



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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KLJ

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## **Additional Main Street Improvements Starting up in Billings** *Project increases pavement service life and pedestrian accessibility.*

May 31, 2022, Billings, Mont. – The Montana Department of Transportation and Knife River start work on Main Street in Billings this spring. The project rehabilitates approximately three miles of Main Street (US Hwy 312) and will extend the service life and quality of this primary thoroughfare through Billings Heights. Work on the project also includes finalizing striping, replacement of the medians at the Airport Road intersection and the median immediately north of Hilltop. It is anticipated to be complete late this summer or early fall.

Along with the pavement rehabilitation between 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South and Bench Blvd/US Hwy 287, the project also adds upgrades to the existing guardrail, replacement of signage and pavement markings, replacement of existing raised medians, upgrades to existing storm drain grates, construction of multiple ADA compliant sidewalk corners, installation of accessible pedestrian signal push buttons, countdown pedestrian signal heads, and the addition of reflective tape to traffic signal heads.

Knife River is a top 10 aggregate producer in the United States, and is one of only three companies on that list to be American-owned and operated. They work in 15 states and employ over 5,600 workers.

The Department welcomes comments on the Main Street Billings Improvement Project. If you would like to subscribe to direct weekly construction updates on the project, text MainStBillings to (844) 764-2126, or email [mainstreetbillings@kljeng.com](mailto:mainstreetbillings@kljeng.com). The construction hotline is also available: (800) 748-7161.



The Montana Department of Transportation would like to sincerely thank the traveling public, the citizens of Billings, and the surrounding communities for their patience and partnership in the completion of the safety improvements on Main Street.

To learn more and get updates, please visit <https://mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/mainstreetbillings>.

Be prepared for delays so before you leave, download MDT's mobile app "MDT 511", or visit [511mt.net](http://511mt.net) and check your route. If you're driving and want to check in, pull safely off the road and dial 511. Tune in to local radio stations and watch for variable message signs along the route.

### **Seat Belts Save Lives! Buckle Up, Montana.**

For many Montanans, Memorial Day weekend kicks off the start of summer travel, culminating with Labor Day weekend. Unfortunately, these summer months can also be some of the deadliest on Montana's roads due to increased motor vehicle crashes. As part of a nationwide "Click It or Ticket" mobilization running from May 23 through June 5, 2022, law enforcement agencies and the Montana Highway Patrol will be out to educate motorists and enforce Montana's seat belt law statewide. Before you make plans to travel this Memorial Day weekend, commit to always buckle up before you go, and insist your friends and family do the same. Using your seat belt is your best defense against serious injury or death in the event you're in a crash. This is a Vision Zero Message from the Montana Department of Transportation. Learn more about the goal of Vision Zero and seat belt safety here: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/people/seatbelts.aspx>

When traveling during construction season, watch for the "cone zone" and for workers on the roadways. Remember to manage your speed, space, and stress. The vision for Montana is Zero — Zero Fatalities and Zero Serious Injuries on any public road in the state.

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Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided on request. Persons who need an alternative format should contact the Office of Civil Rights, Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620. Telephone 406-444-5416 or Montana Relay Service at 711.