

# FAIRVIEW-WEST

## ALTERNATIVE ALIGNMENT STUDY



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### Study Description

**MDT is examining the road alignment for a reconstruction project on MT 201 -- from the junction with MT 200 to approximately 6 miles west of Fairview. Residents are encouraged to help now - identify needs, constraints, and opportunities to determine a feasible road alignment given available resources and local support.**

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) has initiated early project development activities for the Fairview-West project. The project, designated as STPP 201-2(14)64, CN 8650000, is intended to reconstruct approximately 6 miles of Montana Highway 201 (MT 201) west of the Town of Fairview in Richland County (**SEE MAP PAGE 2**). The entire segment of MT 201 proposed for reconstruction extends from the junction of MT 201 and Montana Highway 200 (MT 200) in Fairview to Reference Marker (RM) 63.6 located about 6 miles west of the community.

The initial phase of the Fairview-West project involves the identification and analysis of potential new alignments for the eastern portion of the project corridor between MT 200 in Fairview and RM 67.4 on MT 201. The alternative alignment analysis is intended to inform the decision of the best alignment possible to increase safety and shift trucks from the existing road facility as it enters Fairview.

### Why An Alternative Alignment Study?

An *Alternative Alignment Study* is a planning-level assessment undertaken before conducting project-level environmental compliance activities under the National and Montana Environmental Policy Acts (NEPA/MEPA). The study involves early communication with interested parties and the public to help identify needs, constraints, and opportunities for a road alignment shift and to determine if it is feasible given available resources and local support.

### What Work Has Been Completed To Date?

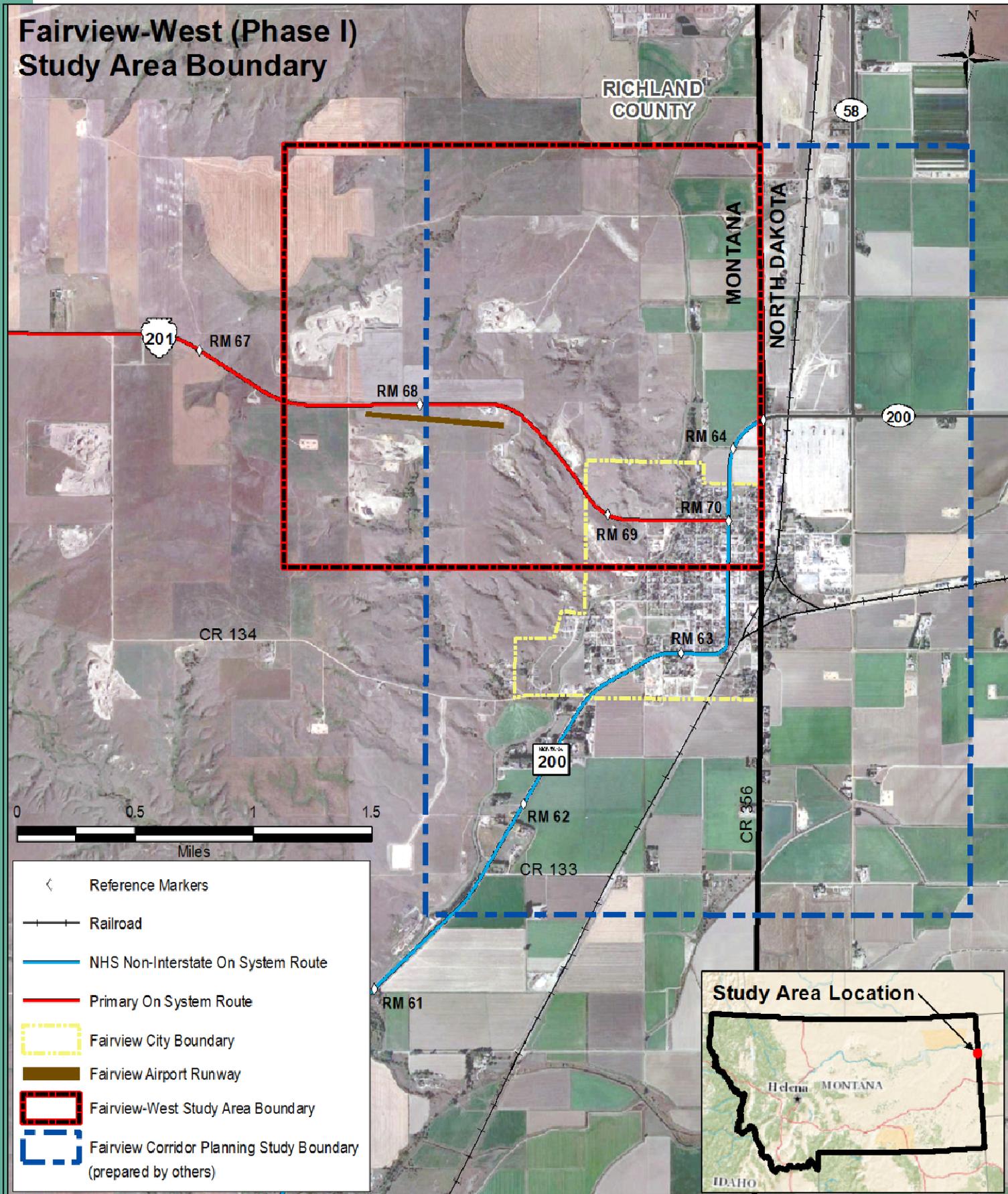
An Environmental Scan Report has been completed to identify the existing environmental resources and conditions within the study area that may be potentially affected by transportation-related improvements or that may influence the identification of new alignments for the segment of interest on MT 201.

The environmental scan area encompasses a 3.6-square-mile area which generally includes the north half of the Town of Fairview and adjoining lands north and west of the community.

Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided upon request. Persons who need an alternative format should contact the Civil Rights Bureau, Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620. Telephone 406-444-9229. Those using a TTY may call 1(800)335-7592 or through the Montana Relay Service at 711.

## Study Area

The study area for this *Alternative Alignment Study* begins just west of the Fairview Airport and terminates along the Montana/North Dakota border (to the east). Note that a separate study is also underway (by others) that is examining National Highway System (NHS) Route 200 through Fairview.



## What Are Some Initial Considerations?

The following initial considerations have been identified through on-site reviews and preliminary data analysis. This list is not all-inclusive and is subject to change over the course of the study process.

### Transportation

- MT 201 is being evaluated for a potential new alignment due to the large influx in traffic volumes, especially an increase in truck traffic, due to oil development in the area
- Several components of MT 201 do not meet current roadway design standards for a facility of this type. Some components not meeting current design standards include:
  - ◊ Vertical alignment (grades)
  - ◊ Pavement width (24' versus 32')
- Safety: for the 10-year period of January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2013.....
  - ◊ Sixty crashes were reported
  - ◊ Includes one fatal crash and 28 injury crashes
  - ◊ Forty-eight of the 60 crashes were non-intersection related
  - ◊ Of the 60 crashes, 22 crashes involved a commercial vehicle
- The *Environmental Scan Report* identifies the existing environmental resources and conditions within the study area that may be potentially affected by transportation-related improvements or that may influence the identification of new alignments for the segment of interest on MT 201
- Resources identified as being **avoid areas** include:
  - ◊ Fairview Airport (and Runway Protection Zones)
  - ◊ Active oil wells
  - ◊ Fairview water tank
  - ◊ Fairview Pool & Sharbano Park
- Resources identified as being **potential avoid areas** include:
  - ◊ Existing gravel pits
  - ◊ Existing wetlands
  - ◊ Various recorded or eligible historic sites
  - ◊ Existing residences

### Environmental Considerations

- An *Environmental Scan Report* has been completed (dated May 27, 2015) and can be viewed on the study website at: <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/fairviewwest>

**STAY TUNED!**

**An Informational Meeting will occur in late-July. The date and location will be announced on the website and local media in the coming weeks.**

**Thank you for your interest in this *Alternative Alignment Study.***

## Study Schedule

The Fairview-West (Phase I) *Alternative Alignment Study* began in April 2015 and is slated for completion by the end of July 2015.

### CALENDAR YEAR 2015

MISCELLANEOUS MILESTONES / DELIVERABLES	APRIL (week 2)	APRIL (week 3)	APRIL (week 4)	MAY (week 1)	MAY (week 2)	MAY (week 3)	MAY (week 4)	JUNE (week 1)	JUNE (week 2)	JUNE (week 3)	JUNE (week 4)	JULY (week 1)	JULY (week 2)	JULY (week 3)	JULY (week 4)
Project Newsletter No. 1															
On-Site Field Review															
Draft Environmental Scan Report															
Support Quantum Analysis															
Draft Alternative Alignment Analysis Report															
City/County Presentation															
Project Newsletter No. 2															
Press Release															
Public Meeting															
Final E-Scan and Alternative Alignment Analysis Report															
Meeting Agendas and Minutes															

 City/County and/or Public Meeting    
  Major Report Deliverable    
  Project Newsletter(s) / Press Meeting



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### Website

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

## What Do You Think?

Public involvement is important to any successful study process. It is vital that the public is engaged and given an opportunity to participate in the study. The public is invited to participate by attending any scheduled informational meetings, as well as reviewing and contributing input on ongoing study information.

The website developed for the study provides online opportunities to comment on the Fairview—West (Phase I) *Alternative Alignment Study*. Dates, times, and locations for future outreach opportunities will be announced in advance by using local media and the study mailing list. Notices will also be posted on the study website.

The study team will collect and consider all public comments received to aid in understanding community views on potential issues. People with a specific interest in the study are encouraged to visit the website, submit comments, and/or attend the Informational Meeting (*yet-to-be-scheduled*). For more information, refer to the list of contacts contained on this page.

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