

CULBERTSON



CORRIDOR PLANNING STUDY

Newsletter | Issue No. 1 | February 2012

Study Description

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is conducting the Culbertson Corridor Planning Study at the request of the Town of Culbertson. Due to considerable growth in the oil and gas industry in northeastern Montana, the Culbertson area has experienced an overwhelming increase in truck traffic and congestion through town. The corridor planning study will determine cost-effective ways to address transportation needs and safety concerns primarily on US Highway 2 (US 2) and Montana Highway 16 (MT 16).

The purpose of this corridor planning study is to assess safety and congestion issues through Culbertson by analyzing existing data to determine current deficiencies and future needs within the corridor study area. This corridor planning study will include a list of short- and long-term solutions that will provide state and local officials with necessary information to address traffic, safety and congestion issues within the Culbertson area.

What is a Corridor Planning Study?

MDT developed the Corridor Planning Process in an effort to better coordinate and link the planning process with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) processes. It is important to note that the corridor planning study is developed strictly as a planning project and **not** a preliminary engineering design project. In addition to identifying potential improvement options, results of the study may be used to determine the level of environmental documentation necessary, should any project be considered.

Steps to be taken during the Corridor Planning Study:

- Analyze existing and projected conditions
- Identify needs, issues, impacts, and goals
- Determine and evaluate improvement options
- Recommend improvement options
- Community outreach
- Prepare draft Corridor Study report

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Informational Meeting #1

Wednesday
March 7, 2012
6:00 – 8:00 pm
Town Hall
210 Broadway,
Culbertson, MT

The public is encouraged
and welcome to
attend.

STUDY CONTACTS:



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MDT and CDM Smith attempt 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) 441-1400 or TTY (800) 335-7592 or by calling Montana Relay at 711. Accommodation requests must be made at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled activity and/or meeting.

Community Involvement Opportunities

Community involvement is important to any successful corridor planning study process. The purpose of community involvement is to ensure an open process that provides opportunities for the community to be involved in all phases of the corridor planning study. The community is invited to participate in the process through informational meetings and ongoing study information review and input.

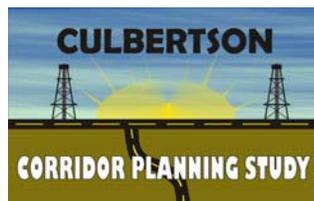
A study website has been developed to provide on-line opportunities to comment on the Culbertson corridor planning study effort. Dates, times, and locations for all community outreach events will be announced prior to the events through the local media and the study mailing list.

The study team will collect and consider all community comments received to better understand the community's view of potential issues. Those with a specific interest in the study are encouraged to join the study mailing list. Individuals can join the study mailing list by submitting their name and contact information to Grey Turner at TurnerGL@cdmsmith.com.

Two informational meetings will be held over the course of the study. **The first informational meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, 2012 from 6-8 PM at the Town Hall (210 Broadway, Culbertson).** The community is welcome and encouraged to attend. We hope to see you there!

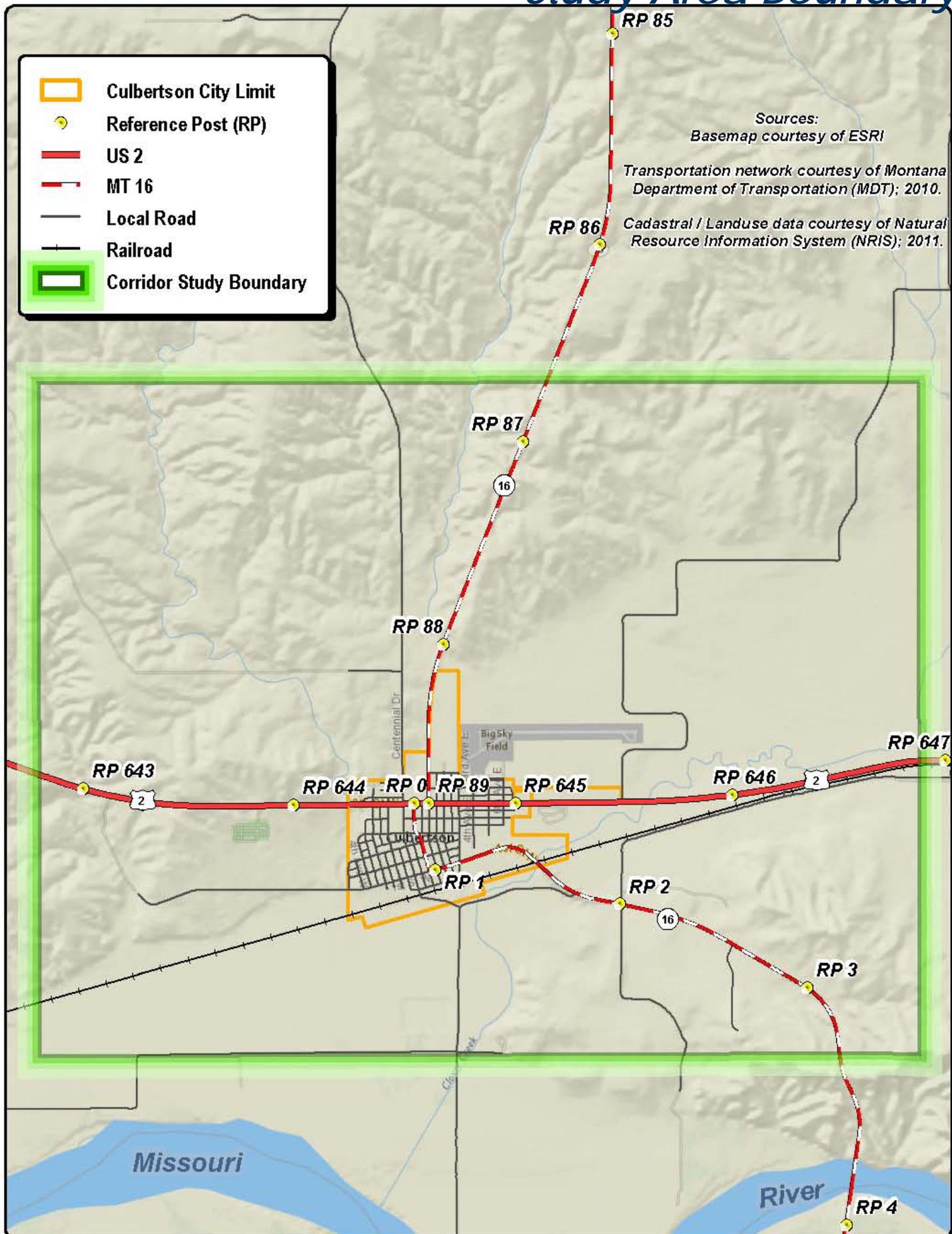
Check out the study website at:

www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/culbertso



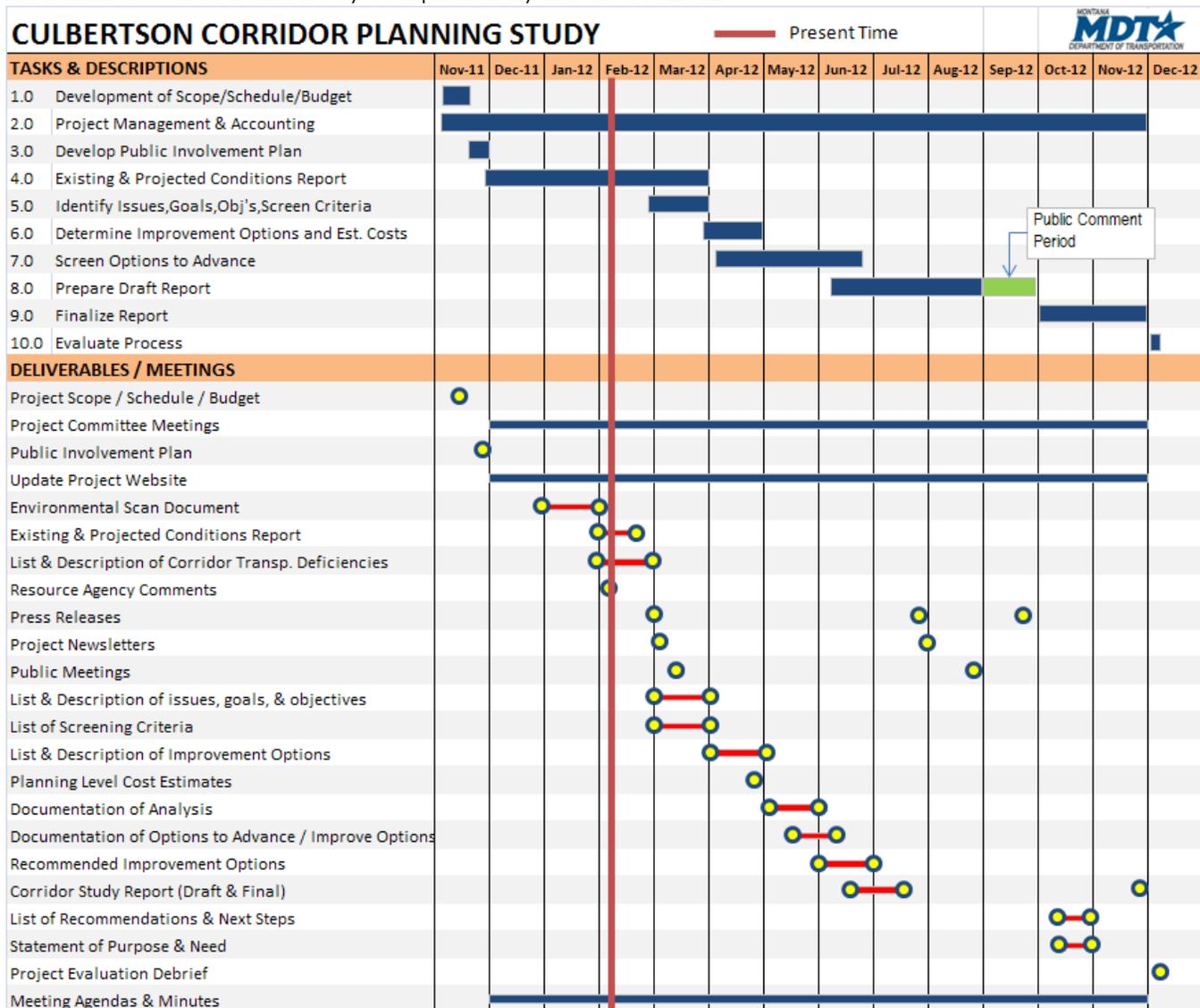
The Culbertson Corridor Planning Study area encompasses a rectangular area around the town of Culbertson, which includes a 4-mile segment of US 2 (between Reference Post (RP) 642.8 and RP 646.8) and a 5-mile segment of MT 16 (between RP 86.6 and RP 88.6 north of US 2 and between RP 0 and RP 3 south of US 2), as shown on page 3.

Study Area Boundary



Study Schedule

The study schedule will follow a twelve-month timeframe. The study began on November 22, 2011 with a goal for a final document and study completion by the end of 2012.



Work Completed to Date:

- ✓ *Public Involvement Plan*
- ✓ *Study Website*
- ✓ *Newsletter Issue No. 1*
- ✓ *Draft Environmental Scan*
- ✓ *Draft Existing & Projected Conditions*
- ✓ *Draft List of Corridor Deficiencies*

Next Steps:

The study team, with input from resource agencies, the public and community stakeholders, will be identifying needs, issues, and goals to determine and evaluate potential improvement options.