

Project Schedule

Toston Missouri River Crossing Corridor Planning Study



WORK TASKS AND DESCRIPTIONS	Dec '09	Jan '10	Feb '10	Mar '10	Apr '10	May '10	June '10	July '10	Aug '10	Sep '10	Oct '10	Nov '10	Dec '10
Task 1: Interactive Project Evaluation <i>(completed)</i>													
Task 2: Project Management and Accounting													
Task 3: Develop Corridor Study Work Plan													
Task 4: Develop Existing and Projected Conditions Report													
Task 5: Identify Needs, Issues, Goals, and Screening Criteria													
Task 6: Determine Improvement Options Advanced and Not Advanced													
Task 7: ArcGIS Spatial Analyst and Microstation/GeoPAK Technical Tool													
Task 8: Recommend Improvement Options													
Task 9: Prepare Draft Corridor Study Report													
Public Meetings													
Project Committee Meetings													

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)

Work Completed To Date:

- Coordinated with Resource Agencies
- Defined Needs and Objectives
- Completed "Suitability Analysis"
- Identified Possible Alignments
- Prepared Initial Screening Criteria

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 2

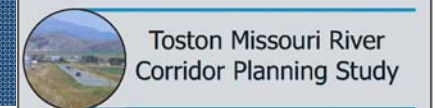
(Pre NEPA/MEPA Planning Effort)



Bridge over the Missouri River (looking northeast).

IN THIS ISSUE:

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- Possible Corridor Areas
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- Possible Corridor Areas Graphic
- Planned Work in the Corridor in the Immediate Future



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.

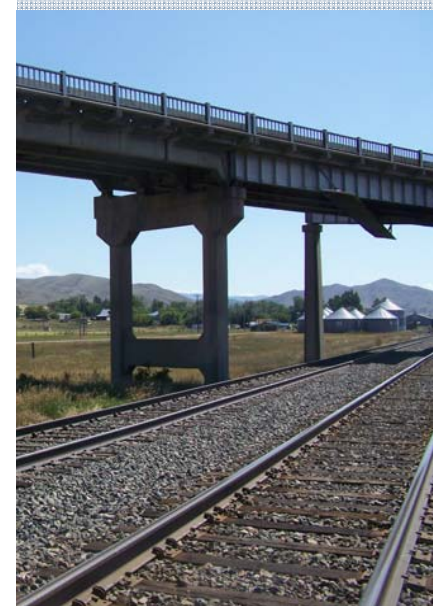
To analyze potential impacts within the study area, a comprehensive suitability analysis was completed that took into account resource impacts and engineering requirements.

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 realignment 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.



PROJECT CONTACTS:



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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

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

most important to focus on the three possible corridor areas as a whole, rather than the specific alignments.

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.

