



# Skyline Drive Reconstruction Project

Lake County, MT

Top: Skyline Drive was reconstructed and modernized with added safety features, such as retaining walls. Photo by DOWL Construction. Bottom: Skyline Drive now includes a bicycle and pedestrian path parallel to the roadway. Photo by geocaching.com.

The Skyline Drive Reconstruction Project increased roadway safety and added bicycle and pedestrian facilities for Lake County residents and visitors.

## CONTEXT

- Rural setting.
- West.
- Completed in October 2013.
- \$16 million.



## RURAL ROADWAY CONNECTIVITY

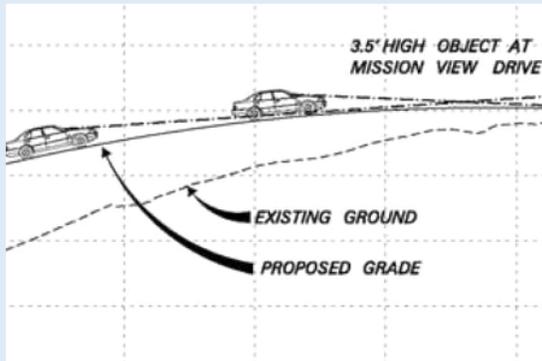
- The project redesigned a rural thoroughfare while adding safety amenities and infrastructure for pedestrians and bicyclists.

## WHAT WAS THE PROJECT DRIVER?

Lake County is a rural area in northwest Montana that borders Flathead National Forest and the Flathead Indian Reservation. In 2011, Lake County received a \$12 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation and \$4 million from State and local funding sources to reconstruct and modernize Skyline Drive, a major two-lane thoroughfare connecting Lake County and the City of Polson.

Before the project, Skyline Drive had steep slopes, limited sight lines, hazardous turning angles, deteriorating pavements and pavement

markings, and issues with speeding, motor vehicle crashes, wildlife crossings, and winter weather events. The goal of the Skyline Drive Reconstruction Project was to redesign, reconstruct, and repave the two-lane road to increase safety for all road users and encourage alternative modes of transportation.



*The project changed the incline of a stretch of Skyline Drive to increase sight distance and create a safer pedestrian crossing. Diagram by Lake County, MT.*

#### HOW DID THIS CONNECT THE COMMUNITY?

The project team addressed Skyline Drive's transportation problems by utilizing **road safety audits**, **bicycle and pedestrian assessments**, and **Context Sensitive Solutions**. The final design of Skyline Drive lowered the speed limit, changed roadway alignments to increase visibility, relocated high-risk intersections,

reduced intersection turning angles, and added retaining walls, guardrails, fencing, and signage.

The design also included a parallel pedestrian and bicycle path, which provides a nonmotorized connection to the region's residential, commercial, and recreational opportunities. The path is part of the Polson Parks Department's "Bike Transit Loop," a network of over 10 miles of walking and bicycling paths that encircle Polson. The Bike Transit Loop connects to an additional 20 miles of paths outside the city boundaries.

#### WHAT WERE THE BENEFITS?



##### REPAIR

The Skyline Drive Reconstruction Project increased safety and mobility for all road users in Lake County as the redesigned roadway safely accommodates drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists and connects residents and visitors to the region's residential, commercial, and recreational amenities. Furthermore, Lake County's partnership with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, the City of Polson, and the Lake County Community Development Corporation has laid a foundation for future collaboration and economic growth opportunities.

For more information:

<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/30303241/skyline-drive-road-reconstruction-project-lake-county-montana>

<http://www.valleyjournal.net/Article/6667/Skyline-Drive-officially-opens>

<https://www.cityofpolson.com/parksrec>