



January 9, 2013

Ken Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington D.C. 20423-0001

Attention: Environmental filing, Docket No. FD 30186

Subject: Tongue River Railroad – Draft Scope of Study
MDT Comments

Dear Mr. Blodgett,

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) staff has reviewed the information presented by the Surface Transportation Board (STB) concerning the Tongue River Railroad Draft Scope of Study. MDT has the following comments concerning the study.

MDT is responsible for planning, designing, constructing and maintaining State highways and roadways, associated transportation facilities, including associated pull-offs, parking areas, and rest areas for the use and benefit of the traveling public, in a safe and efficient manner in accordance with Title 23 United States Code (U.S.C.) and Title 60 Montana Code Annotated (MCA) and has jurisdiction for Interstate 94, US 212, Secondary 332 and Secondary 447 (See attached map).

The proposed project may impact various MDT roadways. If the project requires crossing, relocation, or change in alignment of any of the MDT routes, MDT staff must review and the Montana Transportation Commission must approve the action. This approval requires MDT to be in compliance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) requirements. To prevent duplication of effort, please have the consultant completing the environmental documentation to be familiar with MEPA and include applicable information in the environmental document.

Some of the proposed alignments require a new crossing of Interstate 94. Any impact to Interstate 94 will also require Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Montana Division Office approval. For FHWA approval of a crossing the environmental document must include FHWA National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. There may be a 4(f) property located directly adjacent to Interstate 94 in the Miles City area (Fish Wildlife and Parks Fish Hatchery).

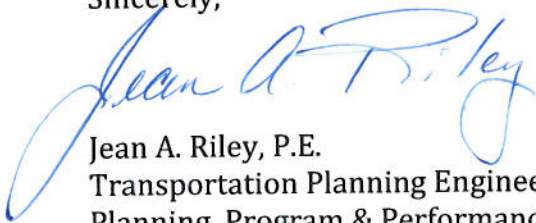
MDT requires the crossing of Interstate 94 and US 212 to be grade separated with adequate clearance to allow for high-wide truck loads. The Interstate 94 crossing must cross under the highway. If the US 212 crossing is above the roadway the following requirements must

be met: clearance of 32-feet from pavement surface to bottom of lowest beam, and a width between piers or abutments to allow for a future four-lane roadway at least 100 feet clear span width or configuration approved by MDT. Crossing on other routes (Secondary 332 or Secondary 447) should also be grade separated if practicable.

Any impacts to MDT routes due to construction equipment or material transport must be repaired to at least pre-existing conditions.

If you have any questions concerning these comments, please contact me at (406) 444-9456 or jriley@mt.gov.

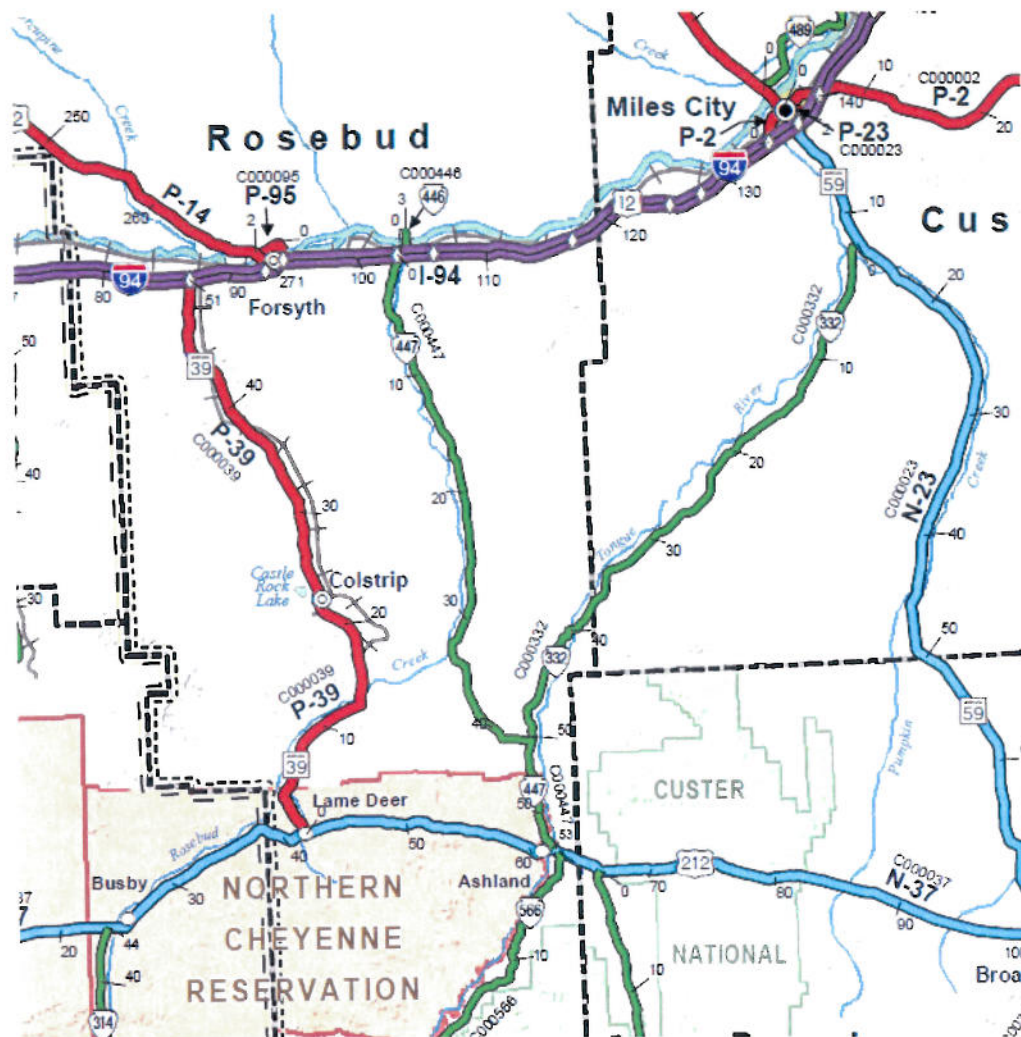
Sincerely,



Jean A. Riley, P.E.
Transportation Planning Engineer
Planning, Program & Performance Analysis Bureau

Attachment: MDT Route Map

Copies: Lynn Zanto – Rail, Transit and Planning Division Administrator
Shane Mintz – Glendive District Administrator
Jim Skinner – Planning, Program & Performance Analysis Bureau
File



System Designations

- NHS Interstate
- NHS Non-Interstate
- Primary
- Secondary
- Off System

Route Numbers

-  Interstate
-  U.S.
-  Montana
-  Secondary