3 School bus routes
Mail routes
4 Fire Dept. & Toston Bridge
5 Restrictions on bridge
approaches


2/16/2010
6 Signs – Visual obstructions
(Hwy. 285)
7 Sight Distance @
South end of bridge
8 Bridge & Winter Conditions
9 Bicycle & Ped usage
10 Bunkhouse & Fire Station
↳ important access pt.


2/16/2010
11 Large Corridor Study
Area → Helena to Three Forks
12 Speed Difference
13 Dumpster Sites


AFTER
14 Railroad Easement
to MDT – can be taken
away?
15 Solid Waste – Dumpsters
relocated to S-285
16 Safety of Postal
Carriers
17 Land use classifications –
where do they come
from
18 Abandoned Mine – Remediation
2009

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 1

February 16, 2010

Sign-In Sheet

Name	Address	Email
Jeff Patten - FHWA	585 Shepherd Way Helena	
Barry Brosten	MDT - Helena	
Bob Burkhardt	FHWA	
Carol Strizich	MDT - Helena	
Deb Wambach	MDT - Helena.	
Gordon & Florence Brug	8889 Hwy 287 Toston	
Rodger VETTER	8846 Hwy 287 TOSTON	
Leonard Lamboll	871505 Hwy 287	lamboll@ MT.Net
Missouri River Grony	Toston, MT 59643	
Bob Hossfeld	35 Hossfeld Lane Toston 59643	hossfeldranch.msn.com
Franklin Slifka	Box 63 Toston MT 59643	
Chuck Haho	7996 Hwy 28 Townsend MT 59644	
Bill & Marilyn Lane	P.O. Box 56 Toston	MT 59643
Walter + Ann Rausch	102 Rausch Lane, Toston	59643
Stanley Kimm	101 Wheatland Rd	59752 Three Forks
Kathy Wilcox	23 Lombard Road	Toston 59643
Elaine Graveley	2 Riley Rd	Townsend 59644
Gail Brucker	68 MT Hwy 285	Toston 59643
Clayton Rockwell	77 Hwy 285	Toston MT 59643
Jerry & Muriel Reller	20 Hwy 285	Toston

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 1

February 16, 2010

Sign-In Sheet

Name	Address	Email
Rick Demarrin	31 Hwy 287 Bypass	RDem@MT.net
Barb DeMarrin	" "	" "
Rick Van Dyken	83 Lone Mtn Rd	blkcattle@aol.com
Doris Hossfeld	43 Hossfeld Ln.	dhossfeld@mt.net
Wellis Hossfeld	" "	"
Rod Kitto	275 Hwy 285	kittohay@mt.net
Dennis Williams	306 Lone Mtn, Toston	
Mike Koehler	PO Bx 506 Townsend	
Curt Dreier	4547 Flynn Lane	
Laura Obert	PO Bx 196	Lauraobert@mt.net
Brian Obert	129 So. Spruce	bobert@mbac.biz
Tony Helm	52 Lombard Rd. Toston	
John Hohn	53 Carson Lane	hohnsupply@mt.net

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Public Meeting No. 1

February 16, 2010

Comment Sheet

Public comments are an important component to this project! You are invited to give us your comments, concerns and/or suggestions by email and/or in writing on the attached form. The filled out form may be left at this meeting or mailed to the address below. Additionally, you may email your comments to CDM's project manager, Jeff Key, at keyja@cdm.com.

CDM
c/o Jeff Key, P.E.
50 West 14th Street, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

I have the following comments on the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study:

See Attached Exhibit A
See Back of this Sheet
Rail Road overpass I Believe
There are 2 Rail Lines Need to be
clear span for 4 Rail Line - one Tied
to Rail Sidings Needed

(406-266-5795) (Cel 9490208)

Name: Leonard Lambott
Address: 8715 US Hwy 287
Toston, MT, 59643

Email: llambott@MT.Net

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

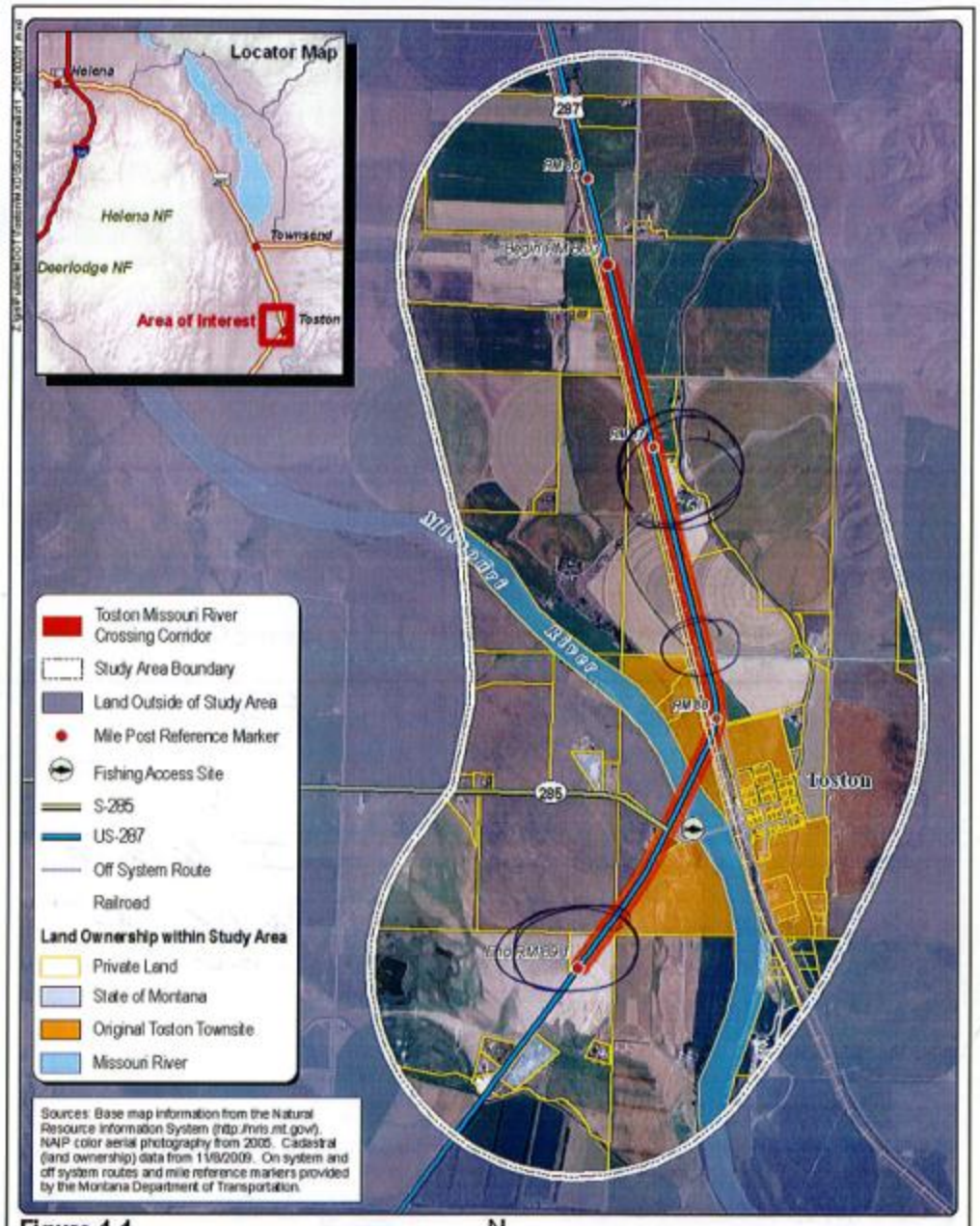


Figure 1-1
Project Study Area
Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

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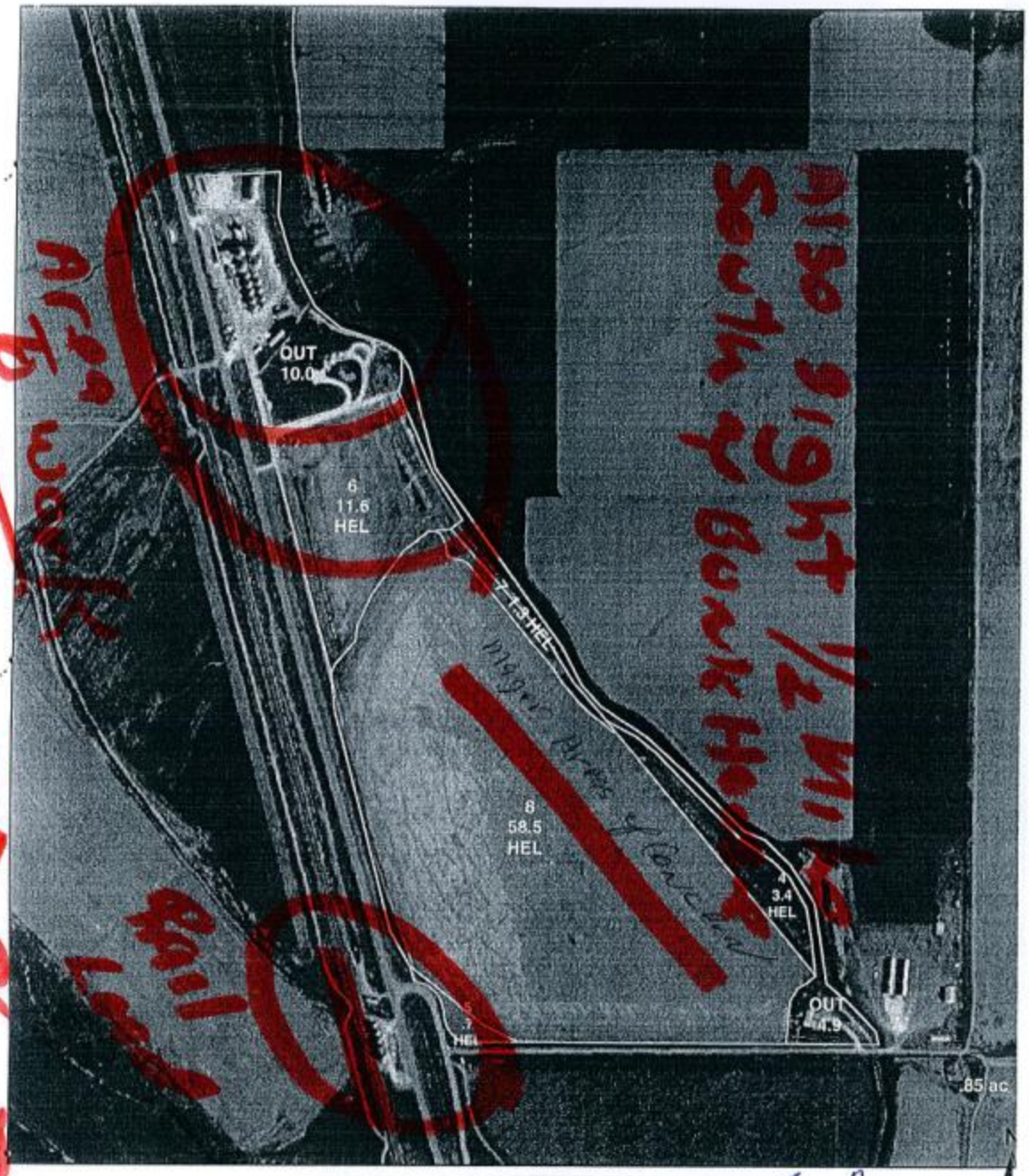
February 1, 2010
DRAFT

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study



Date: July 17,2006

Farm: 1419

Tract: 3575

Sec 14 Twnshp 5N Range

BROADWATER COUNTY

Missouri River Main
Leonard Lambert
8715 US Hwy 287
Toston, MT 59643
(406) 949-0208 cell

Ex A

USDA

USDA
Farm Service Agency

This map is for USDA-FSA Program administration only. There is no guarantee or representation as to the accuracy, currency, suitability or reliability for any other purpose. The user accepts the data "As Is" and assumes all risks associated with its use.

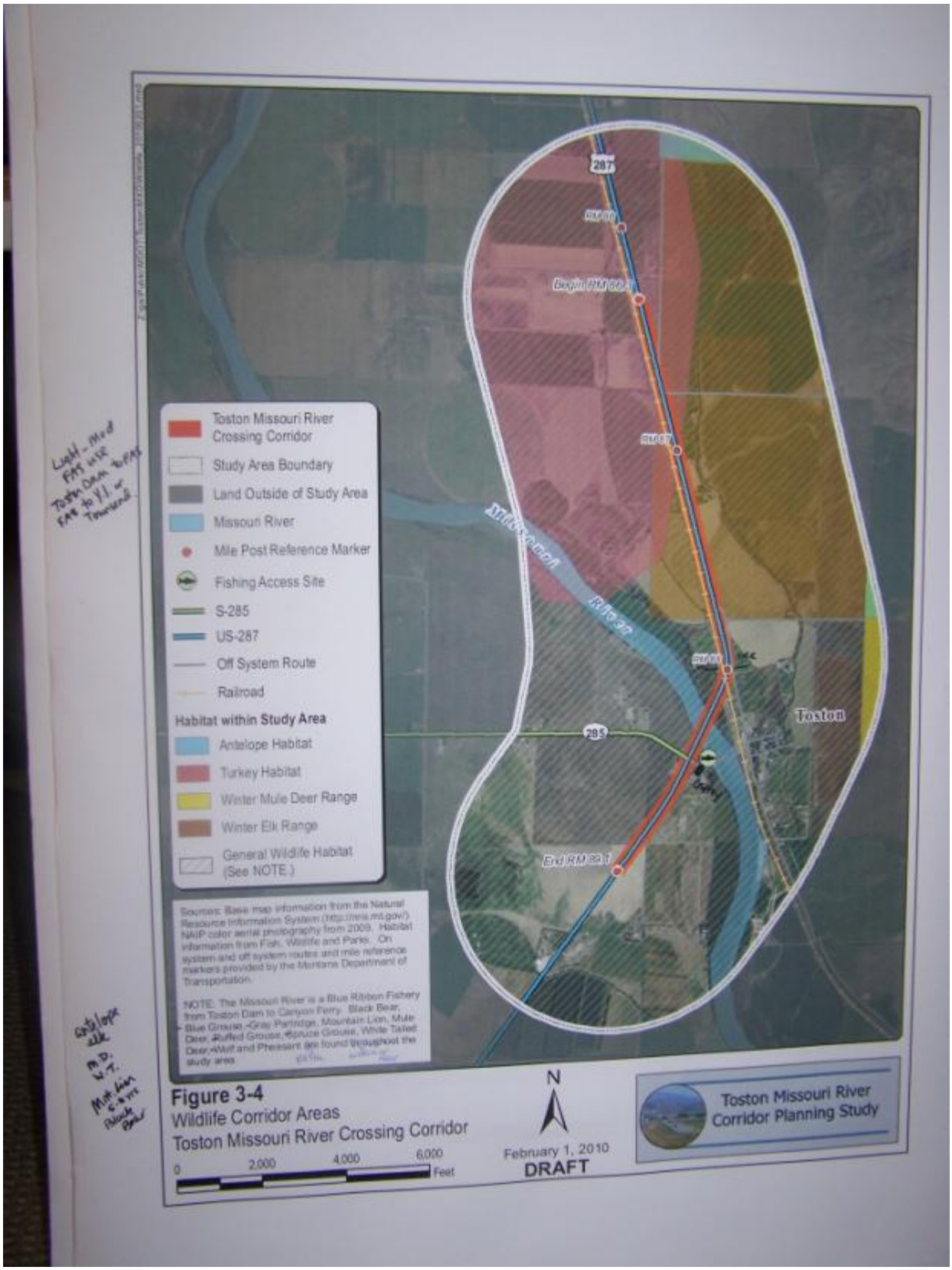


Figure 3-4
Wildlife Corridor Areas
Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

CDM

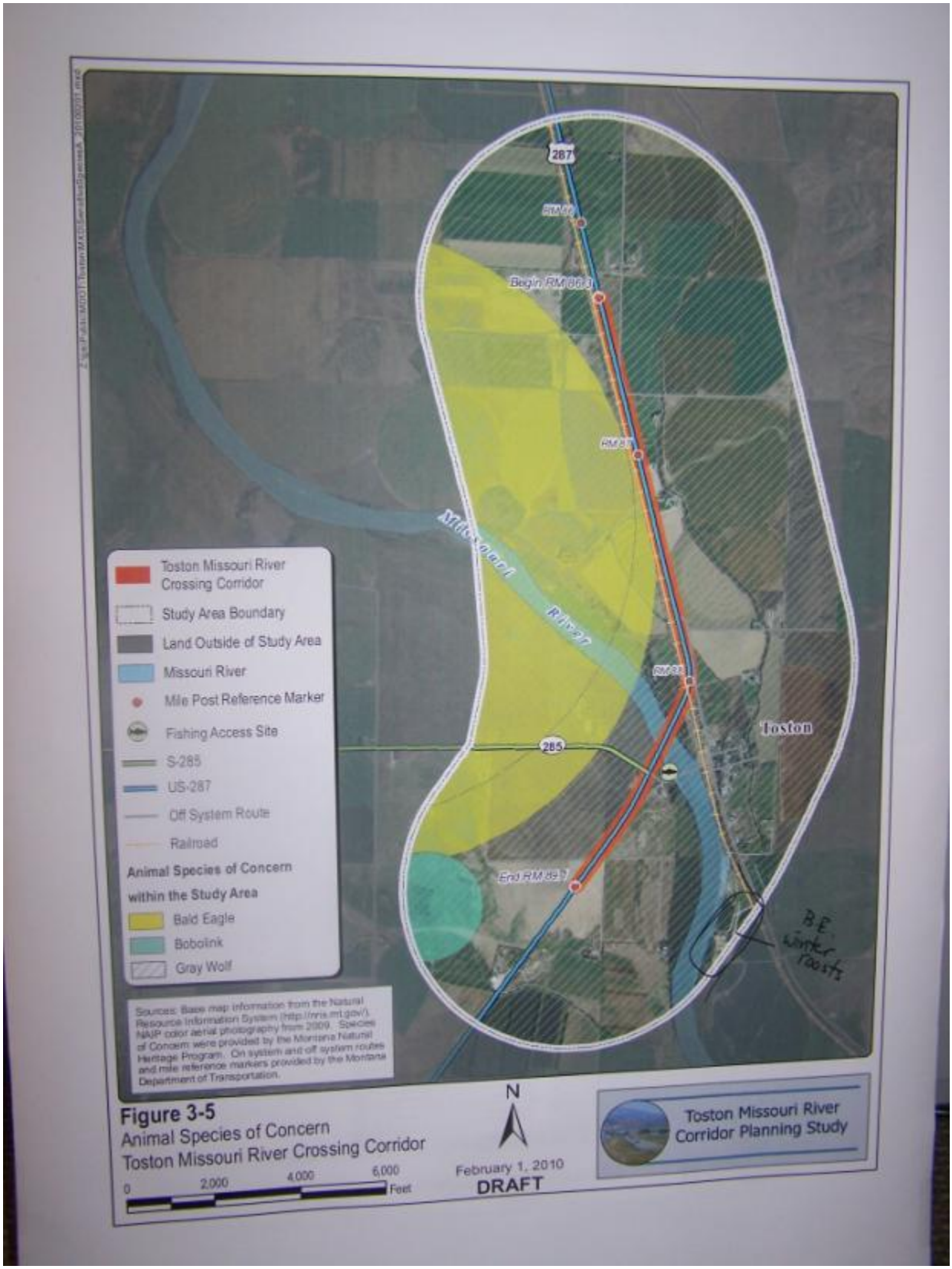


Figure 3-5
Animal Species of Concern
Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Study Newsletter 3

IN THIS ISSUE:

- *Draft Corridor Study Highlights*
- *Long-Term Improvement Options*
- *Short-Term Improvement Options*
- *Corridor Paths Graphic*
- *Study Contacts*

South of Toston, Montana (looking north).

Bridge over the Missouri River (looking northeast).

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Needs and Objectives for the Corridor Study:

- ✓ Improve safety by reducing traffic conflicts and crashes
- ✓ Improve operation and functionality of the roadway
- ✓ Minimize environmental resource impacts

Final Public Meeting

Thursday, February 10, 2011

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Townsend High School – Community Room

201 North Spruce Street

We hope to see you there!

Draft Corridor Study Highlights

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) initiated a corridor study along US 287 near Toston, Montana, to assess and identify improvement options for the 2.8-mile segment, from RP 86.3 to RP 89.1. This segment is the remaining section of roadway between Toston and Three Forks without planned improvements. This corridor study was developed strictly as a planning study and not a design project.

This pre-NEPA/MEPA corridor planning process included:

- Research and analysis of existing roadway conditions;
- Preparation of an Environmental Scan;
- Documentation of projected future conditions;
- Identification of stakeholder and resource agency concerns;
- Assessment/identification of potential improvement options; and
- Identification of potential funding sources.

The draft Corridor Study will be available January 31, 2011 for public review and comment.

Roadway issues identified based on the assessment of existing conditions include:

- Roadway geometry (horizontal and vertical),
- Roadway fill slopes,
- Narrow roadway width,
- Higher crash trend compared to statewide average, and
- Skewed access points.

Improvement options, including realigning US 287, were evaluated based on engineering and environmental data as well as public, stakeholder, and resource agencies input. Ten potential alignments were initially developed to address the needs and objectives for the study area and were presented at the public meeting held on October 13, 2010. Through further analysis and screening, the ten alignments were narrowed down to two corridor "paths" as potential locations for development of a new US 287 alignment. Exact roadway configurations will be determined once funding is identified and a project moves forward with design activities

MONTANA MDT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

STUDY CONTACTS:

Carol Strizich

MDT Project Manager

406.444.9240

CStrizich@mt.gov

Jeff Ebert

MDT Butte Administrator

406.494.9600

JEbert@mt.gov

Jeff Key, P.E.

CDM Project Manager

406.441.1400

KeyJA@cdm.com

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

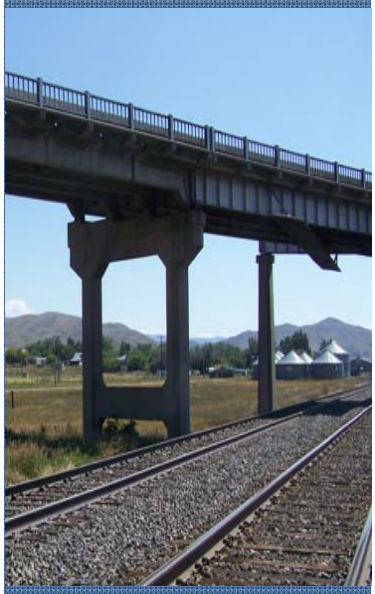
Long-Term Improvement Options

Through detailed screening analysis, costs and impacts to resources and individual parcels were evaluated. The screening analysis included the following factors:

1. Corridor needs and objectives
2. Environmental/Resource impacts
3. Construction/ROW costs
4. ROW impacts
5. Constructability
6. Length of alignment
7. Public preference

The results of the analysis identified no fatal flaws with developing a relocated US 287 alignment within either the central corridor path or the eastern corridor path as shown on page 3.

The pre-NEPA/MEPA corridor study process is a high level planning study and exact future roadway configurations are not developed at this time. A project can move forward once funding is identified.



Looking east at MRL Railway and private land.

Central Corridor Path

Pros:

- Public preference
- Close to existing travel way, resulting in lowest overall impacts
- Least impact to irrigated farmland
- Improvement to existing conditions

Cons:

- Impacts 4(f) fishing access site

Approximate cost range (2010 dollars):

$18-41 Million
(depending on lane configuration)

Eastern Corridor Path

Pros:

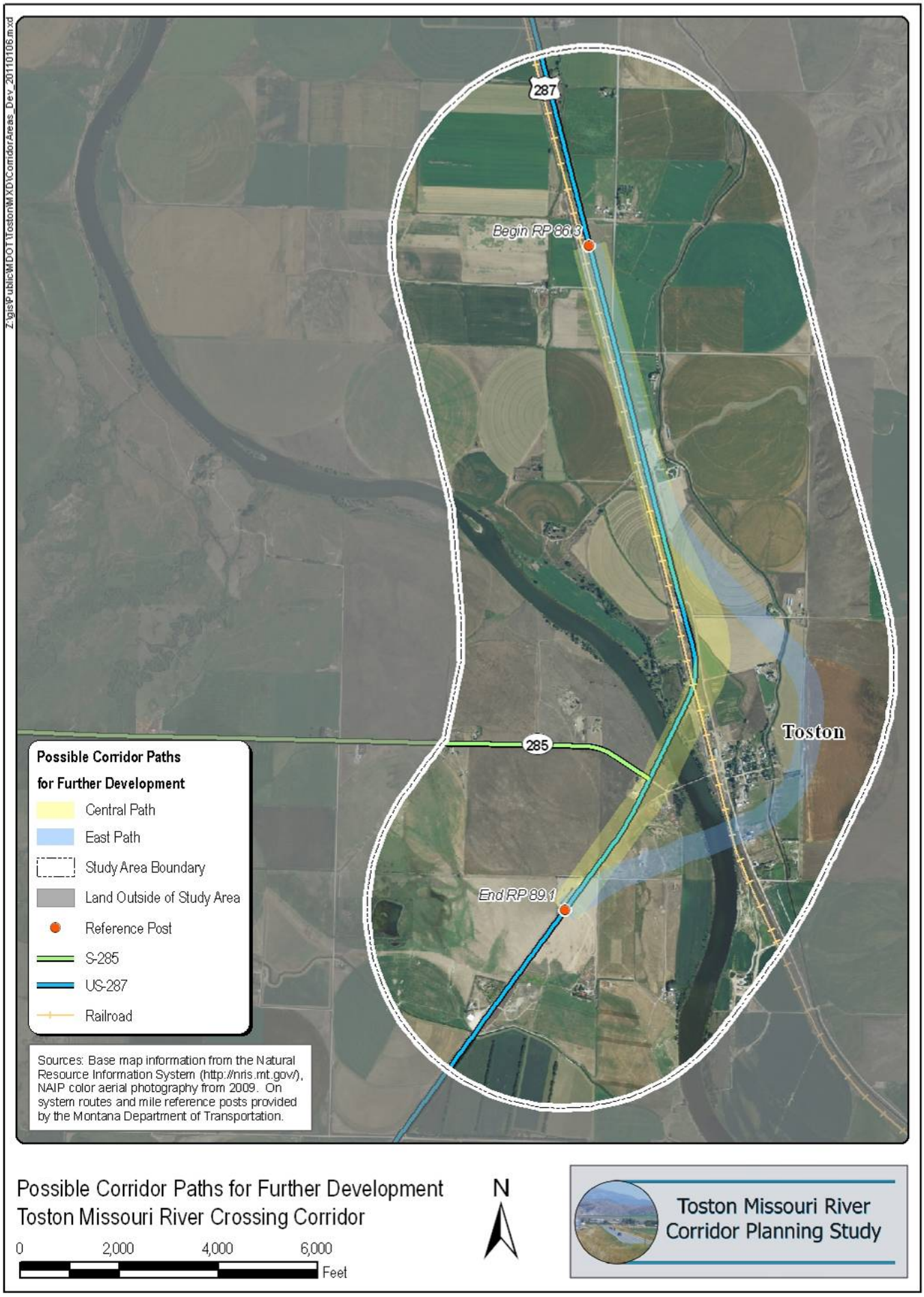
- Improvement to existing conditions
- Lowest cost
- Lowest environmental resource impacts
- Shortest bridge length

Cons:

- Affects irrigation pivots and cropland
- Public opposition
- Increased route length by 0.59 miles (compared to existing)

Approximate cost range (2010 dollars):

$17-25 Million
(depending on lane configuration)


Z:\gis\Public\MDOT\TostonMXD\CorridorAreas_Dev_20110106.mxd
287
Begin RP 86.3
Toston
285
End RP 89.1
Possible Corridor Paths
for Further Development
Central Path
East Path
Study Area Boundary
Land Outside of Study Area
Reference Post
S-285
US-287
Railroad
Sources: Base map information from the Natural Resource Information System (http://nris.mt.gov/), NAIP color aerial photography from 2009. On system routes and mile reference posts provided by the Montana Department of Transportation.
Possible Corridor Paths for Further Development
Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor
0
2,000
4,000
6,000
Feet
N
Toston Missouri River
Corridor Planning Study

Short-Term Improvement Options

Several short-term improvement options have been identified to improve conditions in the study area. The following projects would improve conditions in the interim as funding for long-term improvements is identified:

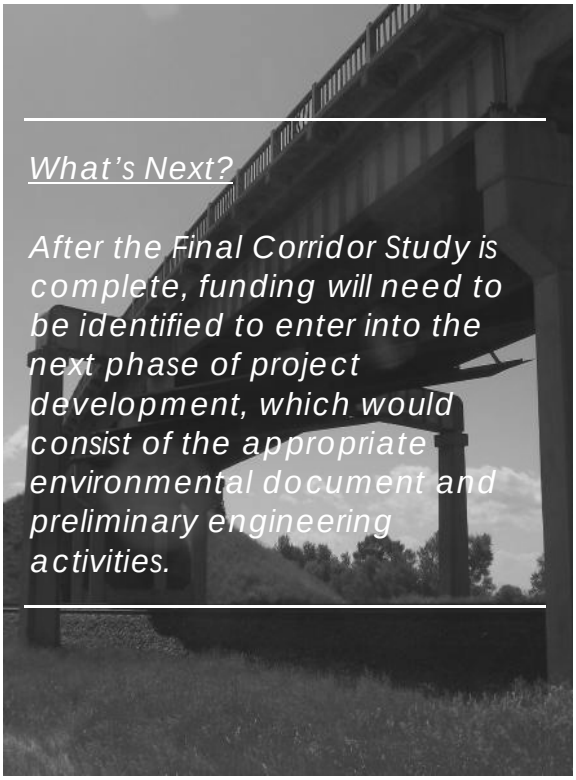
1. Add Southbound Left Turn Bay to US 287 at Toston Frontage Road
   - Short timeframe (0 to 3 years)

2. Address Sight Distance Obstructions - Intersection of US 287 & S 285
   - Relocate private advertisement signs to improve sight distance.
   - Short timeframe (0 to 3 years)

3. US 287 Shoulder Widening
   - Widen shoulders on both sides of US 287 to a 4-foot minimum width.
   - Medium timeframe (3 to 5 years)

4. S 285 Realignment
   - Shift the alignment of S 285 south of the existing travelled way and introduce larger horizontal curvature (farther south of the Missouri River Bridge end).
   - Long timeframe (greater than 5 years)

5. US 287 and S 285 Intersection Reconfiguration
   - Reconfigure intersection by enlarging radii and aligning minor approach legs.
   - Medium timeframe (3 to 5 years)



What's Next?

After the Final Corridor Study is complete, funding will need to be identified to enter into the next phase of project development, which would consist of the appropriate environmental document and preliminary engineering activities.

PUBLIC INPUT WANTED:

Your feedback on the Draft Study is greatly appreciated!

The ***Public Draft will be made available on January 31, 2011*** *for review and comment. Copies of the Draft can be accessed via the study website at:*
www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/toston
Hard copies will also be made available at MDT offices, Townsend Public Library, and Broadwater County Commission.

The deadline for receiving comments is February 18, 2011.

TOSTON MISSOURI RIVER CROSSING CORRIDOR STUDY NEWSLETTER 2

(Pre NEPA/MEPA Planning Effort)

Bridge over the Missouri River (looking northeast).

IN THIS ISSUE:

- *Corridor Study Status*
- *Possible Corridor Areas*
- *Project Contacts*
- *Possible Corridor Areas Graphic*
- *Planned Work in the Corridor in the Immediate Future*

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Corridor Study Status

Since the last public meeting the planning team has been diligently analyzing data to understand the issues, constraints and opportunities associated with the US 287 corridor near Toston. The pre-NEPA/MEPA Corridor Study process encourages early coordination with the public and resource agencies to identify potential impacts to social, economic and environmental resource areas. The planning team met with several resource agencies in the Spring of 2010 to identify potential areas of concern.

Equally important to identifying potential environmental impacts is the focus on engineering and safety. Concurrent with potential resource area impact assessments, the planning team identified and reviewed roadway deficiencies associated with the US 287 corridor. Based on these deficiencies, the planning team developed "needs and objectives" for travel and access throughout the corridor study area.

To analyze potential impacts within the study area, a comprehensive suitability analysis was completed that took into account resource impacts and engineering requirements.

Presently, **we are asking the public to weigh in on the three possible corridor areas.** The community is encouraged to provide their input and preference on a potential re-alignment of US 287 near Toston.

Following public input on the three possible corridor areas, the planning team will consider comments and other factors, commonly referred to as "screening criteria", to arrive at one possible corridor area for continued evaluation of a US 287 realignment. Additionally, short-term improvements may be identified based on need and recommended in a final suite of recommended projects.

A Corridor 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***

Looking east at MRL Railway and private land ownership.

MONTANA MDT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PROJECT CONTACTS:

Carol Strizich

MDT Project Manager

406.444.9240

CStrizich@mt.gov

Jeff Ebert

MDT Butte District Administrator

406.494.9600

JEbert@mt.gov

Jeff Key, P.E.

CDM Project Manager

406.441.1400

KeyJA@cdm.com

Snapshot of corridor study area south of Toston, Montana (looking north).

Possible Corridor Areas

Considerable effort has been made over the past several months to arrive at the possible corridor areas shown on page 3. It is important to recognize that within each of the three possible corridor areas (i.e. west area, central area, and east area) there are many potential alignments that can be considered. Any alignment under consideration for future analysis must meet current roadway design standards for width, grade, and curvature. Cost also becomes an important factor in determining improvement options. Because of grade considerations necessary to construct a roadway over both the Missouri River and Montana Rail Link infrastructure, the vertical component of the roadway may be cost prohibitive. Presently, there is no funding available for identified corridor improvements.

The potential alignments shown within each possible corridor area have been placed to minimize, to the extent practicable, impacts to resources previously identified within the study area. Some examples of these resources include wildlife, fisheries, wetlands, recreational sites, private lands, irrigation systems, homes, and historic properties. Ultimately, if a project is developed and a new roadway corridor is designed for construction, individual resource impacts will be further documented, and if necessary, mitigated at the appropriate level.

It is important to note that the alignments shown on page 3 are just **examples of potential road centerlines** within each of the possible corridor areas. At this stage in the project development process, it is most important to focus on the three possible corridor areas as a whole, rather than the specific alignments.

Check out the project website at:

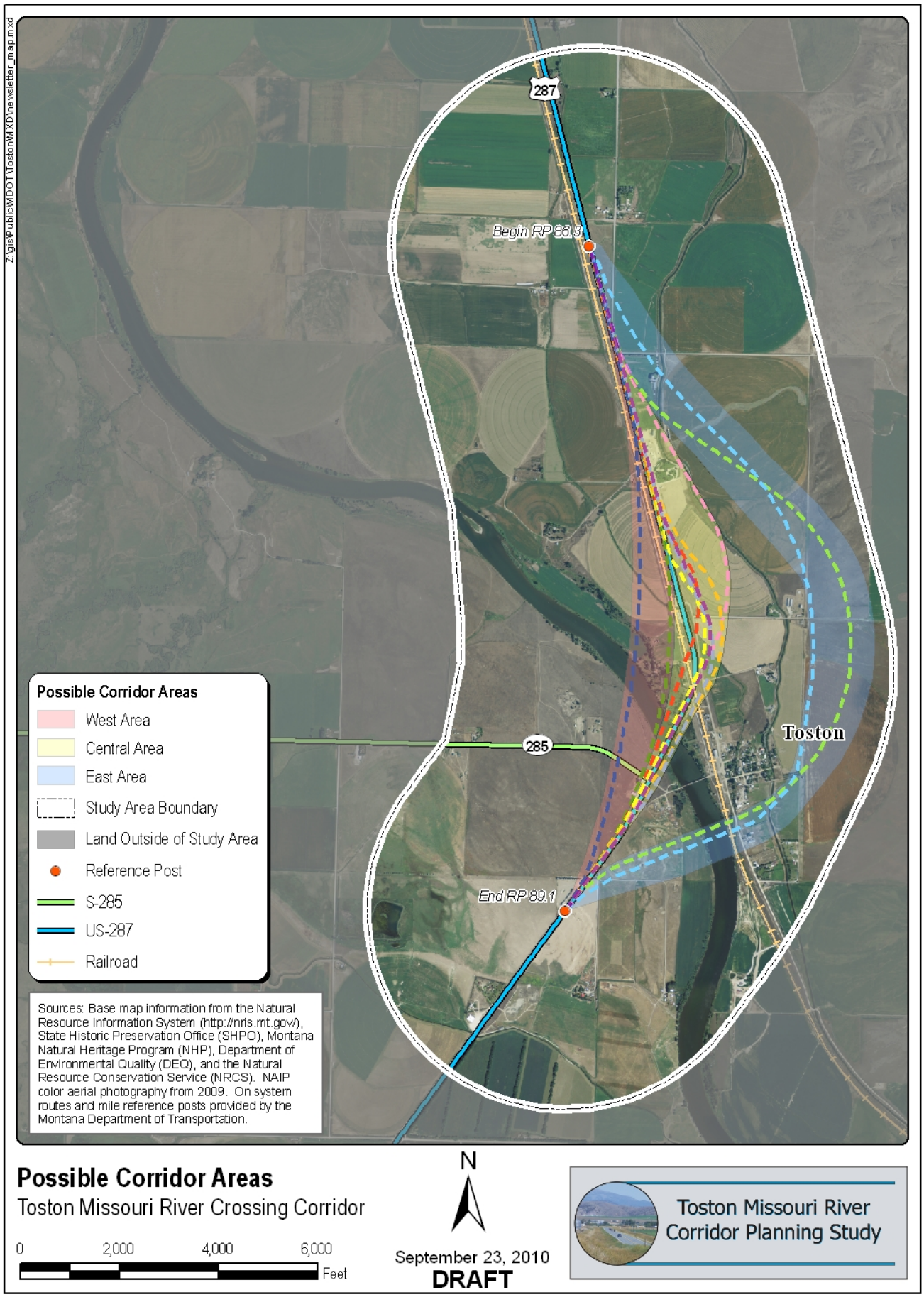
www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/toston

Public Meeting #2

Wednesday, October 13, 2010
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Townsend High School – Community Room
201 North Spruce Street, Townsend

The public is encouraged and welcome to attend.

The MDT and CDM attempt to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in any service, program, or activity associated with this project. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request. For further information, call (406) 441-1400 or TTY (800) 335-7592 or by calling Montana Relay at 711. Accommodation requests must be made at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled activity and/or meeting.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287
Begin RP 86.3
285
Toston
End RP 89.1
Possible Corridor Areas
West Area
Central Area
East Area
Study Area Boundary
Land Outside of Study Area
Reference Post
S-285
US-287
Railroad
Sources: Base map information from the Natural Resource Information System (http://nris.mt.gov/), State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Montana Natural Heritage Program (NHP), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). NAIP color aerial photography from 2009. On system routes and mile reference posts provided by the Montana Department of Transportation.
Possible Corridor Areas
Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor
0
2,000
4,000
6,000
Feet
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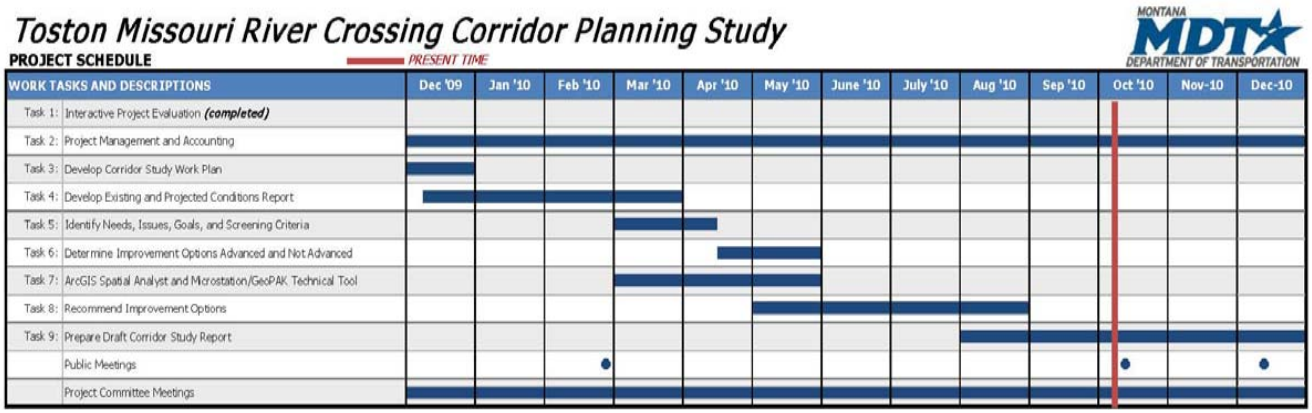
September 23, 2010
DRAFT
Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Project Schedule



OTHER Planned Work in the area in addition to this study

Did you know that a maintenance project will be bid during the month of December, 2010, for the US 287 corridor near Toston? This project is separate from the pre-NEPA/MEPA Corridor Study currently underway. The pending maintenance project will remove the existing asphalt, and after filling in problem areas, new asphalt will be placed. The replacement asphalt will be slightly thicker than existing, and will improve both rideability and structural soundness. This project is likely to be constructed in early 2011.

Other projects will occur along US 287 both north and south of the corridor study area. These projects include:

- Toston – North
  (Pavement Preservation Project)
- Toston South
  (Reconstruction Project)
- Three Forks – North
  (Reconstruction Project)
- Townsend – South Passing Lanes
  (Reconstruction Project)

What's Next?

*The project team has developed **three broad corridor areas** for future consideration. Many potential alignments exist within each broad corridor area. In conjunction with public input, the planning team will screen the broad corridor areas for consistency with needs and objectives, and identify one area for continued focus.*

TOSTON MISSOURI RIVER CROSSING CORRIDOR STUDY NEWSLETTER 1

Bridge over the Missouri River (looking northeast).

IN THIS ISSUE:

- *Project Description*
- *Public Involvement Opportunities*
- *Project Contacts*
- *Study Area Graphic*
- *Project Schedule*

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Project Description

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) has initiated the process to develop the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study. The corridor planning study will determine cost-effective ways to address transportation needs within the US 287 corridor near Toston, Montana. The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) has established the Corridor Planning Process in order to link the current transportation planning processes and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). The Corridor Planning Process will provide information into the NEPA/MEPA process, help advance viable improvement options into NEPA/MEPA, and provide the opportunity for partner involvement at all stages.

NEPA is the National Environmental Policy Act. Modeled after NEPA, MEPA is the Montana Environmental Policy Act, and it only applies to state agencies and state actions.

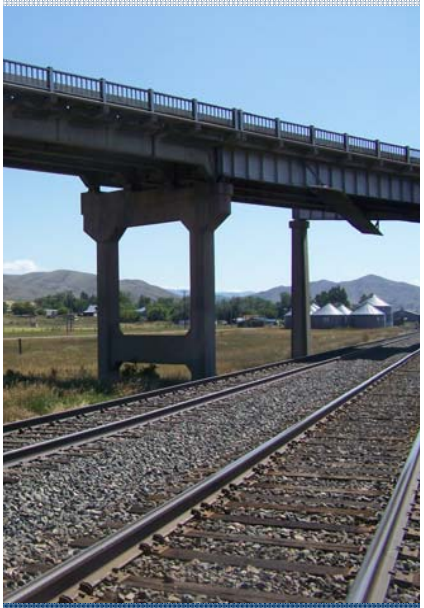
NEPA/MEPA is a federal law that outlines policies and goals to be complied with to protect our environment. The NEPA/MEPA process also makes sure that environmental information is available to the public before decisions are made and carried out.

The Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study is a pre-NEPA/MEPA study that allows for **earlier** planning-level coordination with the public, resource and other agencies, and will develop specific factors that can be used in the subsequent environmental review process as projects are moved forward from the study. The corridor study is designed to help facilitate a smooth and efficient transition from transportation planning to project development/environmental review.

It is important to note that the Corridor Planning Study is developed strictly as a planning project and **not** a design project. The results of the study will be used to determine the level of environmental documentation to be used prior to continuation of the NEPA/MEPA process and project implementation.

A Corridor 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***



Looking east at BNSF Railway and private land ownership.

MONTANA MDT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PROJECT CONTACTS:

Carol Strizich
MDT Project Manager
406.444.9240
CStrizich@mt.gov

Jeff Ebert
MDT Butte Administrator
406.494.9600
JEbert@mt.gov

Jeff Key, P.E.
CDM Project Manager
406.441.1400
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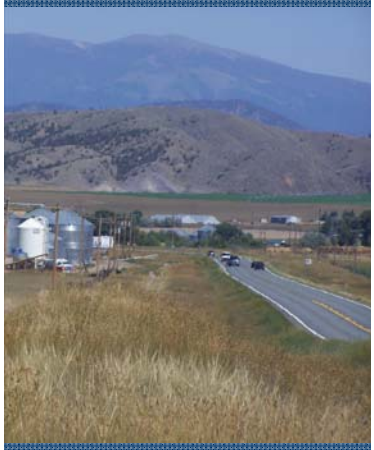


Snapshot of corridor study area south of Toston, Montana (looking north).

Public Involvement Opportunities

Public involvement is an important component in any successful corridor planning study process. The purpose of public involvement is to ensure a proactive process that provides an opportunity for the public to be involved in all phases of the corridor study process. The general public is invited to participate in the process through public meetings and ongoing project information review and input.

A project web site has been developed to provide on-line opportunities to comment on the needs of the US 287 corridor and later on the draft plan recommendations. Dates, times, and locations for all public outreach will be announced prior to the events through the local media and the project mailing list.

The project team will collect and consider all public comments received to better understand the public view of potential issues. Those with a specific interest in the project are encouraged to join the **project mailing list**. They can do so by submitting their name and contact information to Jeff Key at KeyJA@cdm.com.

Three public meetings will be held on the project over the course of the next twelve months. The first public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2010 from 6-8pm in the Townsend High School Community Room.

Check the Townsend Star, Independent Record, and the project website periodically for information relating to the time and location of future public meetings.

Check out the project website at:

www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/toston

Public Meeting #1

Tuesday, February 16, 2010
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Townsend High School – Community Room
201 North Spruce Street, Townsend

The public is encouraged and welcome to attend.

We hope to see you there!

The MDT and CDM attempt to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in any service, program, or activity associated with this project. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request. For further information, call (406) 441-1400 or TTY (800) 335-7592 or by calling Montana Relay at 711. Accommodation requests must be made at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled activity and/or meeting.

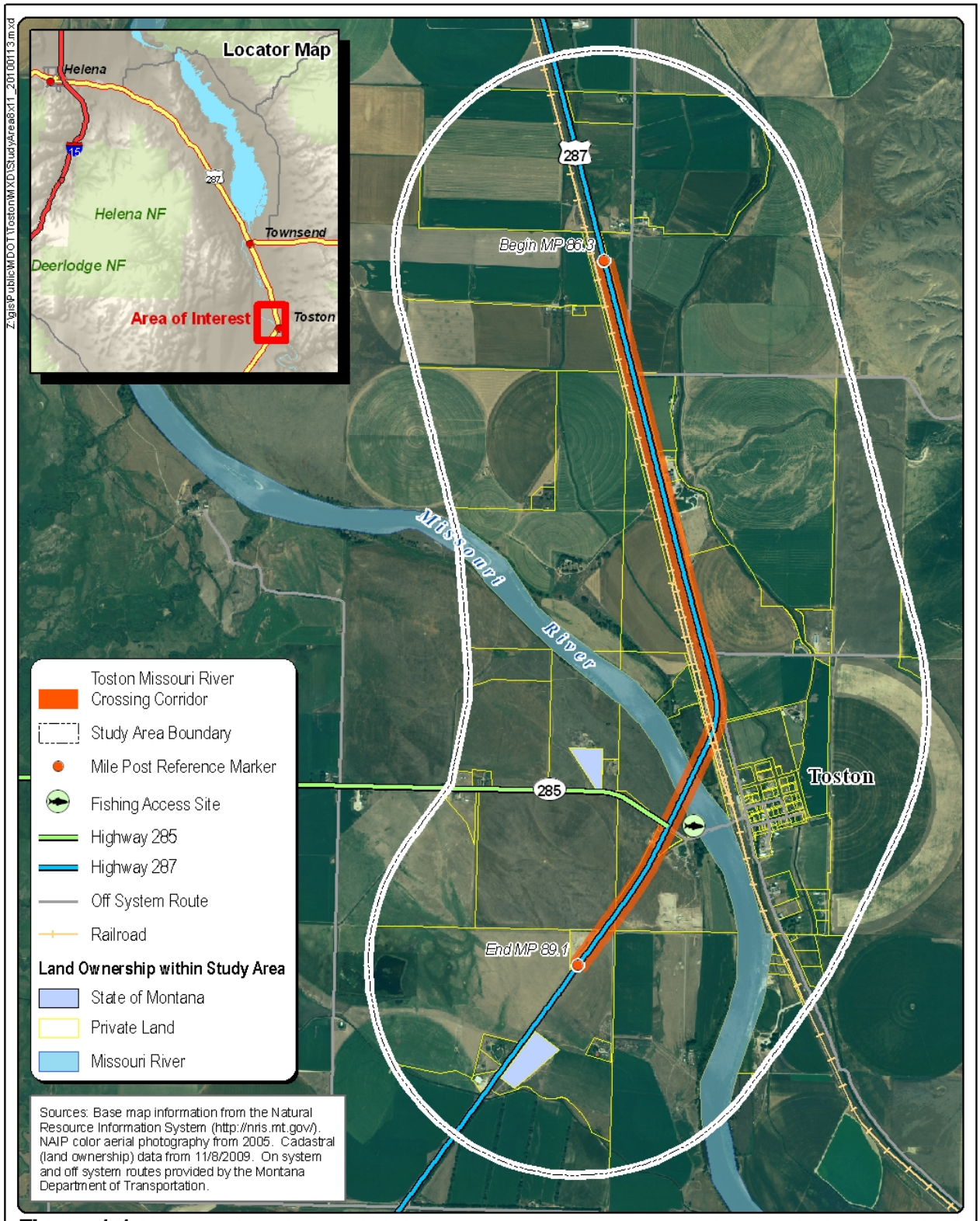


Figure 1-1
Project Study Area
Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor

0 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet

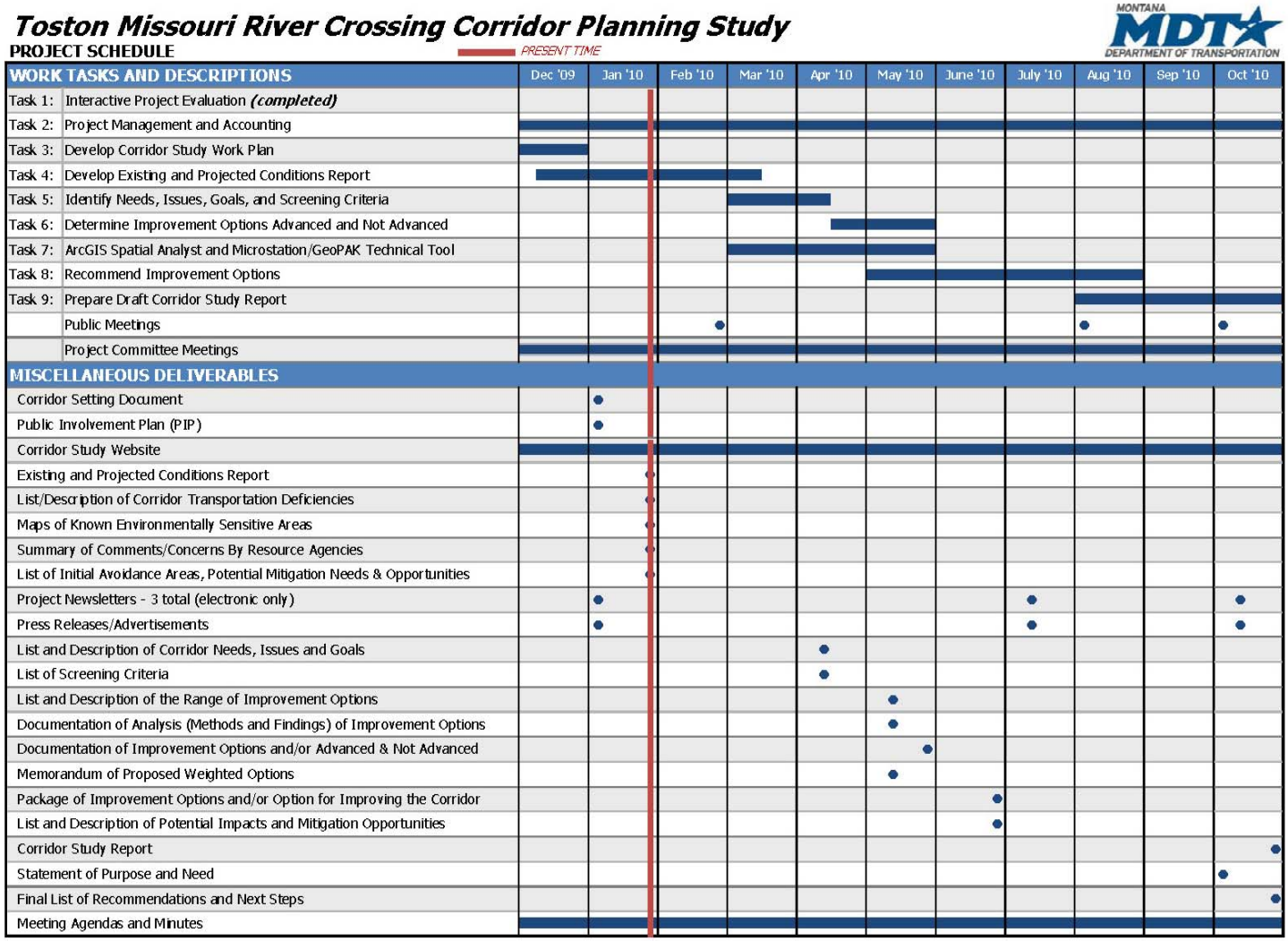
N

January 13, 2010

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Project Schedule

The project schedule is a twelve-month project that began on November 18, 2009. The project team strives for a final document and project completion near October 31, 2010.



What's Next?

The project team will be working on compiling information to develop existing and projected corridor conditions, a list of transportation deficiencies, and environmentally sensitive areas.

February 17, 2010

Stephen Potts,
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Director
10 West 15th Street, Suite 3200
Helena, MT 59626

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) has initiated a pre-NEPA Corridor Planning Study to determine cost-effective ways to address transportation needs within the US 287 corridor near Toston, Montana. The study will analyze alignment options taking into consideration environmental issues and constraints, as well as technical feasibility and costs. This analysis will form the basis of a future NEPA/MEPA process as a project is forwarded from the study.

We would like to invite you to participate in an agency workshop for the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study to be held in Helena (video conferencing can be made available for participants at distant sites). The purpose of this meeting is to introduce you to the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study process and discuss your concerns regarding resources that could be affected by potential improvement options. The study area is entirely within Broadwater County along US Highway 287 from milepost 86.3 to 89.1. The proposed study area is located within the following legal descriptions:

Township	**Range**	**Sections**
5 N	2 E	2, 3, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27

A study area boundary map is included with this letter along with the first project newsletter. The project newsletter provides additional information regarding the description of the project and schedule. Please take a look at the study area boundary map and identify any known resources and/or concerns within the study area. Feel free to mark the maps as you see necessary. Additional study information is available at the following project website: http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/toston/

We have identified Tuesday, March 16, 2010, from 1 pm – 4 pm, for the agency workshop:

A representative from our consultant, CDM, will be contacting you the first week of March to confirm your availability on this day. If you are unavailable to participate in this agency workshop on this day, I would appreciate if you would confer with your colleagues to identify an alternate representative who can discuss the identified and affected resources in the study area. The agency workshop will be held in MDT's Planning Conference Room A, which is located at 2960 Prospect Avenue. This is on the north side of U.S. Highway 287 and directly adjacent to Les Schwab Tires.

On behalf of the planning team, we look forward to working with you on this important project to identify reasonable improvement options for the Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study. Please contact me at (406) 444-0879 if you have any questions prior to the meeting. Thank you in advance for your agency's participation.

Tom Martin
Environmental Services Bureau Chief

Attachments

Copy: Bob Burkhardt, FHWA
Jeff Patten, FHWA
Jeff Ebert, MDT Butte District Administrator
Zia Kazimi, MDT Statewide & Urban Planning
Carol Strizich, MDT Statewide & Urban Planning
Jeff Key, CDM
Barry Brosten, MDT Environmental Services
Heidy Bruner, MDT Environmental Services
File

Distribution List:

Stephen Potts, US Environmental Protection Agency
Scott Jackson, Wildlife Biologist, US Fish & Wildlife Service
Todd Tillinger, US Army Corps of Engineers
Garry Williams, MT Department of Natural Resources & Conservation
Tom Ellerhoff, MT Department of Environmental Quality
Robert Ray, MT Department of Environmental Quality
Jeff Ryan, MT Department of Environmental Quality
Bruce Rich, Regional Fisheries Manager, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks - Region 3
Allan Kuser, FAS Coordinator, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Kurt Alt, Regional Wildlife Manager, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks – Region 3
Lisa Axline, Trust Lands, MT Department of Natural Resources & Conservation
Steve Werner, Montana Rail Link

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study — Resource Agency Workshop

March 16, 2010

Sign-In Sheet

Name	Agency
Naomi Fossen	CDM
Jean Riley	MDT - Planning
JOE OLSEN	MDT - BUTTE
Carol Strizich	MDT - Planning
Robert Vlahovich	DNRC - CLO
BRIAN HASSELBACH	FHWA
JIM DARLING	FWP
SCOTT JACKSON	US FWS
ZIA KAZIMI	MDT Planning
Jeff Patten	FHWA
Deb Wambach	MDT.
JEFF RYAN	DEQ
Steve Potts	EPA.
Tom Carlson	FWP
Deborah Blant	USACE

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study

Toston Missouri River Corridor Planning Study Resource Agency Workshop (Minutes)

Tuesday, March 16, 2010, 1:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

MDT Planning (Conference Room A)

ATTENDEES

- Joe Olsen (MDT Butte District Preconstruction Engineer)
- Zia Kazimi (MDT Statewide and Urban Planning Section)
- Carol Strizich (MDT Statewide and Urban Planning Section)
- Jean Riley (MDT Program & Policy Analysis)
- Deb Wambach (MDT Environmental Services Bureau)
- Robert Vlahovich (MT Department of Natural Resources)
- Brian Hasselbach (FHWA)
- Jim Darling (MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks)
- Scott Jackson (US Fish & Wildlife Service)
- Jeff Patten (FHWA)
- Jeff Ryan (MT Department of Environmental Quality)
- Steve Potts (US Environmental Protection Agency)
- Tom Carlsen (MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks)
- Deborah Blank (US Army Corps of Engineers)
- Jeff Key (CDM Project Manager)
- Naomi Fossen (CDM Project Engineer)

INTRODUCTION

Opening welcome and introduction were initiated by Carol Strizich. Jeff Key kicked off the workshop by providing an introduction and overview of the corridor study.

CORRIDOR STUDY OVERVIEW

Jeff Key presented a summary of the pre-NEPA/MEPA corridor study. An important aspect to the study is to engage the public and resource agencies early on in the process. The goal of the workshop was to solicit input and gather information from the resource agencies regarding resource areas within the study area. All environmental resource information obtained thus far has been obtained from publicly available databases and websites.

DISCUSSION ON RESOURCE AREAS

Open discussion was gathered on various resource areas that need to be further investigated and addressed. The following matrix shows comments received on particular resource areas:

Comment Made By	Comment	Response/Action to be Taken
Tom Carlsen *MT FWP*	Figure 3-7: Wildlife Corridor Areas The elk winter range and turkey range do not appear accurate.	Information was obtained from NRIS and MTFWP. The graphical locations will be double checked and verified with Tom Carlsen.
Scott Jackson *US FWS*	Has there been a survey of Ute Ladies' Tresses within the study area prior to this effort?	No. MNHP has no observation record of the species within the study area, although there are recorded locations north of the study area. The study area may contain suitable habitat for Ute Ladies' Tresses. ULT surveys will be conducted as a project is forwarded from the study.
Tom Carlsen *MT FWP*	There is a staging area for Sandhill Cranes northwest of the study area at the Stanfield Slough, which is outside of the study area	To be added to the report.

	and on the west side of the Missouri River. However, there is a feeding area in a field located west of US 287 and east of the Missouri River, and within the study area. The cranes travel east from the staging area to the feeding area by crossing the river.	
Jeff Ryan *MT DEQ*	How does Toston get water? Well or intake? This may impact alignment options and petroleum release incidents.	To be determined after further investigation.
Tom Carlson *MT FWP*	The fishing access site may be impacted if there is an alignment shift.	The fishing access site will be given consideration with particular interest to operational and environmental impacts. There is an active osprey nest located near the fishing access site.
Jeff Ryan *MT DEQ*	What is the timeframe for construction?	Depends on funding availability. The final corridor study document will list improvement options, including short-term and long range options.
Jim Darling *MT FWP*	A clear span or limited number of piers is preferred. Also, the bridge should allow for future lateral migration of the river.	Stream migration and impacts will be considered in the development of the study.
Deborah Blank *USACE*	The Missouri River is a Section 10 Navigable Waterway. A free span bridge is preferred for permitting purposes. A new bridge will affect the river up and downstream. It is unclear whether this would be permitted under a Public Notice process (Individual Permit) or a Nationwide 14 permit.	If work is to be done in, over, or under navigable waters of the United States, a Section 10 Permit is required. Determination will be made on how to approach a Section 10 structure. The following statement should be added to the Environmental Scan

		regarding Section 10: *Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act of 1899 prohibits the obstruction or alteration of navigable waters of the United States. A Section 10 Permit is required if any work is to be done in, over, or under navigable waters of the United States. Coordination with the US Army Corps of Engineers is essential to determine the appropriate type of permit after improvement options are finalized.*
Robert Vlahovich *MT DNRC*	There is currently no present easement with the bridge and the state.	MDT will look into this issue and identify what steps may need to be taken.
Jean Riley *MDT*	Thought needs to be given on maintaining traffic or a detour route during construction.	To be noted.
Scott Jackson *US FWS*	In order to gain elevation to cross the railroad and river, a lot of fill material will be added to the floodplain. A lot of fill currently exists between the RR bridge and the river bridge. Consider one large bridge to span both with piers in between to remove the fill in the floodplain. Consider crossing the railroad outside the floodplain and crossing the river at a lower grade to reduce the fill footprint within the floodplain.	To be considered and addressed in the development of the study.
Jeff Ryan *MT DEQ*	Consider the option of a tunnel underneath the river.	To be considered in the development of the study.

Jeff Patten *FHWA*	Can the railroad grade be lowered? What is the existing railroad grade?	The railroad grade will be investigated. The old Northern Pacific Railroad is eligible for historic registration.
Jeff Ryan *MT DEQ*	If a new bridge is to be constructed, thought needs to be given to drainage on the bridge deck. Drainage should not be over the river, and a plumbing system may need to be installed if the bridge slope is not adequate. A catchment basin may need to be included at the bridge ends for spill control.	Consideration will be given to stormwater and spill control on the bridge. To be further addressed in the report.
Deborah Blank *USACE*	USACE has jurisdiction on the irrigation ditches which confluence the Missouri River. If impacted and replaced, the ditches are considered self mitigating at this point.	Consideration will be given to any irrigation ditches that may be impacted.
Deborah Blank *USACE*	USACE and the US Coast Guard bridge standards and requirements may apply. Navigability requirements will need to be met. What are the mitigation impacts with the construction of a new bridge? If new construction stays within the same footprint, the bridge is exempt. A Nationwide 14 Permit may be required, but could be complicated by the Section 10 nexus.	The USACE and USCG bridge standards will be checked. Nationwide 14 Permit - Linear Transportation Crossings, will be further investigated to determine the impacts and mitigation requirements of future activity regarding the Missouri River crossing.
Tom Carlsen *MT FWP*	The southwest wetland in the study area is a wetland mitigation site. DEQ retrofitted the dam which flooded the land behind it, including some wetland areas. FERC required wetland mitigation in approximately 1988 or 1989. Impacts to fisheries were also a concern during that time. Any impacts in this area should be avoided.	To be noted in the report and considered as improvement options develop. Requirements for impacting an existing mitigation site will be investigated and considered.

Deborah Blank *USACE*	The presence of existing mitigation sites should be identified.	To be considered as improvement options develop.
Jean Riley *MDT*	Potential mitigation sites for future activity should be looked at and considered.	To be considered as improvement options develop.
Tom Carlsen *MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks*	There are wintering waterfowl within the study area. FWP conducts mid-winter waterfowl surveys in this area.	To be noted and included in report.
Jim Darling *MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks*	There has been an increase in the northern pike population, which is undesirable in this stretch of the river.	To be noted.
Steve Potts *US EPA*	There should be consistency with the requirements of DEQ's TMDL policy and Water Quality Restoration Plan. DEQ's TMDL Program contact is Robert Ray.	Policy requirements will be addressed in the report.

Acronyms

NRIS – National Resource Information System

MNHP – Montana National Heritage Program

FERC – Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

TMDL – Total Maximum Daily Loads

CONCLUSION

The workshop minutes will be compiled and sent to the list of attendees. It will be an opportunity to provide comments and any additional information that needs to be included in the final environmental portion of the report. The workshop concluded at 2:30 PM.