

# Memorandum

**REPORT TO:** Gallatin Valley MPO - Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Jeff Butts, MPO Manager

**SUBJECT:** Valley Center Spur Multimodal Study Scope of Work

**MEETING DATE:** June 11, 2025

**AGENDA ITEM TYPE:** Plan/Report/Study

**RECOMMENDATION:** Provide input on the MPO's upcoming Valley Center Spur Multimodal Study approach.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:** 1.3 Public Agencies Collaboration: Foster successful collaboration with other public agencies and build on these successes.

**BACKGROUND:** The Valley Center Spur connection has been a recurring topic of discussion among agencies and safety advocates in Gallatin Valley.

In 2019, the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) completed a project addressing both ends of Valley Center Spur Road, following prior analysis. The completed project included traffic signals at both intersections and a westbound right-turn lane on Valley Center Road. However, MDT determined they were unable to incorporate pedestrian accommodations along the Spur due to width constraints under the interstate bridge. MDT staff determined that accommodating pedestrian facilities would require a new bridge structure.

The current Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) includes funding for further study of the Spur, with approximately 100 staff hours dedicated to evaluating pedestrian connectivity. MPO staff are preparing to begin the multimodal study and would like to confirm the proposed direction with TTAC. Given the extent of prior analysis, the study is proposed to consist of two main components: a review of existing efforts and a focused alternatives analysis.

Due to the level of public engagement already conducted in the area, staff is proposing outreach for this effort to include an online survey, online comment form, and opportunities for public comment during regularly scheduled MPO meetings. Staff also notes opportunities to highlight this effort as a spotlight in the Long Range Transportation Plan. Additionally, staff would like to propose a walking tour of the Spur with interested TTAC members, potentially near the end of June. Staff seeks feedback from TTAC on the proposed study approach, level of public engagement, and interest in

participating in the walking tour.

**UNRESOLVED ISSUES:** None.

**ALTERNATIVES:** As suggested by the Committee.

**FISCAL EFFECTS:** None.

Report compiled on: June 4, 2025