

LINCOLN RD—MONTANA TO I-15

Corridor Improvement Options

PROJECT NEWSLETTER—OCTOBER 2014

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INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Please Join Us!

Thursday

November 6, 2014

Open House: 5:00 PM

Presentation: 6:00 PM

Helena Regional Airport

2nd Floor Reception Rm

2850 Mercer Loop

Please park in the long-term parking lot.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

We hope to see you there!

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The study area is located approximately six miles north of Helena and includes the intersections of Lincoln Road with North Montana Avenue and the Interstate 15 (I-15) ramp terminals at the Lincoln Interchange. The land use adjacent to Lincoln Road currently consists of irrigated farm land, commercial businesses, and residential dwellings.

The north valley outside of Helena has experienced rapid growth in recent years due in part to development activity and changes in land use. Traffic volumes have been increasing rapidly near the Lincoln Interchange. The recent construction of the Custer Interchange has also resulted in changes to traffic patterns and operations at the Lincoln Interchange. As a result, traffic performance has deteriorated as congestion has increased. The area is currently experiencing heavy vehicle congestion during the peak hours and is expected to experience increased growth

in the coming years due to continued development. If remained unchanged, increasing vehicle delay and safety issues are likely to compound.

A draft traffic study has been completed to identify and evaluate potential options to improve safety and operations for the Lincoln Road Interchange and the intersection of Lincoln Road and North Montana Avenue. The alternatives identified in the study are intended to be implementable in the short-term and do not include full reconstruction of the Lincoln Interchange or the Lincoln Road corridor. Potential barriers and constraints to project development are important to help determine the feasibility of developing the alternatives.



PROJECT WEBSITE

A project website has been established and will be updated periodically as information becomes available. The website address is: <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/lincoln/>



POTENTIAL ROUNDABOUT CONFIGURATIONS

Lincoln Road / North Montana Avenue



Advantages:

- Reduced delay
- Improved safety
- Improved off-peak performance

Disadvantages:

- Long-term AM peak hour capacity constraints
- May be difficult to expand to increase capacity in the future

Lincoln Road / I-15 Northbound Ramps



Advantages:

- Reduced delay
- Improved safety
- Improved off-peak performance

Disadvantages:

- Extensive construction impacts
- Impacts to adjacent lands
- Long-term PM peak hour capacity constraints

POTENTIAL TRAFFIC SIGNAL CONFIGURATIONS

Lincoln Road / North Montana Avenue



Advantages:

- Reduced delay
- Improved long-term performance

Disadvantages:

- Induced delay during off-peak hours
- High vehicle speeds
- Potential for increase in severe crashes

Lincoln Road / I-15 Northbound Ramp



Advantages:

- Reduced delay
- Increased capacity
- Additional vehicle storage along northbound off-ramp

Disadvantages:

- Induced delay during off-peak hours
- Sight distance concerns
- High vehicle speeds

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INFORMATIONAL MEETING

An informational meeting is scheduled to discuss potential improvement options to the Lincoln Road Corridor, between the intersection with Montana Avenue and the Interstate 15 northbound ramps in Helena, MT, Lewis and Clark County. The informational meeting will consist of an Open House beginning at 5:00 PM, followed by a presentation at 6:00 PM, on Thursday, November 6, 2014 at the Helena Regional Airport, 2850 Mercer Loop, 2nd Floor Reception Room, in Helena, MT. Please park in the long-term parking lot.

The purpose of the meeting is to inform interested parties about the scope and purpose of potential improvements, and to solicit input from the public. A draft traffic study has recently been prepared that examined potential improvements for the Lincoln Road Corridor; specifically the intersections of Montana Avenue & Lincoln Road, and the on- and off-ramps to Interstate 15 (from Lincoln Road). The traffic study has examined the potential for both modern roundabouts and traffic signals at these locations. The key findings of the traffic study will be presented at the informational meeting.

Community participation is a very important part of the process, and the public is encouraged to attend. Comments and concerns may be submitted in writing at the meeting or by mail to Steve Prinzing, Great Falls District Pre-Construction Engineer, at MDT, PO Box 1359, Great Falls, MT 59403; or online at: www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/comment_form.shtml

Please indicate comments are for the Lincoln Road Corridor Project, UPN 8559000. The deadline for comments is December 5, 2014.

The meeting is open to the public and will be recorded. MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person's participation in any department service, program or activity. For reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting, please contact Paul Grant at (406) 444-9415 at least two days before the meeting. For the hearing impaired, the TTY number is (406) 444-7696 or (800) 335-7592, or Montana Relay at 711. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request.

