News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MDT announces the Rockvale to Laurel Highway Reconstruction Project Final Environmental Impact Statement is available for public review

Laurel - The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Section 4(f) Evaluation for the Rockvale to Laurel Highway Reconstruction project has been published and is available for review.

The FEIS is available for review at the following locations:

- Parmly Billings Library, 510 N. Broadway, Billings
- Yellowstone County Commissioners' Office, 217 N. 27th St. Rm 403, Billings
- Joliet Community Library, 300 N. Park St., Joliet
- Laurel Public Library, 720 W. Third St., Laurel
- Carbon County Commissioners' Office, 17 W. Eleventh St., Red Lodge
- Carnegie Library, 3 West 8th, Red Lodge
- Montana Department of Transportation, 424 Morey Street, Billings
- Montana State Library, 1515 East 6th Avenue, Helena
- MDT Headquarters, 2701 Prospect Avenue, Helena
- Online at **www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/eis_ea.shtml**
- Call MDT Environmental Services at (406) 444-7228 for a copy of the FEIS

Review period for the FEIS ends May 11, 2009. Written comments may be submitted to Tom Martin, MDT, PO Box 201001, 2701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, MT 59602-1001. Comments may also be submitted online at **www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/eis_ea.shtml**

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The FEIS examines alternatives for a highway reconstruction of a 17.4-kilometer (10.8-mile) section of U.S. Highway 212/310 between Carbon and Yellowstone counties in south-central Montana, along with a short section of U.S. Highway 310 southwest of Rockvale. The alternatives analyzed in the FEIS would improve the roadway by accommodating growing traffic volumes; resolving safety conflicts between the highway's dual purpose of transporting regional tourist and truck traffic and transporting local traffic; and providing access for local roadways and land use. Project benefits would include improving safety, accommodating for increased capacity, supporting mobility of goods and people; and handling existing and future accesses in a consistent manner.

Based on analysis, meetings and public comments, 6 build alternatives, including a No-Build alternative have been developed that include fewer lanes (such as two or three lanes) or different four-lane configurations.

The FEIS analyzes and compares the social, economic and environmental impacts; the alternatives; and responds to public comments received on the Draft EIS published in October 2007. The FEIS identifies the Preferred Alternative as Alternative 5B—Combined West Bench which would be a four-lane divided facility between the Rockvale area and the existing four-lane highway southerly of Laurel. Following review of the FEIS, the FHWA will issue a Record of Decision and the selected alternative will then move forward into design and construction upon availability of funding.

Additional copies of the FEIS may be obtained by contacting MDT at the address given below:

Tom Martin
Montana Department of Transportation
PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001
(406) 444-7228

The document can also be viewed online at:

http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/eis_ea.shtml

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will be provided upon request. For further information call MDT at (888) 730-0898 or TTY (800) 335-7592, or call Montana Relay at 711.

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Project Name: Rockvale - Laurel
Project ID: NH 4-1(21)43
Control Number: 4070
Yellowstone and Carbon Counties