



*Environmental Services*  
 MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 Helena, Montana 59620

**Memorandum**

To: David W. Jensen, Supervisor  
 Fiscal Programming Section

From: Heidi Bruner, P.E.  
 Engineering Section Supervisor  
 Environmental Services Bureau

Date: December 17, 2010

Subject: Categorical Exclusion  
 HSIP 453-1(7)5  
 SF 099 E Lincoln Rd-Hauser Dam  
 Control Number: 7275000



The Environmental Services Bureau has reviewed the proposed project and concluded that it will not involve unusual circumstances as described under 23 CFR 771.117(b). As a result, the project qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion under the provisions of 23 CFR 771.117(c), part (8), which describes installation of fencing, signs, pavement markings, small passenger shelters, traffic signals, and railroad warning devices where no substantial land acquisition or traffic disruption will occur. The proposed action also qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion under the provisions of ARM 18.2.261 (Sections 75-1-103 and 75-1-201, MCA).

In accordance with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) letter of March 29, 1999, please notify FHWA that the proposed action is being processed in accordance with 23 CFR 771.117(c).

electronic copies:

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Michael P. Johnson         | Great Falls District Administrator                  |
| Duane E. Williams, P.E.    | Traffic and Safety Engineer                         |
| Ivan Ulberg, P.E.          | Traffic Projects Engineer                           |
| Robert Stapley             | Right-of-Way Bureau Chief                           |
| Suzy Price                 | Contract Plans Bureau Chief                         |
| Tom Martin, P.E.           | Environmental Services Bureau Chief                 |
| Eric Thunstrom             | Environmental Services Project Development Engineer |
| Alan Woodmansey, P.E.      | FHWA Operations Engineer                            |
| Montana Legislative Branch | Environmental Quality Council                       |

copies:

Environmental Services Bureau File



**Memorandum**

To: Distribution

From: Duane E. Williams, P.E. *initialed DW*  
Traffic and Safety Engineer

Date: December 31, 2010

Subject: HSIP 453-1(7)5  
SF 099 E Lincoln Rd – Hauser Dam  
UPN 7275 000  
Work Type 410 – Traffic Signals and Lighting

Attached is the Project Report which was approved on November 23, 2010. We request that those on the distribution review this report and submit your comments within two weeks of the approval date. Due to the limited nature of the project, MDT desires to install this safety project using MDT Maintenance forces Summer 2011; the report will only address necessary features specific to this project.

This report also includes a preliminary design, and any comments regarding the design should be made at this time. The plans will be finalized following receipt of the environmental document. No right-of-way will be required for this project.

Your comments and recommendations are also requested if you are not on the direct distribution list. When the environmental documentation is approved, we will finalize design and prepare to let the project to contract.

**Distribution:**

Mick Johnson, District Administrator	Lynn Zanto, Rail, Transit, & Planning Division Administrator
Tom Martin, Environmental Services Bureau Chief	Jake Goettle, Construction Engineering Services Bureau
Jon Swartz, Maintenance Administrator	

**cc:**

Dave Jensen, Fiscal Programming Section Supervisor	Traffic and Safety File
Ivan Ulberg, Project Engineer	Eric Griffin, L&C County Public Works Director
	3402 Cooney Drive
	Helena, MT 59602

**e-copies:**

Jim Walther, Engineering, Preconstruction Engineer	Steve Prinzing, District Preconstruction
Paul Sturm, District Biologist	Dave Hand, District Maintenance Chief
Eric Thunstrom, District Project Development Engineer	Paul Johnson, Project Analysis Bureau
Danielle Bolan, Traffic Engineer	Wayne Noem, Secondary Roads Engineer
Pierre Jomini, Safety Management Engineer	Jean Riley, Planner
Marty Beatty, Engineering Information Services	Paul Grant, Public Involvement Officer
Allen Levens, Traffic – Electrical	Jim Cornell, Traffic – Signing
Tony Strainer, MDT Maintenance	Kam Wrigg, MDT Maintenance
	Steve Keller, MDT Maintenance

## Project Report

HSIP 453-1(7)5, SF 099 E Lincoln Rd – Hauser Dam  
Project Engineer: Ivan B. Ulberg, P.E.

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### **Introduction**

A Field Review was held on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The following were in attendance:

Ivan Ulberg, Traffic Section – Project Engineer  
Allen Levens, Traffic Section – Electrical (office review only)  
Tasha King, Traffic Section – Engineering Analysis  
Jeff McKim, Traffic Section – Engineering Analysis  
Jim Cornell, Traffic Section – Signing  
Eric Griffin, Public Works Director – Lewis and Clark County (office review only)

The project is nominated to address the identified crash trend of single vehicle off-road crashes. From January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2008 there were 4 crashes involving eastbound, single vehicles that drove through the intersection, leaving the roadway. These 4 crashes resulted in 2 PDO crashes and 2 injury crashes. The 2 injury crashes resulted in 1 incapacitating injury and 1 non-incapacitating injury. Transverse rumble strips were discussed, but were not included in this project due to the number and proximity of residences in the area.

### **Proposed Scope of Work**

The following mitigation is proposed:

- Reset the existing 48” stop sign to the proper height. Field observations noted that the sign is mounted too low. The sign post currently has a red reflective strip. This strip will be perpetuated.
- Replace the existing chevron barricade with MDT’s new large two-headed arrow installation. Chevron barricades are specifically discouraged in the 2009 MUTCD.
- Replace the existing 36” stop ahead sign installation with larger 48” sign. Replace “cross traffic does not stop” supplemental sign.
- Mount solar flashing beacon on the stop ahead sign.

### **Project Location and Limits**

The project is located in Lewis and Clark County at the intersection of Lincoln Road (Secondary 453) and Hauser Dam Road (county road). The limits of the project are on S-453, from RP 4.9 – 5.1. Both routes are paved, two-lane facilities with minimal shoulders. The surrounding area is rural residential in nature, and is a popular route for recreation in the Hauser Dam and Causeway areas.

### **Work Zone Safety and Mobility / Traffic Control**

Traffic will be maintained through the project construction with appropriate signing, flagging, etc. in accordance with the MUTCD. This project will be completed by MDT Maintenance forces.

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### **Major Design Features**

- a. **Design Speed.** The design speed for Lincoln Road is 60 mph based on Figure 12-5 of the Road Design Manual for a Rural Collector (Secondary System) on level terrain.

### **Right-of-Way / Utilities / Railroads**

All improvements will either be replacing existing (chevron barricade location) or on the shoulder of the roadway. No right-of-way will be required. There is no railroad or utility involvement. A one-call is suggested before any posts are placed to avoid impacting any utilities in the area.

### **Public Involvement**

Level A public involvement is appropriate for this project. A news release explaining the project and including a department point of contact will be requested.

### **Environmental Considerations**

A categorical exclusion (Cat-Ex) is anticipated. Design will be finalized once the appropriate document has been completed.

### **Energy Savings/Eco-Friendly Considerations**

A solar flasher will be installed at this location.

### **Traffic Control**

Traffic will be maintained through the project construction with appropriate signing, flagging, etc. in accordance with the MUTCD. This will be included in a special provision, as is standard for the level of project proposed.

### **Project Management**

Traffic will design all of the features for this project, including preparation of the plans. The Traffic Section will be responsible for the plans and Ivan Ulberg is the Project Engineer. This project is not under full FHWA oversight.

### **County Involvement**

As this work takes place in Lewis and Clark County and involves the intersection with a county road, a county maintenance agreement will be required.

### **Proposed OPX-2 Flowchart**

The OPX-2 flowchart will be modified to include the bare minimum needed. Proposed are the following activities:

- 950 – Program P.E.: 1 day, 4 hours (critical path)
- 722 – Enviro Doc: 15 days, 20 hours (critical path)
- 902 – Request News Release: 1 day, 4 hours
- 652 – Distribute News Release: 5 days, 8 hours
- 968 – Secure Design Appr: 10 days, 20 hours (critical path)
- 988 – Final PIH Inspection: 25 days, 40 hours (critical path)

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Adding up all the days on the critical path, assuming a straight line flowchart, this amounts to 59 days, or 12 working weeks (3 months). This would allow for an early spring ready.

### Preliminary Cost Estimate

	Estimated cost	TOTAL costs w/IDC
Signs, post, etc.	\$5,300	\$6,100
Solar Flasher	\$3,500	\$4,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,800</b>	<b>\$10,100</b>

Note: No inflation is included, due to the short design and immediate installation. IDC is calculated at 13.35% as of FY 2011. Maintenance will be completing the installation, so the cost estimate includes materials only.

### Ready Date

The project will be ready for installation Summer 2011.

### Site Map / Preliminary Plan Sheet



# Project Report

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