



September 16, 2015

Eric Griffin  
 Lewis & Clark County  
 3402 Cooney Drive  
 Helena, MT 59601

RE: North Montana Avenue Speed Study 2015 Update

Dear Eric,

Thank you for enquiring about the North Montana Avenue Speed Study conducted by Abelin Traffic Services (ATS) in September 2013. It is my understanding that you would like an evaluation of the study to determine if the data and conclusions of the Speed Study are still valid for 2015. Abelin Traffic Services contacted the Montana Department of Transportation to determine if any new data was available for this area for 2014. This data is included in the table below. The trend along North Montana Avenue is a continuing increase in traffic volumes.

**Historic Traffic Data**

Location	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Montana Ave. North of Lincoln Rd.	3,406	NCT	NCT	3,910	NCT	4,020	4,389	NCT	5,150	5,020	6,070	6,110

Abelin Traffic Services also performed a new spot speed study near Station 2 from the original 2013 speed investigation (north of Ranch View Road) in August 2015. The results of the new spot speed study were nearly identical to the information collected in 2013, except for the totally daily traffic which increased by 7%.

**Vehicle Speed Data – Station 2**

	September 2013	September 2015
Average Speed (MPH)	48.5	47.8
85% Percentile Speed (MPH)	55.5	55.0
10 MPH Pace Speeds	45-55	45-55
Percent in Pace	54.6	57.0
Observed Daily Traffic	4,600	4,900

The 2013 Speed Study performed by ATS along Montana Avenue recommended decreasing the speed limit from the existing 55 MPH to 45-50 MPH. All current growth trends and development patterns in this area suggest that this area will continue to grow. Increased traffic volumes along this road will cause additional congestion and enhance the need for a lower speed limit. Current growth projections

for this area suggest a continuing growth rate of 3.5% annually, which will increase the total traffic volume on North Montana Avenue to 12,000 vehicles per day by 2035.

Based on this analysis the data, conclusions, and recommendations from the September 2013 Speed Study for North Montana Avenue are still valid and the information may be presented as necessary to support a decrease in the posted speed limit. Vehicle speeds along this section of road have not changed significantly over the last two years. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at 406-459-1443.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Abelin', written in a cursive style.

Bob Abelin, P.E. PTOE  
Abelin Traffic Services, Inc.

# Classification Summary Report: MT AVE SPD

**Station ID : MT AVE SPD**

Info Line 1 : ATS  
Info Line 2 : Unicorn #6

GPS Lat/Lon :

DB File : MT AVE SPD.DB

Last Connected Device Type : Unic-L

Version Number : 1.50

Serial Number : 99217

Number of Lanes : 2

Posted Speed Limit : 0.0 mph

## Lane Configuration

#	Dir.	Information	Vehicle Sensors	Sensor Spacing	Loop Length
1.	SB		Axle-Axle	10.0 ft	
3.	NB		Axle-Axle	10.0 ft	

**Speed Class Summary:**

(DEFAULTX)		#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11	#12	#13	#14	#15	#16	Other	Error	Total
		0.0 - 19.9	20.0 - 24.9	25.0 - 29.9	30.0 - 34.9	35.0 - 39.9	40.0 - 44.9	45.0 - 49.9	50.0 - 54.9	55.0 - 59.9	60.0 - 64.9	65.0 - 69.9	70.0 - 74.9	75.0 - 79.9	80.0 - 84.9	85.0 - 89.9				
Total Count :	#1.	23	28	31	109	318	753	1253	1359	642	113	14	4	1	3	5	3	22	4681	
	#3.	27	3	36	139	362	862	1515	1310	507	64	8	2	1	1	1	3	24	4865	
		50	31	67	248	680	1615	2768	2669	1149	177	22	6	2	4	6	6	46	9546	
Percents :	#1.	0%	1%	1%	2%	7%	16%	27%	29%	14%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	49%	
	#3.	1%	0%	1%	3%	7%	18%	31%	27%	10%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	51%	
		1%	0%	1%	3%	7%	17%	29%	28%	12%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		
Avg, 50, 67, 85 :	#1.	48.2	49.3	52.3	55.9	Pace (pace %) :						45.0 - 54.9	55.8%	Days & ADT : #1.				2.0	11	
	#3.	47.4	48.3	51.2	54.6							45.0 - 54.9	58.1%	#3.				2.0	12	
		47.8	48.8	51.8	55.0							45.0 - 54.9	57.0%					2.0	23	

**Speed Class vs. Volume (all lanes)**

