

US 93 Post Creek Hill – Montana Department of Transportation

August 2024 | Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

General Project Information

Q: What is the history of the US Highway 93 (US 93) Post Creek Hill project?

A: In 2022, The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT), in partnership with the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), and project partners applied for the National Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects Program (NSFLTP) grant funding.

In 2023, just over \$30 million of the NSFLTP grant funding was awarded to CSKT and project partners for improvements to US 93. A portion of this funding was allocated to the Post Creek Hill project. In the grant application, US 93 was sectioned based on project components, including the Post Creek Hill area.

US 93 is a vital transportation corridor for many growing communities in the Flathead and Bitterroot Valleys. With increasing traffic volumes, especially during the busy summer months, the US 93 corridor and wildlife accommodations are a priority for MDT's Missoula District.

Project Location

Q: Where is the project located?

A: Extending approximately three miles, the US 93 Post Creek Hill project corridor that will be reconstructed is US 93 from the intersection with Red Horn Road/Dublin Gulch Road to the intersection with Gunlock Road/Olsen Road.

Q: Are there right-of-way acquisitions that need to take place?

A: Yes. As the design process continues and additional details are confirmed, the MDT right-of-way team will contact landowners impacted by the proposed work.

Project Improvements

Q: What specific roadway improvements will this include?

A: MDT and its collaborators are presently in the design phase of the US 93 North—Post Creek Hill project.

This initiative aims to reconstruct US 93 from the intersection with Red Horn Road/Dublin Gulch Road to the intersection with Gunlock Road/Olsen Road, focusing on enhancing safety, accessibility, and accommodating wildlife. Key improvements include the following:

- Widening the roadway to incorporate 8-foot wide shoulders.
- Adding a northbound truck climbing lane at Post Creek Hill.
- Installing left-turn lanes at major intersections.
- Building a new bridge over Post Creek to facilitate wildlife passage under the highway.
- Constructing a shared-use path to support pedestrian and cyclist access.

Q: Agency Coordination/Who is involved in this project?

A: CSKT is working alongside a team of Montana-based engineering experts to develop a highly complex project. Partners include MDT, Morrison-Maierle, Inc., SK Geotechnical, Kiewit Infrastructure Corp., Krebs Corp., KLJ Engineering, and DOWL.

Q: Why is this project necessary?

A: An increase in traffic creates a need for updated roadway facilities historically known for crashes involving wildlife. In addition, communities along the corridor have grown significantly, and an increase in traffic creates a need for updated roadway facilities and safety solutions.

Q: What are the project goals?

A: Reconstruction of US 93 from the intersection with Red Horn Road/Dublin Gulch Road to the intersection with Gunlock Road/Olsen Road, is primarily focusing on safety and accessibility improvements.

Q: What are the wildlife considerations?

A: Through this project, MDT and consultants are constructing a new bridge over Post Creek to facilitate wildlife passage under the highway. The safe passage of wildlife is a primary concern for this project.

Construction Timing & Impacts

Q: How will traffic delays be managed during construction?

A: A traffic control plan has not yet been identified. MDT and CSKT will work with the chosen design-build team to determine how traffic is directed during active construction. More information will be provided as the project start date approaches. Signing up for project updates is highly recommended by emailing becca@bigskypublicrelations.com.

Q: What does timing look like for design and construction?

A: The design of the US 93 Post Creek Hill project will occur from 2024 through 2026. Construction is tentatively planned for 2027. This schedule is subject to change due to funding availability, completion of the final design, and other unforeseen factors. Once underway, construction is anticipated to last two construction seasons.

Q: What is the cost of this project?

A: MDT is able to complete the US 93 Post Creek Hill project due to the NSFLTP grant award. The project will use a portion of the \$30.5 million grant.

Area Projects & Coordination

Q: What else is taking place on US Highway 93?

A: MDT is actively completing multiple projects on US 93, all at different stages of development, to tackle safety challenges and improve conditions along the route. Some of the US 93 active projects in the area include the following:

US 93 Corridor Projects – South of Ravalli to Polson

Project website: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/us93/>.

Ronan- North and Urban

Project website: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/ronanurban/>.

Public Involvement

Q: How can I stay involved and remain informed about the US 93 Post Creek Hill project?

A: MDT has hired Big Sky Public Relations to manage public involvement throughout the course of the project.

Project Communication Manager:

Becca MacLean

Email: becca@bigskypublicrelations.com

Phone: 406-207-4484

Big Sky Public Relations will be sending email updates to those who have subscribed.

Project Hotline: 406-207-4484, available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Project Website: <https://mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/us93npostcreekhill/>

Updated continuously throughout project duration (including design and construction phase).