

# Baker Corridor Planning Study

Project Newsletter No. 2 | *September 2015*

## In This Issue

Corridor Planning Study Update	1
Corridor Needs & Objectives	2
Improvement Options Summary	2
Improvement Options Map	3
Public Involvement Opportunities	4
Next Steps	4
Study Contacts	4

## Corridor Planning Study Update

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and in coordination with Fallon County and the City of Baker, has developed a corridor planning study that includes the City of Baker and surrounding vicinity. The study purpose is to identify issues, constraints, and potential improvement options to address traffic operations and mobility within the study area.

The study area includes U.S. Highway 12 from Reference Marker (RM) 79.0 to RM 88.1 and Montana Highway 7 from RM 31.9 to RM 37.6. The study area includes the City of Baker, the Baker Municipal Airport and a portion of BNSF Railway.

The Baker Corridor Planning Study was developed collaboratively by a planning study team that included members from MDT, FHWA, and Fallon County and involved outreach to the public, key stakeholders, and resource agencies. The Baker Corridor Planning Study followed the MDT Corridor Planning Process which provides a linkage between early transportation planning and the environmental review process. The study is a pre-NEPA/

MEPA analysis that developed needs and objectives, identified and analyzed improvement options, eliminated non-feasible options, and identified potential environmental impacts and other constraints through a public involvement process. Improvement options developed for the study include new road alignments to address the issue of freight traffic through the downtown area. The study also includes documentation of potential funding mechanisms for improvement options.

The draft Baker Corridor Planning Study will be available for review and comment on October 7th, 2015. The draft report can be accessed from the study website at:

<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/baker/>

The public comment period ends November 6, 2015.



## INFORMATIONAL MEETING NO. 2

Everyone is welcome to attend!

### WHEN

Tuesday, October 20, 2015  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

### WHERE

Fallon County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall  
3440 Montana 7, Baker, MT

### WHY

- Present the draft corridor study
- Present the various improvement options developed for the study area
- Gather community feedback on the draft corridor study

# Corridor Needs and Objectives

Needs and objectives are necessary to provide a framework for identifying improvements. The needs and objectives for this study have been developed based on existing and projected conditions within the study area, as well as input received

from the public, local government, and resource agencies. The needs, objectives, and other considerations listed below are in no specific order.

## Need # 1: Improve operations and safety of US 12 and MT 7 within the study area to the extent practicable.

### Objectives

- 1.a. Improve the operation of the US 12/MT 7 intersection to accommodate an acceptable level of service (LOS C).
- 1.b. Improve the operation of the US 12/MT 7 intersection to accommodate all design vehicles.
- 1.c. Improve roadway elements to meet current MDT design criteria.

## Need #2: Improve mobility on US 12 and MT 7 for people and freight within the study area to the extent practicable.

### Objectives

- 2.a. Reduce delay due to at-grade railroad crossing closures.
- 2.b. Accommodate existing and future capacity demands within the corridor.
- 2.c. Preserve and maintain roadway surfacing and bridges on US 12 and MT 7 to accommodate future transportation demands.

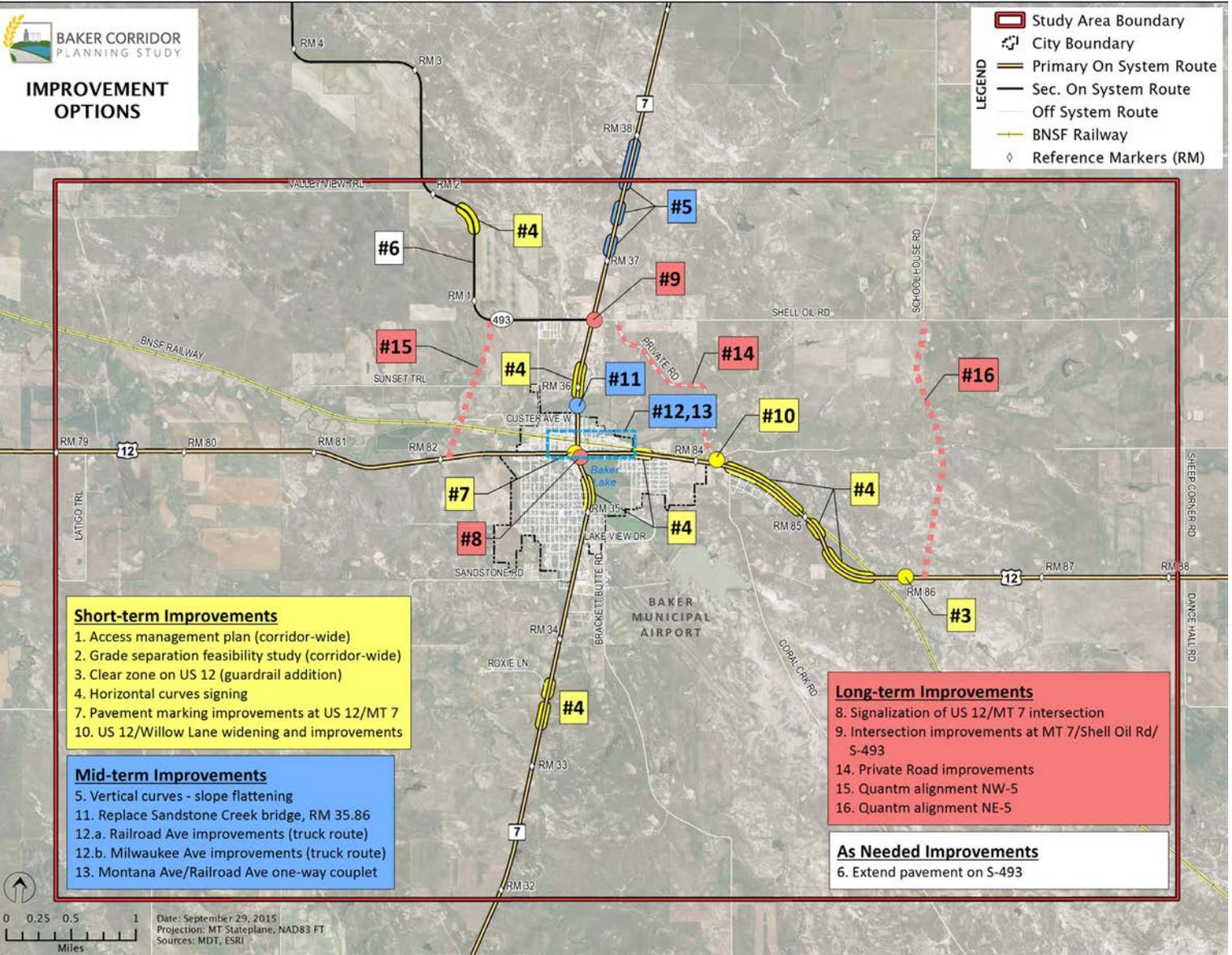
### Other Considerations to the Extent Practicable

- Minimize the resource impacts of improvement options.
- Minimize impacts during construction.
- Consider construction feasibility of improvement options.
- Consistency with local plans.

## Improvement Options Summary:

The table below and the map on Page 3 includes a range of improvement options that may be considered for future implementation within the study area. The improvement options have been developed based on the evaluation of the existing conditions and ability to address identified needs. Presently, no funding has been dedicated to the improvement options identified in this study.

		Improvement Option	Location(s)	Cost Estimate
Corridor Planning	1	Access Management Plan	Corridor-wide	\$100k to \$150k
	2	Grade Separation Feasibility Study	Corridor-wide	\$100k to \$125k
Geometric and Pavement	3	Clear Zone on US 12 near RM 86.2	US 12, RM 86.2	\$40k to \$42k
	4	Horizontal Curve Warning Signs	US 12, RM 83.5, 84.6, 85.3, 85.7; MT 7, RM 33.4, 33.5, 35.1, 36.0; S-493, RM 1.6	\$11k to \$12k
	5	Vertical Curves	MT 7, between RM 37.1 and 37.8	\$1.5M to \$1.7M
	6	Extend Pavement on S-493 (Pennel Rd.)	S-493, RM 1.0 and beyond	\$1.7M to \$1.8M per mile
Intersections	7	Pavement Marking at US 12/MT 7 Intersection	US 12/MT 7 Intersection	\$10k to \$11k
	8	Future Signalization of US 12/MT 7	US 12/MT 7 Intersection	\$600k to \$650k
	9	Intersection Improvements at MT 7/Shell Oil Rd./S-493	MT 7/Shell Oil Rd./S-493 Intersection	\$600k to \$625k (Signal); \$3.2M to \$3.3M (Roundabout)
	10	US 12/Willow Lane Turn Lane Storage and Railroad Crossing Improvements	US 12 RM 84.1, Willow Lane intersection	\$550k to \$600k
Bridge	11	Replace Bridge on MT 7, RM 35.8 (Sandstone Creek)	MT 7, RM 35.8 (Sandstone Creek)	\$850k to \$900k
Alternative Truck Routes	12.a	Railroad Ave. Improvements	Railroad Ave. between US 12 and MT 7	\$300k to \$325k
	12.b	Milwaukee Ave. / 3 <sup>rd</sup> St. SW Improvements	Milwaukee Ave W/3 <sup>rd</sup> St SW	\$120k to \$130k
	13	Montana Ave. (US12) and Railroad Ave. One-way Couplet	US 12 and Railroad Ave	\$1.6M to \$1.7M
	14	Private Oil Field Road Improvements	Private Road between US 12 and Shell Oil Rd.	NA
	15	Quantm Alignment NW-5	Between US 12, RM 82.1 and S-493, RM 0.8	\$17M to \$17.5M
	16	Quantm Alignment NE-5	Between US 12, RM 86.2 and Shell Oil Rd	\$16.3M to \$16.8M



## Public Involvement Opportunities

An informational meeting is scheduled for 6:30 PM, Tuesday, October 20th, 2015, in the Exhibit Hall at the Fallon County Fairgrounds (3440 Montana 7, Baker, MT). The purpose of the meeting is to present the draft corridor study, discuss the recommended improvement options, and solicit feedback from the community. The draft Baker Corridor Planning Study will be available for review and comment on October 7th, 2015 and accessible from the study website at <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/baker/>.

Comments may be submitted in writing at the informational meeting, online via the study website, or by mail to Corrina Collins, MDT Statewide and Urban Planning, Project Manager, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620-1001. Please indicate that comments are for the Baker Corridor Planning Study.

Please note that the deadline for receiving comments is November 6th, 2015.

## Next Steps

MDT will collect and consider all comments to better understand the community's view of potential issues and concerns within the study area. Following the public comment period, all comments received will be reviewed and the Baker Corridor Planning Study will be finalized. Project development and implementation of any of the improvement options depends on funding availability, right-of-way needs, and other transportation priorities within the MDT Glendive District. At this time, funding is not available to implement any of the improvement options identified by this study.

MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in any service, program, or activity associated with this study. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request. For further information, call (406) 447-5000, TTY (800) 335-7592, or 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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