



News Advisory

April 7, 2016

For immediate release

Construction Begins on South Reserve Street Trail Crossing

Work is underway on the bridge that will connect the Bitterroot Branch Trail to the Missoula to Lolo Trail, linking downtown Missoula with Hamilton and providing access for all Missoula neighborhoods to the new Fort Missoula Regional Park.

The South Reserve Street Trail Crossing will span South Reserve Street at Old US Highway 93 on its north side, near University Motors, Loose Caboose and Aaron's. Jackson Contractor Group has begun construction in preparation for building the ramps on the east and west sides of Reserve Street.

The bridge is a project of the Missoula Redevelopment Agency. MRA staff and board members are excited to be able to provide this important link in the Missoula trail system. It will help Missoula residents and visitors take advantage of the Missoula to Lolo Trail, which will be one of the longest destination bike trails in the nation.

The westbound lane of Old US Highway 93 is closed from McDonald Avenue to Reserve Street, but access will be maintained for eastbound traffic. **All area businesses will be accessible and will be open throughout construction.** There may be temporary lane closures and lane shifts. For traffic and construction updates, check the Missoula Redevelopment Agency Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MissoulaRedevelopmentAgency/>

The new steel-arch structure will feature a bridge decking made of fiber-enforced polymer, making the structure less expensive and less intrusive than traditional concrete. The decking will be heated to eliminate accumulation of snow.

The bridge is funded with \$3.9 million in tax increment money, which is the new tax revenue resulting from construction and development within the City of Missoula's Urban Renewal

Districts. For a complete explanation of this funding mechanism, see the MRA brochure online at <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/DocumentCenter/View/2105>.

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