WELCOME

US 93 Polson-Somers

Corridor Study

MEETING PURPOSE

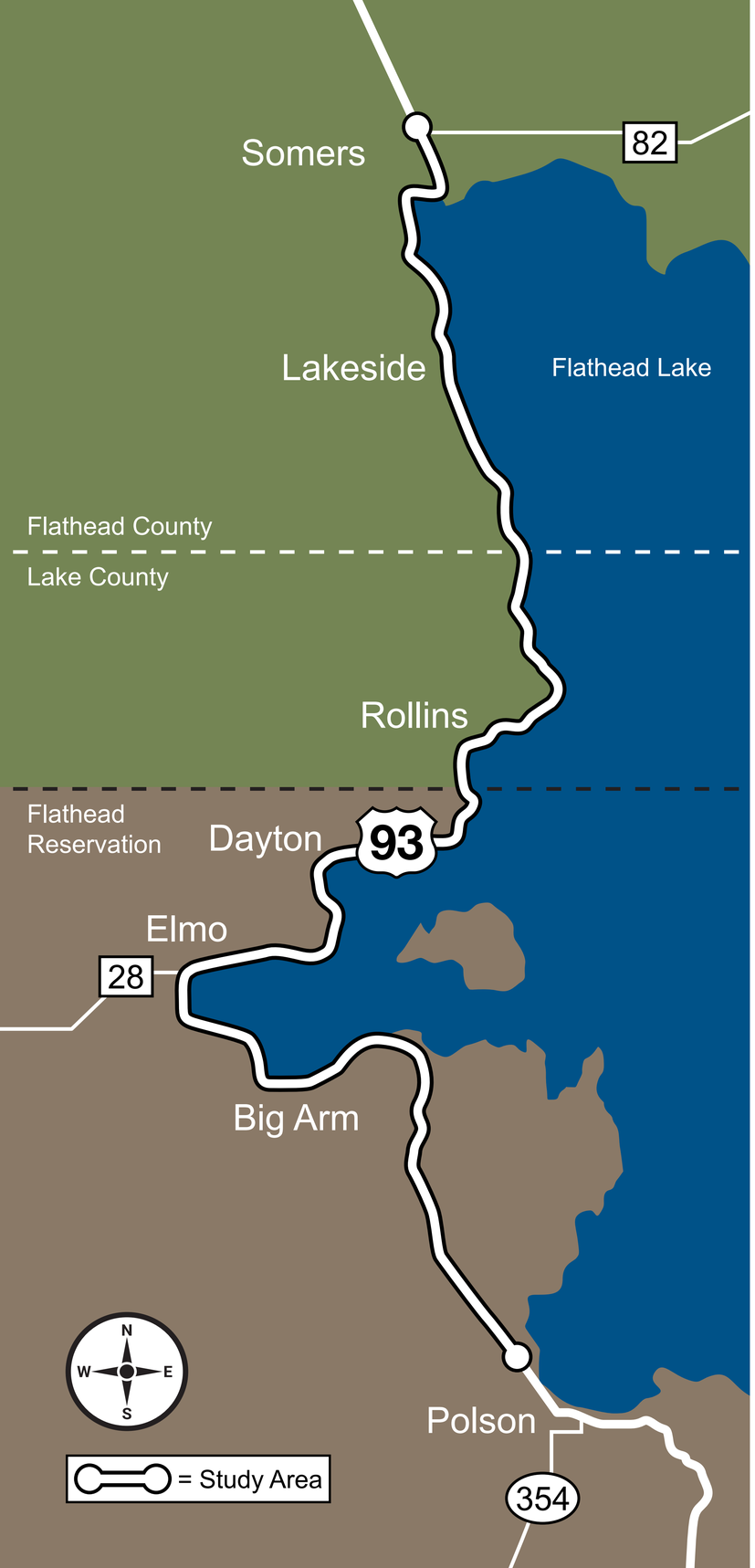
- Learn more about the US 93 Polson to Somers Corridor Study
- Understand key transportation concerns and potential environmental constraints within the corridor
- Share your thoughts and concerns

SCAN ME

or visit

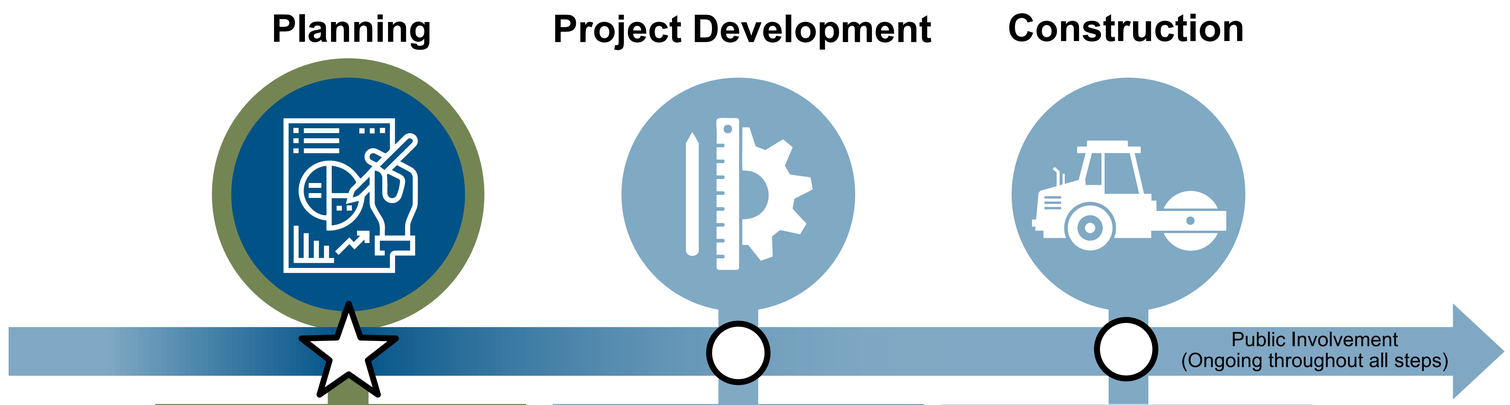
mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/us93polsonsomers

Your input is needed to improve transportation on US 93!



What is a Corridor Study?

A corridor study is a proactive **planning effort conducted before design and construction**. The study will identify a comprehensive set of transportation improvements for the corridor while also identifying potential impacts, constraints, and funding opportunities.



Anticipated study completion:
May 2025

US 93
Polson-Somers
Corridor Study

- Funding Identification
- Project Nomination
- Feasibility/Survey Phase
- Design & Environmental Compliance
- Right-of-Way Acquisition

- Bid Advertisement & Contract Award
- Mobilization
- Construction & Inspection
- Closeout

Key Findings: Corridor Characteristics

The corridor is used by both bicyclists and pedestrians, however non-motorized accommodations are limited

There are **8** passing lanes and **38** passing zones within the corridor.

There are over **400** access points along the corridor. A new **access management** plan will be developed as a supplemental component to the study.

Steep rock faces and other environmental conditions along the corridor **limit opportunities for road expansion** and restrict sight distance.

The speed limit varies from **35 mph to 70 mph** with slower speed zones in the communities along the corridor. Several speed studies have been conducted recently.

Several locations have **narrow shoulders** (6-foot recommended).

Somers

82

Lakeside

Flathead County

Lake County

Rollins

Flathead Reservation

93

Dayton

Elmo

28

Big Arm

Polson

354

N

W

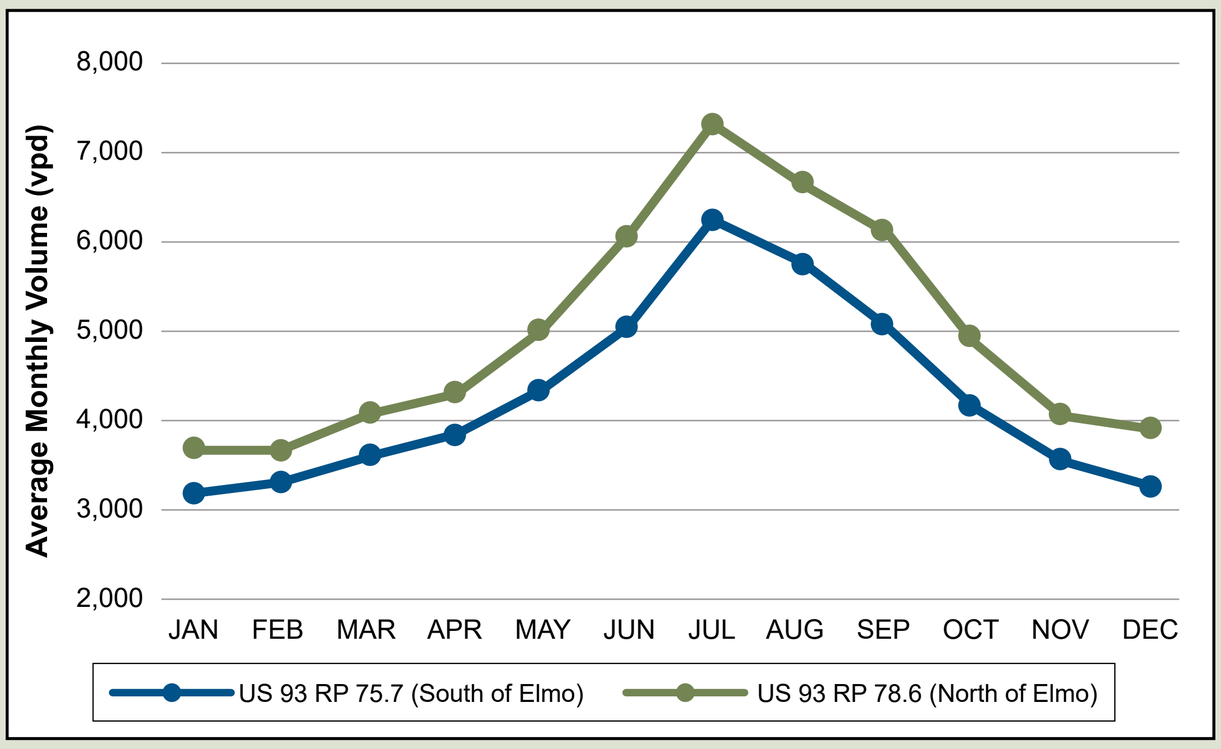
E

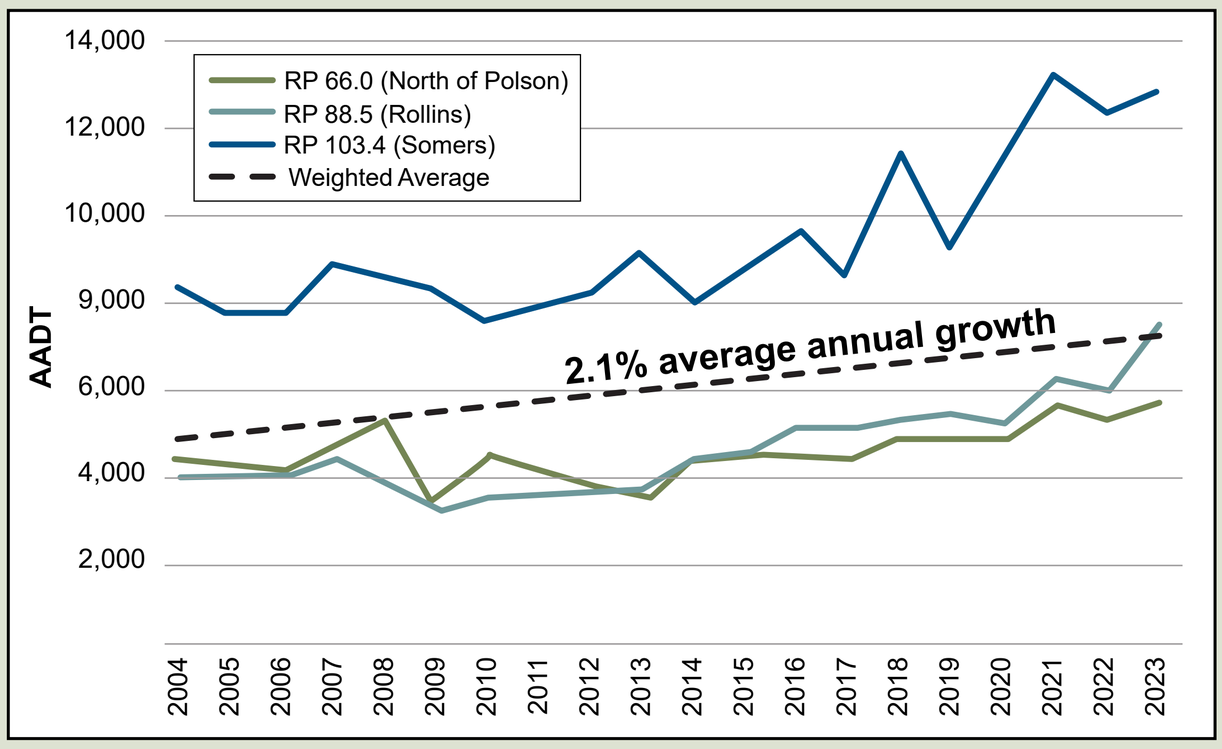
S

= Study Area

Key Findings: Traffic

What are the traffic conditions in the corridor?





Traffic volumes along the study corridor range from **a low** of just over **4,000 vehicles per day** south of MT 28 in Elmo, to **a high of nearly 13,000** south of MT 82 in Somers.

Over the past **20 years**, traffic volumes have increased at a rate of **2.1% per year**.

Weekend (Fri – Sun) traffic volumes are approximately **10% greater than weekday traffic volumes**.

Traffic volumes are approximately **40% higher during the summer**.

Over **600 commercial trucks** travel the corridor **daily**.

Traffic operations are expected to approach **failing levels** of service within the next **20 years** if no changes are made.

Key Findings: Safety

1,638 people involved in 814 crashes

Fatal

9 Crashes

9 Fatal Injuries

Serious Injury

28 Crashes

33 Serious Injuries

Minor/Possible Injury

125 Crashes

193 Injuries

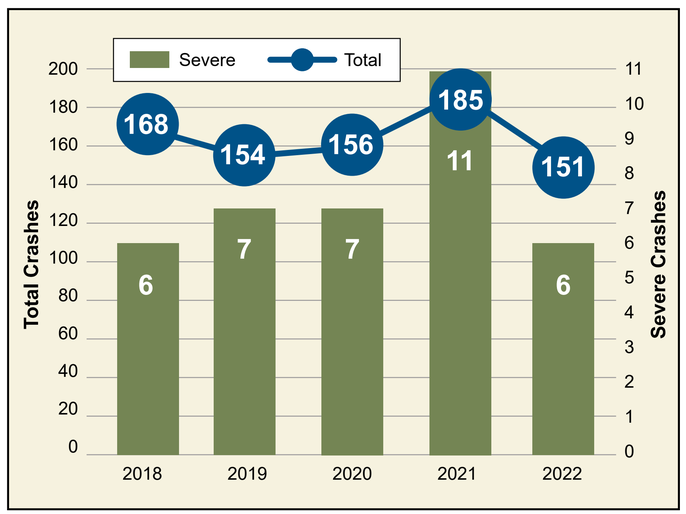
PDO/Unknown

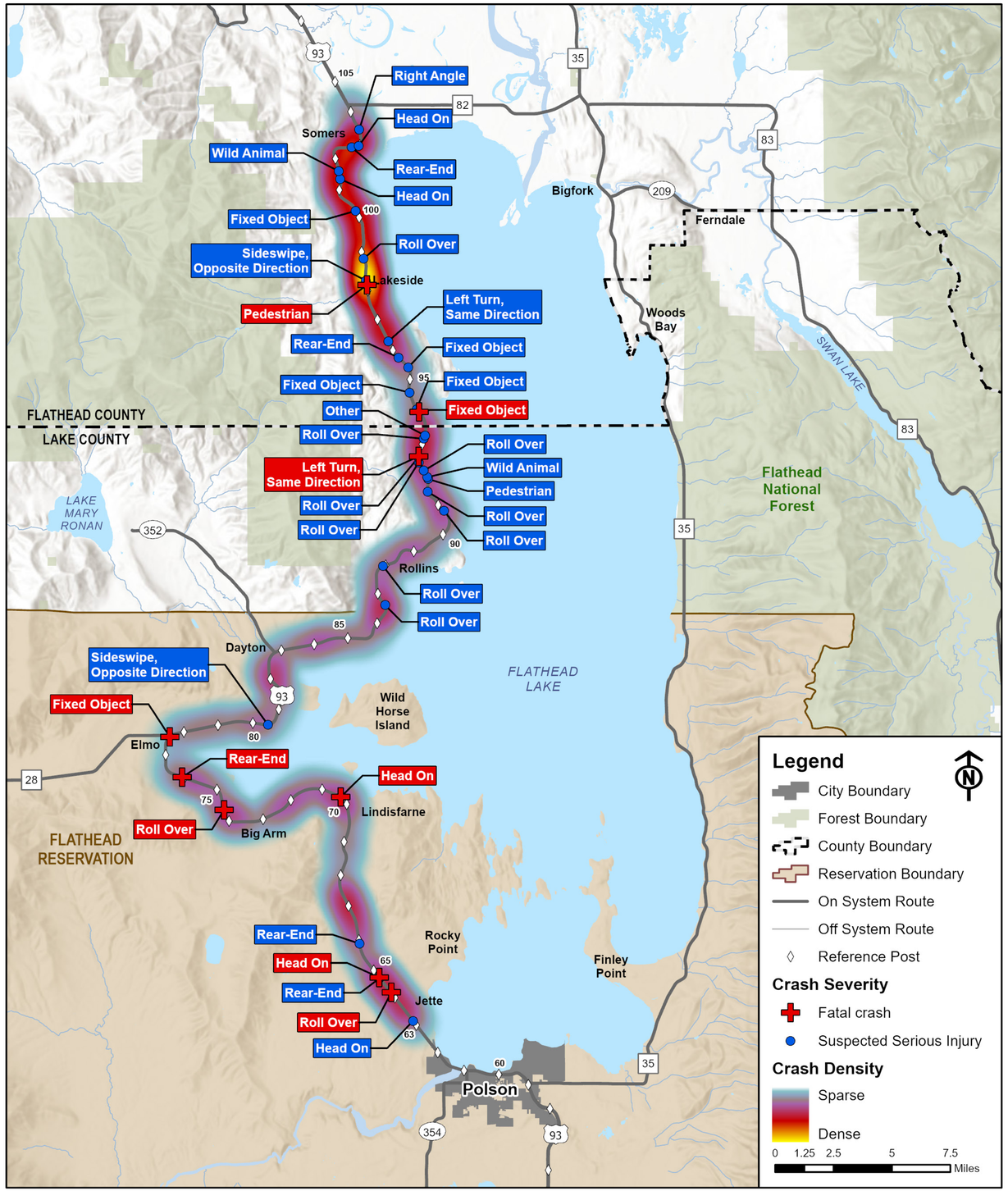
652 Crashes

1,403 Non-Injuries

Between **January 1, 2018**, and **December 31, 2022**, **814 crashes** were reported within the corridor.

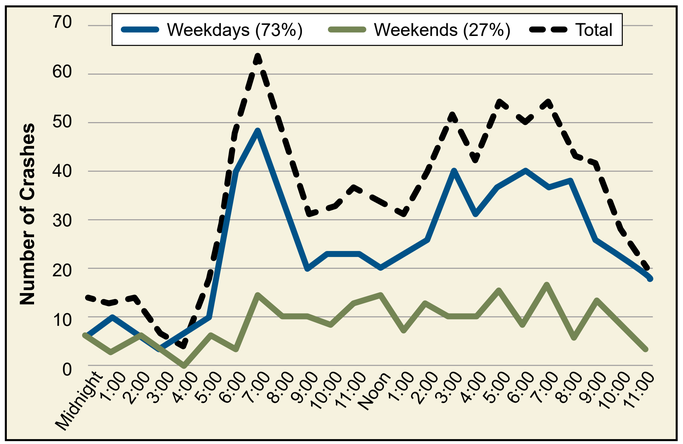
That's approximately **165 crashes per year**!

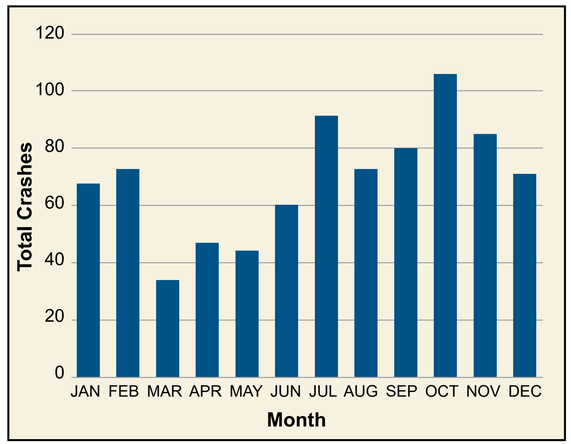




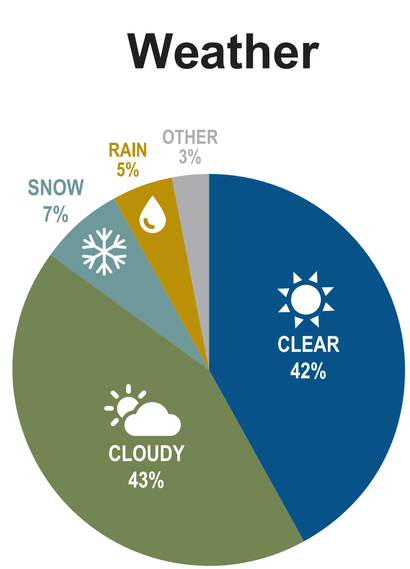
Key Findings: Safety

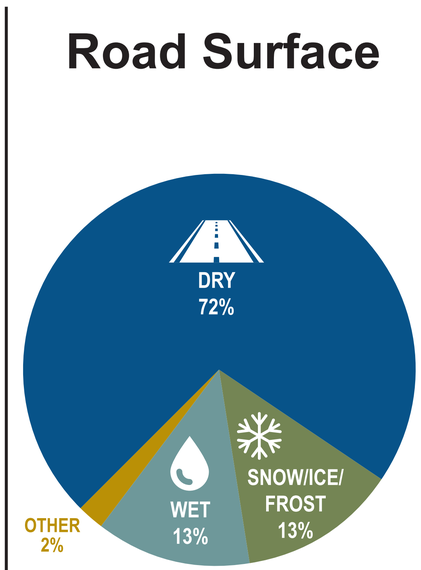
When did crashes occur?

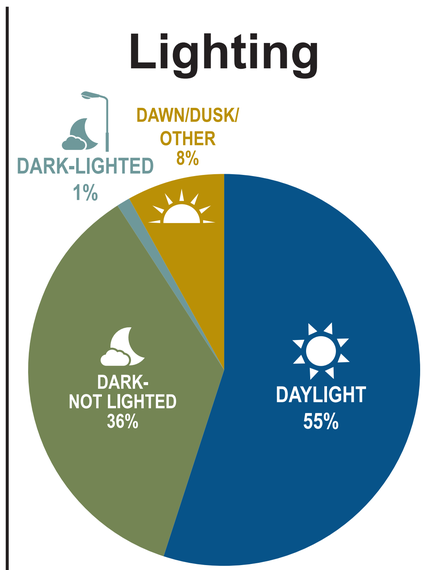




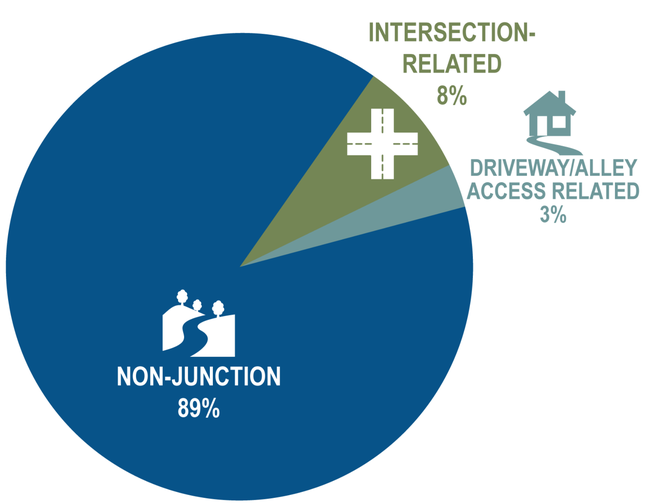
What were the conditions at the time of crashes?

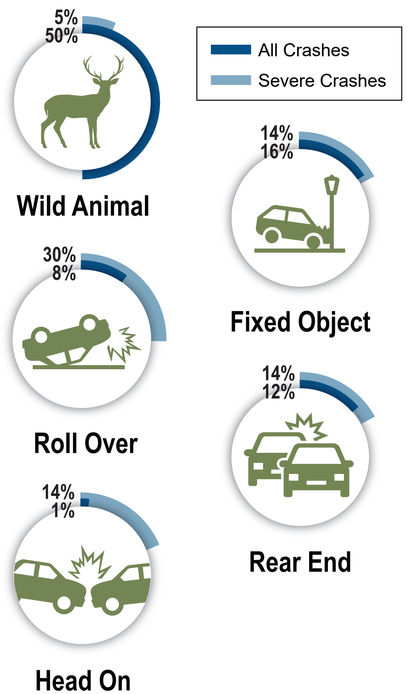






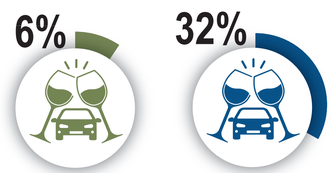
What type of crashes occurred?

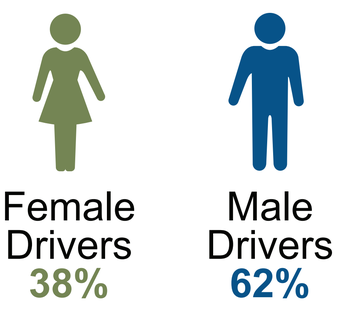


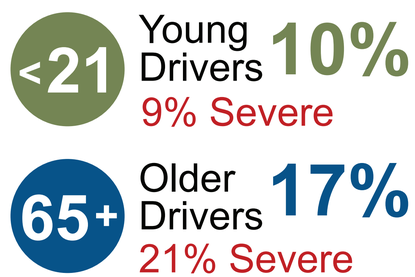


Who was involved in the crashes?

IMPAIRED DRIVERS







Key Findings: Environment

A planning-level analysis of environmental resources within the corridor was conducted to identify potential **constraints and considerations** that may influence the development of improvement options.

Since 2010, Flathead and Lake Counties have experienced significant **population growth**, with an **increase of 22 percent**, and a combined estimated population of nearly **130,000 residents**.

The **tourism and outdoor recreation industries** play a **very important economic role** in the region. The study area is popular for fishing, boating, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, water skiing, wildlife viewing, bird watching, camping, hiking, and photography.

Lands held by CSKT, Flathead County, Lake County, and State agencies are located adjacent to the US 93 corridor. About **23 miles** of the study corridor **traverse the Flathead Reservation**.

US 93 generally follows the western shore of **Flathead Lake** and crosses several **streams and wetlands**.

The study area provides **habitat for a variety of species** including elk, deer, bear, small mammals, raptors, amphibians, reptiles, and various aquatic species. **Wildlife-vehicle conflicts are common** based on reported crashes and carcasses collected along the highway.

Several **protected historic and pre-historic cultural sites** have been identified within the study corridor.

US 93 Polson-Somers Corridor Study

Study Schedule

Work Tasks	Month-Year														
	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25
1.0 Project Management and Administration															
2.0 Tribal, Agency, and Public Involvement															
3.0 Existing and Projected Conditions															
4.0 Needs and Objectives															
5.0 Options and Recommendations															
6.0 Corridor Study Report															
7.0 Access Management Plan															
Meetings															
Advisory Committee															
Public Informational Meetings															
Resource Agency Meeting															
Tribal Council/Local Government Presentations															

Advisory Committee Meeting Public Meeting Resource Agency Meeting Tribal Council/Local Government Presentations

How can I submit a comment?

Leave a **comment card** with us at the meeting!

PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

SCAN ME

To learn more about the plan, submit comments electronically, and stay involved!

US 93 POLSON-SOMERS CORRIDOR STUDY

Visit our website to learn more: www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/us93polsonsomers/

Submit your comment **online** at

mdt.mt.gov/contact/comment-form.aspx

Reach out to the study contacts:

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