

Process & Timeline for Improvements

Short Term Expectations: 2020-21

Some changes are already occurring, based on previous plans:

- Erosion Repair Project near Marshall Mountain Road (2020):
<https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/oldmt200/default.shtml>
- Resurface Speedway/3rd/Clements/Deer Creek (2020):
https://mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/docs/tcp_montana_map.pdf

Prioritizing Projects in the Highway 200 Corridor: Van Buren to Tamarack Road

The final plan for the East Missoula-Highway 200 Corridor will include both large and small projects that can be phased over time. It is unrealistic to

expect funding for one comprehensive project that addresses all of the issues from Van Buren to Tamarack Road. Prioritizing projects will be a part of

the final plan, along with estimated costs and potential funding for individual projects.

Prioritizing Projects in Broader Context: Missoula Regional Long Range Transportation Plan

In order to be considered for Federal funding, all highway projects in the Missoula Urban Area need to be addressed in the regional long-range Transportation Plan. These plans must be updated every four years.

The current plan is “Activate Missoula 2045.” It is going through the update process titled, “Missoula Connect: 2050.” The East Missoula-Highway 200 Corridor Plan will provide critical information for the 2050 update.

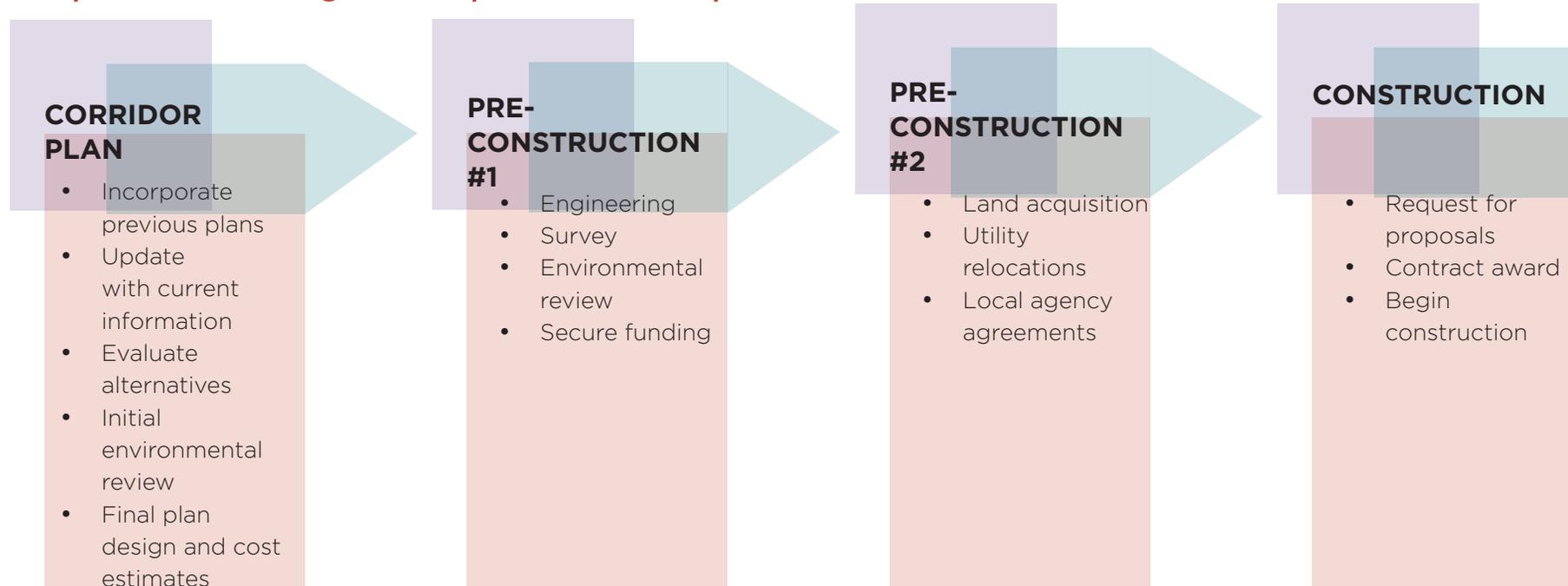
Inclusion in the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan moves the project forward but does not guarantee projects will be completed in the next four years.

One of the ways the Highway 200 Corridor Plan can elevate the project in regional priorities is getting the design to a point where we can start pursuing funding. So, having the full corridor designed at a planning level helps get the project “shovel ready.”

Typically projects that are well defined and supported by the community will happen before other projects.

Timing of a project is contingent upon federal, state or local funding availability, right-of-way acquisition (if applicable), utility relocations, environmental review, surveying, and engineering design. ROW acquisition, utility relocations, environmental review, surveying and design.

Steps in Moving a Project to Completion



Time Needed for Project Realization

Project timing can vary substantially. From the time a corridor plan is determined to meet state and Federal highway department standards to the time a project is completed could take

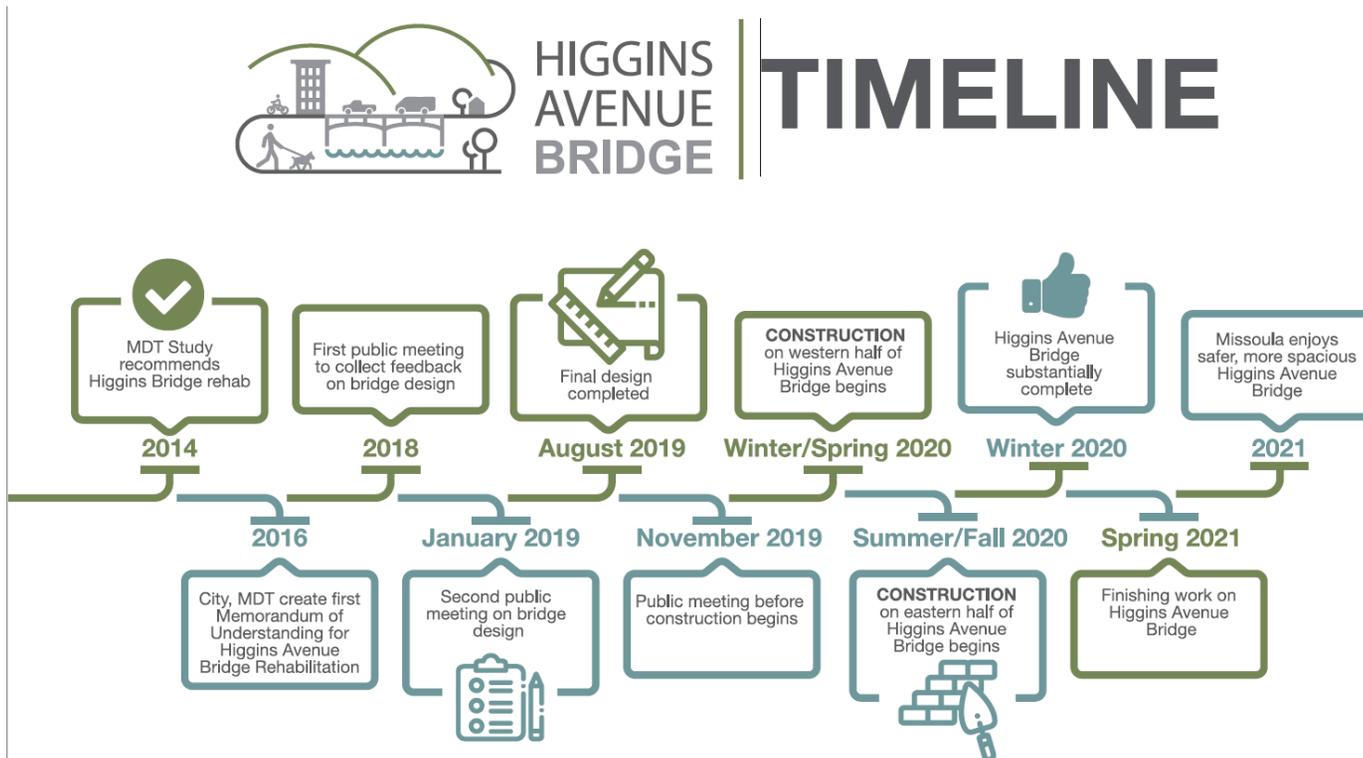
two to ten years or sometimes even more.

Prioritizing project elements or phases can assist in moving faster toward

completion, but a high cost or low priority can increase the amount of time it takes to complete.

Examples of Project Timing:

- **Van Buren-I-90 Roundabouts** - In 2004, MDT completed a study to evaluate traffic flow at the Van Buren interchange. Three options were identified and the roundabout option was selected. It took several years to get the project to a Request for Proposal for Construction. The actual work began in 2018 and was completed in 2019 (two years).
- **Higgins Avenue Bridge**



Source:
<https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/higginsbridge/schedule.shtml>