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**MONTANA DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Phase 2 of Yellowstone River Bridge Rehabilitation in Gardiner to Begin March 9**

**Helena, MT:** On Monday, March 9, the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) will start Phase 2 of rehabilitation work on the Yellowstone River Bridge in Gardiner, Montana. This first phase of work was completed in November 2019, which finished rehabilitating the southbound lane. Phase 2 will tackle the northbound lane and complete the north and south approaches.

The following improvements are planned for the structure:

- Continued deck milling and concrete overlay on the main bridge surface.
- Continued deck replacement on the existing north and south approaches to the bridge.
- Continued deck milling and concrete overlay on the widened portion of the approaches.
- Expansion joint replacement.

“Although it’s safe to drive on, we have to address the wear and tear that the bridge has experienced over the years,” emphasized Paul Cogley, MDT’s Project Manager. “The bridge receives heavy traffic, especially during the tourist season, so it’s important to get this project completed in order to prevent further deterioration.”

According to the National Park Service, as many as 60,000 vehicles per month drive over the bridge in Gardiner to enter Yellowstone National Park at the height of tourist season. The bridge serves as the northern gateway to one of America’s most popular national parks, but it also serves a critical local purpose facilitating the flow of vehicles and pedestrians for a town split in half by the Yellowstone River.

“MDT decided to do this project in two phases, which we scheduled to minimize impacts to motorists visiting the park as well as locals that have to use the bridge to get across town,” remarked Cogley. “We’re getting started as early as possible on Phase 2 so we can finish in early June before visitation to the Park hits its peak.”

Starting March 9, the project will involve alternating single-lane traffic with temporary signals on the north and south ends of the bridge. Although traffic control will include width restrictions, they will not impact RVs and fifth wheels. For wide loads, a detour will be available using Old Yellowstone Trail Road to cross the Yellowstone River at the Corwin Springs exit off of Highway 89 seven miles north of Gardiner. Travelers are encouraged to allow additional travel time to accommodate delays of up to 15 minutes and are reminded to watch for work crews and equipment and to travel at posted speed limits.

Travelers can find timely traffic information at [www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/construction.shtml](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/construction.shtml).

For more information on the Gallatin Yellowstone Bridge Project, visit the project website at [www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/gardinerbridge](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/gardinerbridge).

To sign up for text updates on the project text “YRB” to 555-888 or send an email to [glenno@strategies360.com](mailto:glenno@strategies360.com).

More information about Montana’s highway safety programs can be found at [www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/plans](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/plans).

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