



CONSTRUCTION PROJECT



NEWS RELEASE

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US-2: Measures taken to address road damage in traffic lanes

Havre—Heavy rains over last weekend caused patches of deterioration in the traffic control lanes on First Street. "Holes appeared over the weekend," said Sam Weyers, manager of the construction project. "We had them fixed by noon Monday."

Roadway deterioration was an issue discussed at the weekly public information meeting held on Wednesday morning. Havre City Councilman Terry Schend asked the project team what will happen in the future. "What about the next time it rains, and holes appear?"

Weyers and Gary Berg of the Montana Department of Transportation had assurances for the audience in attendance. "We have implemented several measures to solve roadway problems when they happen," said Weyers. "We've expanded contacts for nights and weekends, whether replacing the cones, or dealing with rain damage. We'll have someone out to inspect after storms, and actively looking for surface or drainage issues. We can't fight Mother Nature, but we will fix things as soon as they can be fixed."

Gary Berg noted that the roadway deterioration will continue to happen. "The outside shoulder wasn't designed for heavy traffic," he said. "Patching will be ongoing. We'll do our best to maintain the roadway where traffic is being routed, but motorists should also be alert and keep their speed down, especially during storms."

Scattering of the traffic cones and lane barrels was also discussed by Havre Police Chief Mike Barthel. He noted that there was some vandalism over the past weekend. "We received a couple of calls about a vehicle knocking down cones. Our officers consider this an issue of public safety," said Chief Barthel. "If a suspect were identified, we would pursue that aggressively."

In spite of losing a day of construction on Monday, due to the weekend rain, Weyers stated that the project is still roughly on schedule. About 150 meters of the 9 foot by 4 foot box pipe storm sewer has been placed. "Tuesday was our first day of the straight run down the street, without utility conflicts or side connections," said Sam Weyers. "We put in more than 18 pieces, so we are hopeful we'll be able to move right down the street."

Traffic control on US-2 through the east end of Havre will continue in its current configuration. All businesses are accessible. Removal of asphalt from the north lanes on the west end of the project from 9th Ave. West to 1st Ave. West may begin sooner than originally scheduled. The next public meeting to provide project updates will be held May 23th at 9 a.m. at the Hill County Electric/Triangle Telephone Hospitality Room at the east end of the building.

Information about the construction schedule and business access will be disseminated through the local newspaper and radio outlets for the duration of the project, as well as at www.us2havre.com.

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