

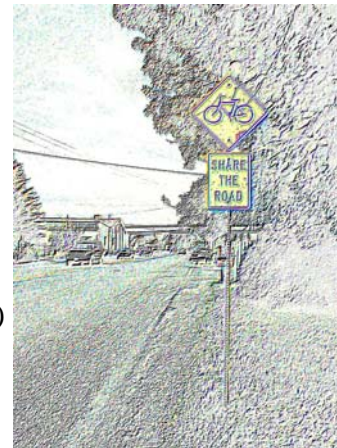
Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the proposal for improvements along Rouse Avenue?

The proposed project begins at the intersection of Main Street and Rouse Avenue and extends approximately 2.0 miles on Rouse Avenue to the intersection of Bridger Drive and Story Mill Road. The proposed project is intended to address congestion and safety concerns along the route. Alternatives to address these issues could range from doing nothing (No-Build), to widening the roadway to accommodate anticipated future traffic demand, turnbays at major intersections, a bike lane, sidewalks, ADA ramps, curb and gutter, signing, and pavement markings. Some additional right-of-way may be needed through the narrower sections to accommodate additional traffic lanes and a potential bike path. Utility relocations may also be necessary.

What will the study examine?

The study will examine existing traffic and safety concerns, and identify potential alternatives to address those concerns. Alternatives will be examined to determine their impacts on the surrounding built and natural environment.



What process will be used to conduct the study?

The study will follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) regulations. This process will ensure a full and fair discussion of all potential social, economic, and environmental impacts before specific decisions are made on the corridor improvements. No decision has been made on this proposed project, and an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be developed to document the process and decisions made.

How do I stay involved?

Please fill out a comment sheet at the Scoping Meeting to be added to the project mailing list, or provide an e-mail address for periodic e-newsletter updates. There will also be other opportunities for involvement through public open houses, workshops, and/or a formal Public Hearing. Watch for notices in the Bozeman Chronicle and the Gallatin County News for upcoming meetings.

Who will make the decision?

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) makes the final decision based on a recommendation from the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT). MDT's recommendation will be based on the results of the environmental evaluation, traffic analysis, engineering feasibility, construction costs, and public and agency input.

Who is paying for the study?

FHWA and MDT are paying for the study with highway tax dollars. Construction monies to build any recommended improvements have not been identified or appropriated. Completing the EA puts the project in line for future funding when it becomes available.

Who will conduct the study?

A private consultant engineering firm (HKM Engineering) has been hired to conduct the study and prepare the conceptual designs to be analyzed.

Current Phase of the Study:

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the City of Bozeman, will prepare an **Environmental Assessment (EA)** on the proposal to reconstruct Rouse Avenue.

This process has several distinct phases that are illustrated as mileposts in the graphic at right. There are two key aspects to this study: a proactive public participation program to ensure that we understand your concerns, and a rigorous exploration of alternatives to ensure that we are being responsive to the needs of the area residents and users of the area's transportation facilities.

The study is now in the **"Scoping"** phase and the Project Team is soliciting information and comment from appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies and from private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in the proposal. During the upcoming months, alternatives will be developed and evaluated for their effectiveness in providing the desired improvements and for their potential impacts.

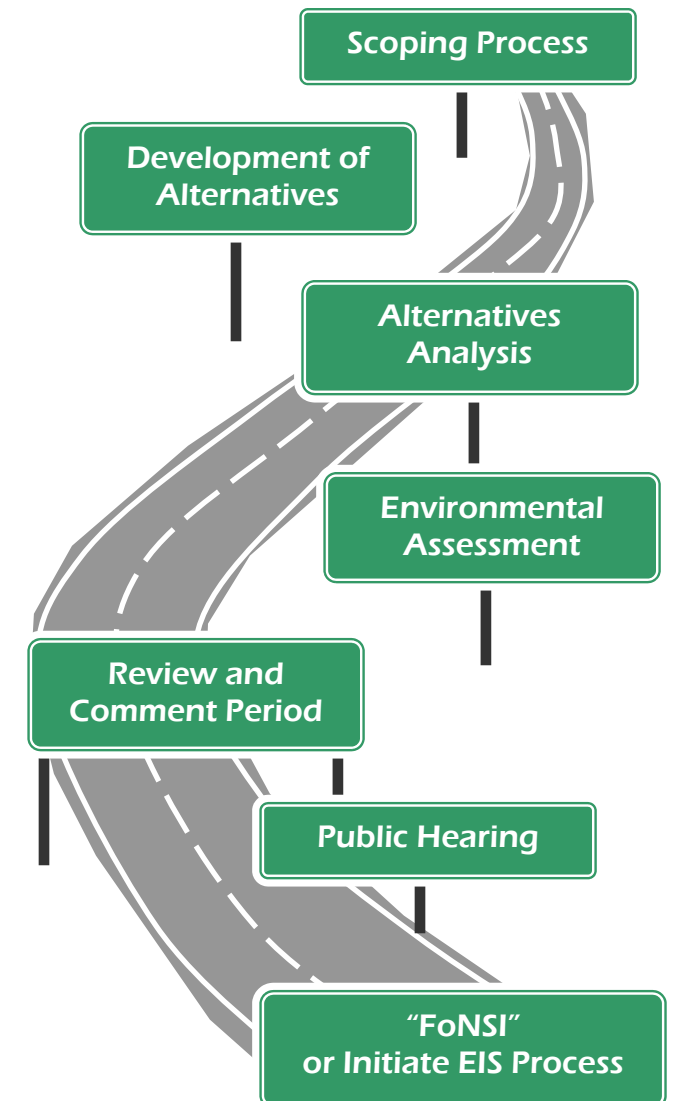
Additional information meetings will be scheduled during the course of the study, and a formal Public Hearing will be held after the EA has been prepared. Public notice will be given of the time and place of additional information meetings, and the formal Public Hearing. The EA will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the Hearing.

Comments and/or suggestions from all interested parties are requested to ensure that the full range of issues are identified and reviewed. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and/or the EA should be directed to:

Montana Department of Transportation
Jean A. Riley, P.E.
Environmental Services Bureau
2701 Prospect Avenue
PO Box 201001
Helena, Montana 59620-1001



Milestones in the NEPA Process



How Can I Get Involved?

Several opportunities will be available for people to get involved and stay informed about the proposed improvements along Rouse Avenue. They include:

- Getting on the Project Mailing List
- Receiving project newsletters
- Attending public meetings
- Calling or writing for information
- Asking the Project Team to make a presentation to your group

Who Should I Contact?

Jeff Ebert – MDT, District Administrator
3751 Wynne
PO Box 3068
Butte, Montana 59702-3068
406/494-9600 phone
800/261-6909 toll free
800/335-7592 TTY

Darryl James – HKM Engineering,
Environmental Manager
7 West 6th Avenue, Suite 3W
PO Box 1009
Helena, Montana 59624-1009
406/442-0370 phone
406/442-0377 fax

Please add me to your Project Mailing List:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

e-mail address: _____



The Power Block
7 West 6th Avenue, Suite 3W
PO Box 1009
Helena, Montana 59624-1009



The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) has announced its intention to reconstruct a portion of Rouse Avenue, in Bozeman. As a first step in the project development process, MDT has initiated a study to determine what impacts may be associated with the proposal. The study will follow the **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** and **Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA)** regulations. This process will ensure a full and fair discussion of all potential social, economic, and environmental impacts before specific decisions are made on the corridor improvements. The Public Scoping Meeting represents the first formal step in the investigation process. More details on the process and opportunities for public involvement may be found inside this newsletter.

Public Scoping Meeting – December 7, 2005

Meeting Agenda:

6:00 – 6:30 p.m. **Open House**

6:30 – 7:00 p.m. **Presentation**

Welcoming Remarks
Introduction of Project Team
Project History and Overview
Purpose of the Study
NEPA/MEPA Process
Project Timeline

7:00 – 8:00 p.m. **Public Issue Identification**

All comments received during this period will be documented and kept as part of the public record for this proposed project. Any other comments you would like considered should be presented on a comment sheet and provided to Project Team staff at the meeting, or mailed to the address on the comment sheet.

8:00 – 8:30 p.m. **Open House**

An aerial photograph display is available for your review, and Project Team staff are available to discuss your issues and concerns.

Project Team:

MDT: Jeff Ebert
Joe Olsen
Gabe Priebe

HKM Engineering: Phil Odegard, Project Manager
Chris Laity
Darryl James
Jennifer Peterson
Zoe Miller

FHWA: Jeff Patten

City of Bozeman: Rick Hixson