

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POLSON. The Montana Department of Transportation has advised the City of Polson that the contract for the Highway 93 Bridge Resurfacing project has been let and that the work may begin as early as Monday, April 6, but is more likely to begin in the weeks of April 12 or 20.

The State of Montana plans to close and resurface one lane of the bridge structure this spring, leave the bridge open over the summer, and complete the other lane later this fall.

The City of Polson and the Department of Transportation have worked out a traffic management plan to reduce and mitigate impacts to travelers and local businesses while ensuring the ability of emergency responders to respond to all areas impacted by the bridge project. "It's a good plan; the City staff did fine work here," says Mayor Lou Marchello, "there'll be some tweaking going forward, and some learning curve for everybody, but overall, it should work out just fine."

"We're asking for little cooperation from local businesses," said James Raymond, acting City Manager. "We'll have to barricade off the alleys between First Street West and First Street East; but if you have a delivery van that has to exit that alley, that's OK, but please replace the barriers." Plus, he added, "Let us know what's not working. We'll get it fixed."

The traffic management plan includes several features, including flagged intersections, traffic light timing, some parking restrictions, and a combination of no-left-turn signs and barriers. A map depicting the various features is available on the City Website – www.cityofpolson.com/pdf/bridge.pdf and will also be published in the local newspaper; hard copies are available anytime at City Hall.