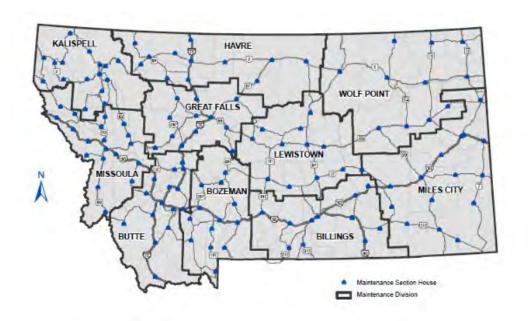
Montana TMC

Curtis Buckley



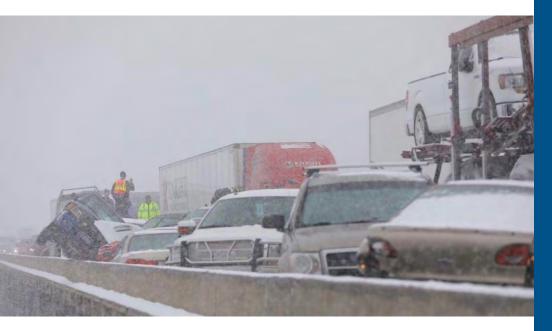




MDT Stats

- 4th largest state in the U.S. by area
- MDT maintains 25,000 lane miles
- 5 Districts with 10
 Maintenance Areas and
 116 Maintenance
 Sections
- Montana has recorded snow fall every month of the year



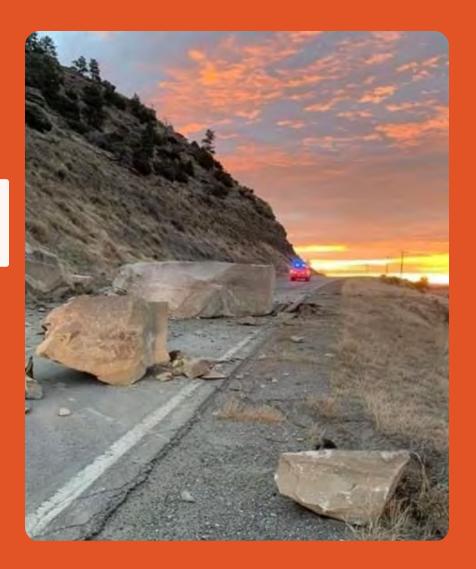


Winter Weather

- Montana has recorded snow fall in every month of the year.
- Conditions can change drastically in minutes.

Rock Fall

Melting snowpack and rain increase likelihood for rock fall.



Wildfires

Wildfires can spread quickly in areas of Montana with dryer climates especially following lighter winter seasons.





Culvert Failures

Culvert failures can lead to sink holes or road collapse.



Flooding and Water on Road

When temperatures warm and snowpack melts, standing water on the road or flooding can occur when riverbeds exceed capacity/flow rate.





High Wind

Certain corridors are prone to strong winds which results in blowing and drifting snow, in addition to increased blow over risk for high profile vehicles.







Traffic Incidents

Managing traffic incidents on high traffic rural routes with limited ITS poses unique challenges.





Pre-TMC Operations

- Traveler information, ITS, and communication services were decentralized and managed in each of the five MDT Districts.
 - Each office was staffed from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.
 - From November to March, temporary staff were hired to provide 24-hour support.
- Operations were managed at the District level with limited interaction with MDT HQ staff, minus communication for major incidents.
- Traveler information program oversight was done directly from MDT HQ.
- MDT's Traveler Information Program Manager was on-call for emergency reporting, communication, and after-hour ITS control.
- MDT HQ distributed call down lists to PSAP's and state patrol dispatch staff for after-hour MDT communication.

After-hour Communication Process

- State Patrol Dispatch and PSAP's had call down lists that were maintained by MDT HQ. The lists contained all maintenance section supervisors and their chain of command.
 - Centers would use these lists to call-out or communicate information with MDT field staff outside of business hours.
 - This process resulted in MDT HQ being unable to consistently manage the criteria, appropriateness, or validity of calls to field staff.
 - Lists were also difficult to maintain and at times not updated timely, resulting in calls to former MDT staff.
 - The MDT HQ Travel Information Program Manager was also contacted at times after-hours by State Patrol Dispatch and/or PSAP's but seldomly.

Limitations

- Ineffective and inconsistent use of ITS statewide
- No statewide radio communication or after-hour dispatch for MDT staff
- After-hour call volume increased putting strain on MDT field staff and anyone assigned to on-call
- Indirect supervision of travel information, ITS, and communication services posed challenges to standardization
- Lack of consistent department standards for managing routine events

Proposed Benefits of TMC

- Centralized 24-hour support of traveler information, ITS, and communication services and direct program supervision.
- Establish 24-hour agency POC and increase employee safety
- Improved public information
- Ability to effectively manage future ITS deployments
- Standard operating procedures for routine events

Decision

- Rural TMC Concept approved...
- Approached Legislature in 2019 for 7 new full-time positions
 - Secured effective 7/1/2020
- Transitioned existing District positions to HQ

TMC Implementation

Timeline

- May 2019: Secured FTE with funding available July 1, 2020
- April-September: Remodeling and construction of TMC facility
- July 2020: Job profiles and career ladder developed
- August 2020: Completed comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's)
- September-October 2020: Hired 6 dispatchers and completed training period
- September 2020: Hired a communication technician to support the TMC
- Late October 2020: Hired and trained temporary seasonal dispatchers to supplement permanent dispatchers during the winter months
- October 17, 2020: TMC went live and had a record statewide winter storm the first two days of operation

TMC Design and Construction

- Technical architecture and operational layout were designed internally between IT and Facilities bureau staff.
 - Remodel and construction was done during the pandemic prior to shortages in supply chain.
 - Designers did tour some other local centers prior to final design approval.

Facility

- Considered co-locating with State Patrol dispatch but space was limited and would've required MDT to upgrade radio system.
- Repurposed an existing unused training area in MDT HQ for TMC.

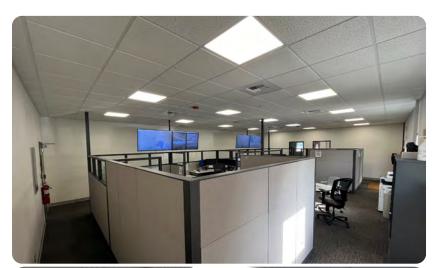




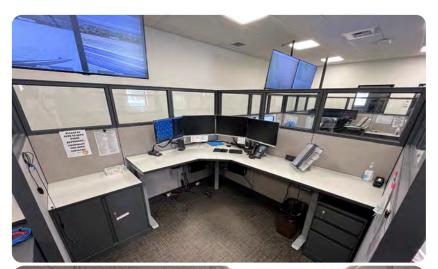
TMC Layout

- 6 workstations
- AV room/break area
- Supervisor's office

TMC Floor layout



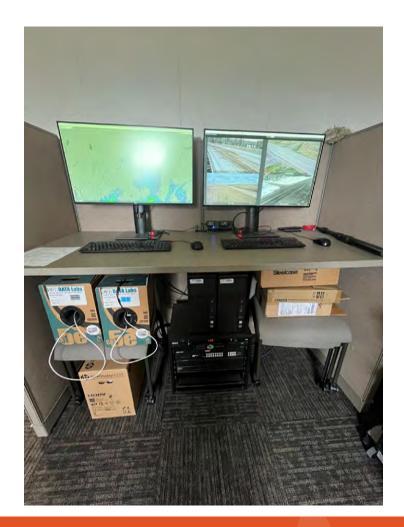












Audio/video room and break area for staff









Workstation configuration

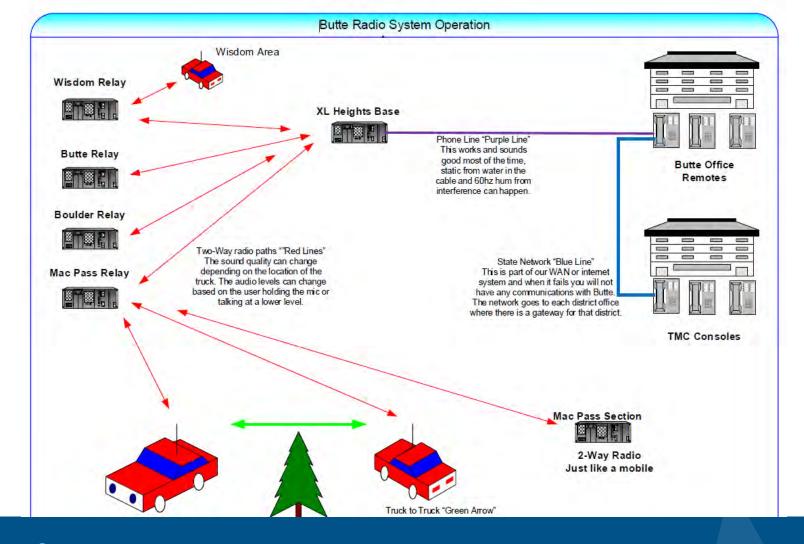
- 4 monitors, 2 PC's (one PC and monitor dedicated to radio)
- 1 Phone
- Desk surface raises and lowers electronically

Hiring the first TMC Operators

- Initial hiring, diverse group of staff:
 - MDT HQ Admin Assistant
 - MDT Missoula District Admin Assistant
 - MDT Great Falls District Seasonal Road Reporter (8+ years)
 - MDT Billings District Seasonal Road Reporter (15+ years)*
 *Hired seasonally only
 - MHP Dispatcher (15+ years exp)
 - Retired MHP Dispatcher and Gallatin County 911 Supervisor
 - Wyoming TMC Dispatcher (4+ years exp)

Establishing Statewide Radio

- Radio communication was already established but piped into District offices only.
- Considered going with Motorola solution but ZETRON equipment was already in place in District offices and the cost was significantly lower.
- Landed on ZETRON's MAX Dispatch solution...Radio over IP (ROIP)
- Communications staff had to install audio gateways in the District offices to transport audio to HQ over state network.
 - The gateways converted analog signals to digital



ROIP Setup

Audio Gateway

- Audio gateways convert analog audio to digital format
- Route the audio packets from the District office over the state network to the TMC



Other radio info

- MDT owns some tower sites
- MDT also has radio equipment installed at tower sites owned by other agencies (by agreement)
- Land mobile radio network is RF to ZETRON gateways
- State Patrol and most PSAP's are using the statewide interoperable (trunked) system, including MDT's Motor Carrier Services Patrol Units
- Interagency radio comms are seldom but done using the analog system on Ch.4 (Mutual Aid/Gold Channel)
 - Units using the interoperable system cannot monitor both at the same time



MDT owned site

Judith Peak



Back-up generator at radio tower site



Radio equipment at MDT owned site (multi-agency)

How MAX Dispatch Works

Three basic components—the MAX Console with Media Dock, the MAX Gateway, and MAX Central—form the building blocks of each MAX Dispatch system. The size and capabilities of your system will determine how many of each of the three basic components your system will require. The flexibility and simplicity of the MAX Dispatch architecture allows you to easily scale your system up or down to accommodate changes in your organization.



The MAX Console with Media Dock is the point through which the dispatcher interacts with the MAX Dispatch system.



The MAX Gateways serve as the interface point between a radio, base station or radio system and the rest of the MAX Dispatch system. These allow MAX to be ready for whatever the market demands.



MAX Central

MAX Central hosts and serves as the control point for a variety of centralized system functions, such as voice-logging services and administrative telephone lines.





Images are from Supervisor's office. Media docks at workstations are hidden under the desk.

ZETRON MAX Dispatch – Radio equipment Radio runs on dedicated PC

More about MAX Dispatch

- Instant play-back for 8-12 hours
- Select and unselect audio routing
- Complex volume adjustment for zones
- Paging screen to program audible tones for flasher activation
- Audio recordings are not stored currently



Headsets

- Plantronics HW510
 Single-Ear Call Center
 Headset
- Operators are required to use headsets during winter months
- During the summer, operators may choose to use the desk mic and speakers

Telephone System VOIP



- Avaya Phones with Call Center software
- Operator's login to the physical phone, then to the call center software on their PC.
- Inbound calls ring to one station at a time, after 3 rings they change the Operators status to Not Ready and begin ringing at the next Operators station who is set to Ready.



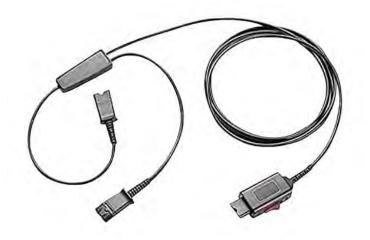
Telephone Issues

- Early on State Dept of Admin was not accustomed to supporting a 24-hour operation. Communication breakdowns regarding system maintenance and outages interfered with TMC operations.
- Better coordination today with Dept of Admin staff on outages and impacts to TMC ops.
- If all operators miss an in-bound phone call, all new calls will be put into a holding tree with no alert to operators.
 - Solution, operators must be diligent about setting their status to Not Ready and changing back to Ready when stepping away from their workstation to avoid missing a call unexpectedly.
- Operators had to use handset to answer calls, radio headset unable to integrate with telephone

Merging Radio and Phone Audio

Headset Y-splitter

Headset cable compatible with Plantronics headset





- Red selector (pictured left) is used to switch between the radio and phone connection. If selected on radio, audio to the telephone is muted.
- Cable (pictured right) is plugged into the telephone headset jack and run to the splitter (pictured left).

Redundancies



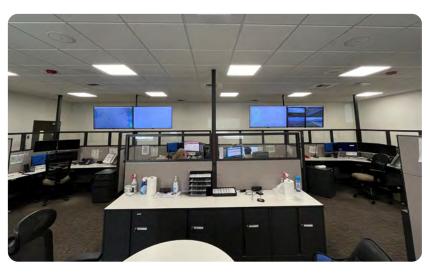
- TMC has priority service on state network to maintain optimal network performance during high latency events
- TMC facility is on back-up generator and UPS for hold over during an outage.
 - TMC has not been interrupted during outages, but UPS failures have led to unexpected outages.
 - District offices and radio tower sites have back-up generators as well to maintain radio operation during extreme events.
 - Some radio tower sites are not reachable during the winter months, even by air.
- State Dept of Admin supports TMC phone system with failover rules to route calls to the TMC cell phone or during major outages to the two dedicated land line phones in the TMC.

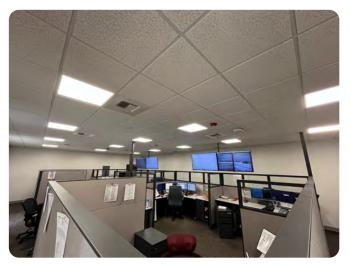
TMC Email

- Early on, the TMC communicated via email using a standard distribution list that included all dispatchers. This posed problems with excess emails for staff to go through after days off, etc.
- Switched to a shared email account that all dispatchers had access to and could monitor during their shift. Resulted in limited emails to review after days off and improved management of emails.
- TMC has trialed text messages from email to communicate but doing so requires the operator to know the cell phone carrier of the line they send to, rendering a phone call more effective most the time.

Overhead Displays



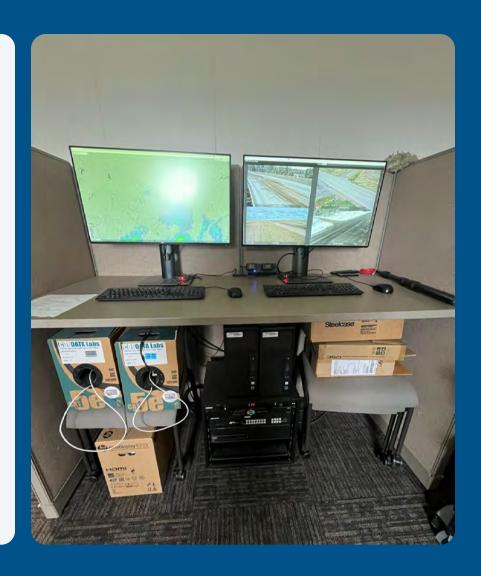




- All screens are 4k resolution
- Not really being used by TMC operators right now. Some stations face the opposite direction...
- Content usually displayed is:
 - State Patrol incident map, VentuSky weather, Travel Info map, and RWIS image carousel

Overhead Displays continued

- Content is fed using high resolution capable PC's and monitors in the AV room/break area.
 - Two monitors, each hooked to separate PC
 - Display port switchers allow operator to switch between Display 1 and 2 on each machine to load content on the 4 displays
 - PC 1 Display 1 is mapped to screen 1, Display 2 is mapped to screen 2, PC 2 Display 1 is mapped to screen 3, Display 2 is mapped to screen 4



Pictures of AV Set-up



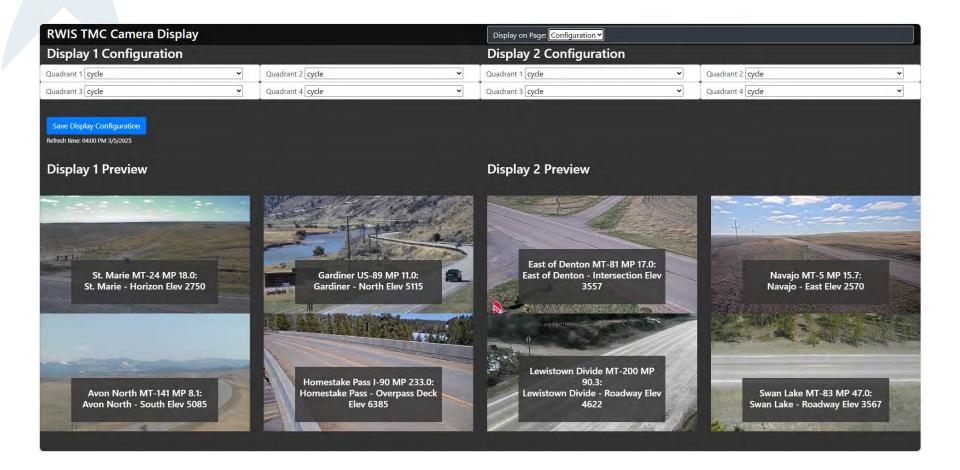


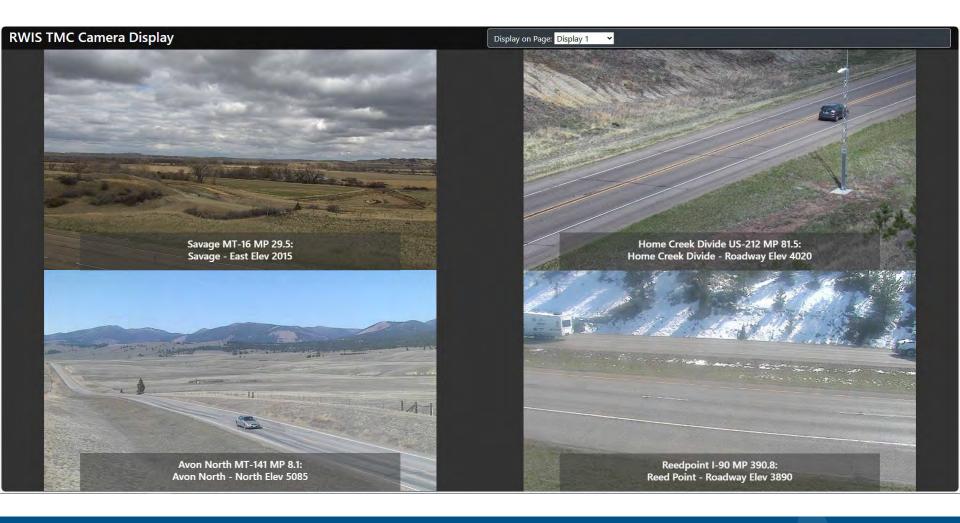
Display port switcher

 Allows the operator to toggle between Display port 1 and 2 on each machine to configure/change content display on overhead TMC screens



Configuration Screen





- 4 quadrants, each quadrant starts at a different RWIS site (from alphabetical order) when set to 'Cycle'
- Any quadrant can be set to only cycle through one RWIS sites images
- Capable of displaying up to 8 cameras by having two 4-quadrant displays with a different configuration

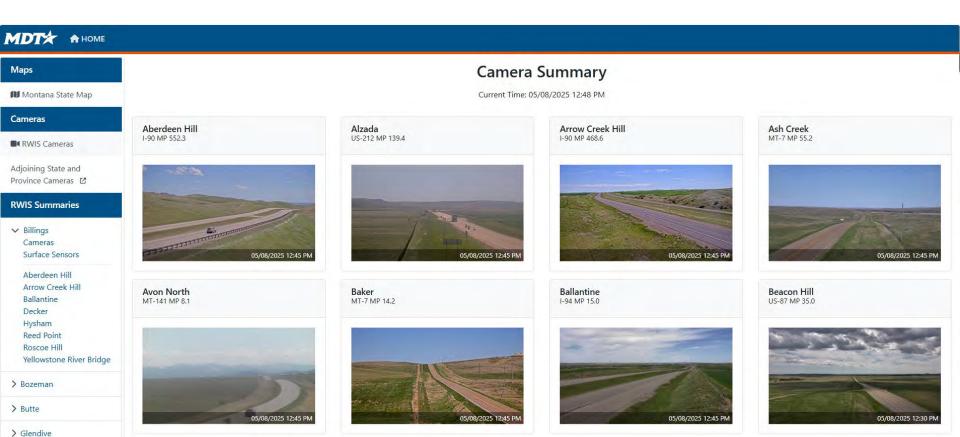
TMC Responsibilities

- 24-hour statewide communication services for MDT and POC for emergency communication centers
- Manage in/out service times for MDT staff and provide services related to employee safety
- Manage all content on 511
 - Road conditions, incidents, closures, road work, restrictions, etc.
- Control DMS messages on all state-owned permanent and portable DMS



MDT RWIS Cameras

- 110+ RWIS sites in Montana all with cameras
- Montana does not record or store video
- Guard tour used to manage image positions, PTZ cams take still images every 15 minutes
 - Images are stored for 36 hours



Biddle

MT-59 MP 0.9

Big Hole Pass

S-278 MP 32.0

ATMS Phase 1 – RWIS polling (IRIS shell)

Beaver Hill

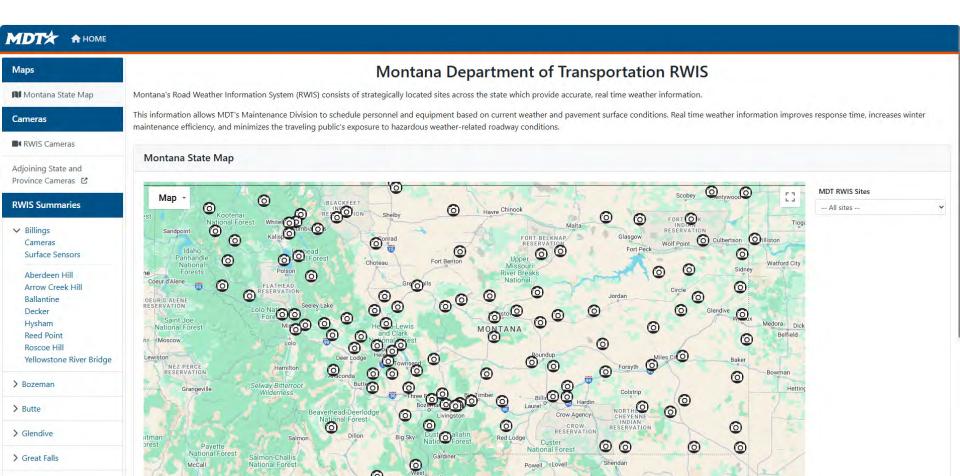
I-94 MP 234.8

Bearmouth

I-90 MP 145.8

> Great Falls

> Havre



Yellowstone

Challis

RWIS Site Map

> Havre

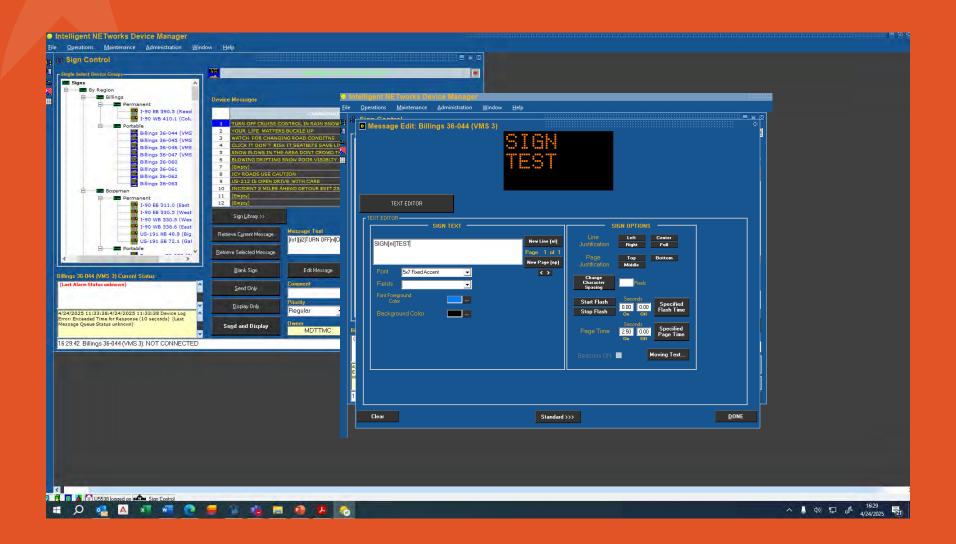


Site Summaries by Maintenance Area's

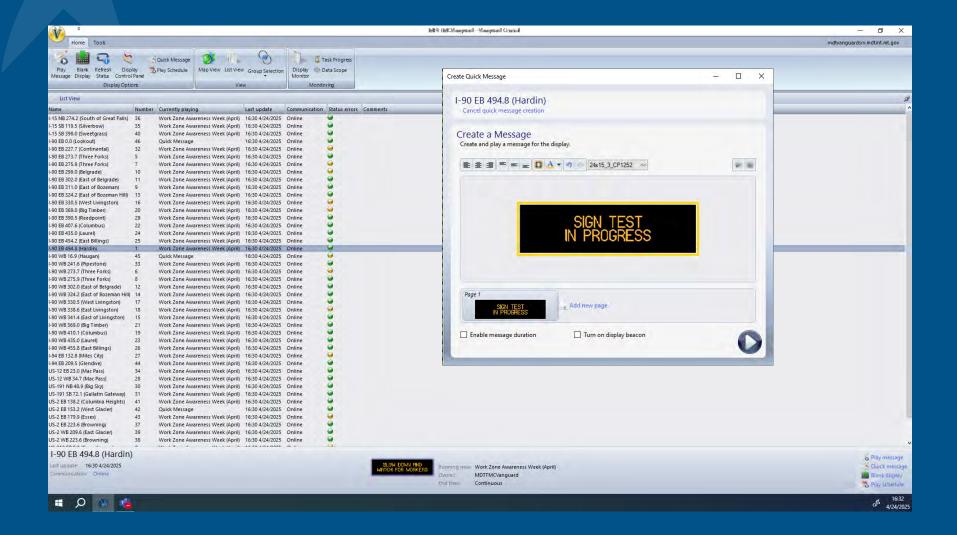
DMS Challenges

- MDT installed 20+ new full color signs in 2024
- Legacy software could not support full color functionality
- MDT decided to use two separate systems to control DMS
 - Legacy system for portable signs
 - Vanguard client software for permanent signs

Legacy DMS Software – Parsons



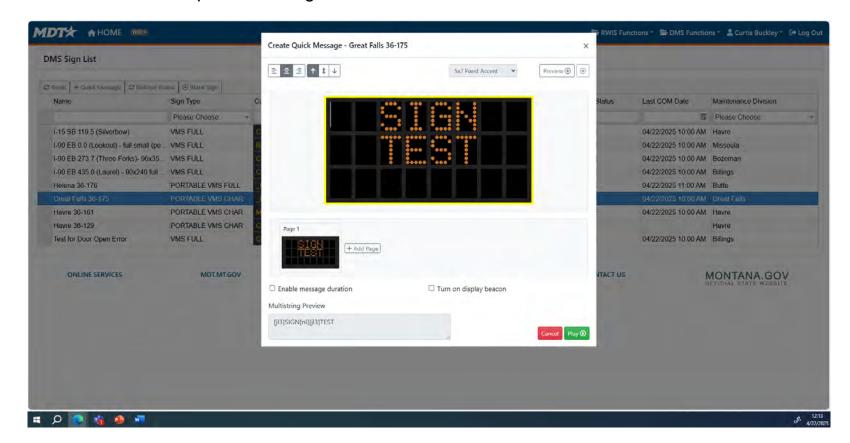
Vanguard Client Software (Daktronics)



- DMS Map (from Legacy system)
 - Being added to ATMS DMS module
- All DMS polling is done by Legacy system, but ATMS DMS will take over sign polling starting July 1, 2025.

New DMS Software in ATMS

- Will replace legacy software. Testing begins May 2025, go-live mid-late June 2025
- Phase 1: control all portable signs
- Phase 2: control all permanent signs



Year 1 2020-2021

- Opened officially on October 17, 2020
- Proposal approved to add two year-round part-time dispatchers
 - Total dispatchers increased from 6 to 8
- 511 Oracle database, no internal mapping system.
 - Delays on publishing, bugs, hosted internally, network instability caused excess down-time
 - Staff had to check public facing map to verify content was showing up as expected
- DMS Parsons Intelligent NETworks Device, primarily portable signs (all Ver-Mac), less than 25 permanent signs (all monochrome-Daktronics)
- Call Log Excel file in Microsoft Teams to allow editing by multiple users simultaneously, very manual, no data security
- Personnel check-in/out managed in separate excel sheets in Call Log share file, each maintenance area had a sheet for check-in/out each day

Year 2 2021-2022

- September 2024 discontinued use of internal 511, switched to Iteris Inc. COTS product
 - Stable, hosted on AWS server, over 99% up-time, increased update frequency
 - Established internal mapping solution that mirrored public facing map, Roadway Management System (Iteris Inc.)
- DMS no changes to signs or software
- Call Log switched to in-house SharePoint List
 - Allowed for enhanced data security, timestamping, more userfriendly, and supported multi-user editing.
 - Used list item comments to capture user and time info for entries
 - Personnel check-in/out module added to RMS

Year 3 2022-2023

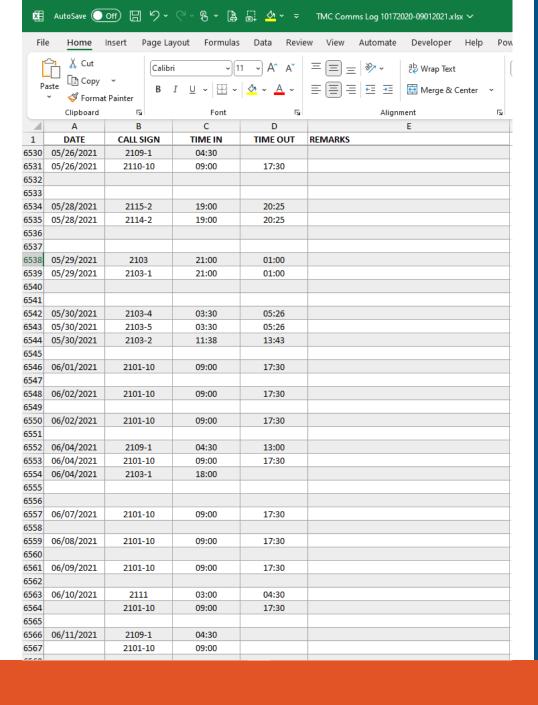
- 511/RMS no changes but learned more about limitations related to the system being built around IVR.
- DMS no changes to software
 - Added two permanent signs on US 191 (Gallatin Gateway/Big Sky)
 - Added GPS antennas to all portable DMS to track location
- Call Log discovered item limitations with SharePoint online license, limiting items in a list to 5000.
 - Determined that a new call log would be necessary each year to keep call log performance optimal.
 - Experimented with a custom form built in Power Apps on this version of the build but learned of some major limitations with exporting historical data
 - Encountered integration bugs between SharePoint and PowerApps that occasionally caused data to be lost when entering notes.
- Personnel check-in/out added filter for Employees in service over 9 hours to provide a trigger for safety checks on staff in-service

Year 4 2023-2024

- 511/RMS no changes
- ATMS Phase 1 = RWIS (IRIS shell) went live October 2023
- ATMS Phase 2 = DMS (IRIS shell) go-live scheduled for July 2025
- Call Log SharePoint released new functionality which allowed for better tracking of user action/note logging
- Personnel check-in/out no changes
- Plow Cams Switched from LiveView to Samsara
 - Displayed on 511 during winter months
 - Most cams installed on tow-plows

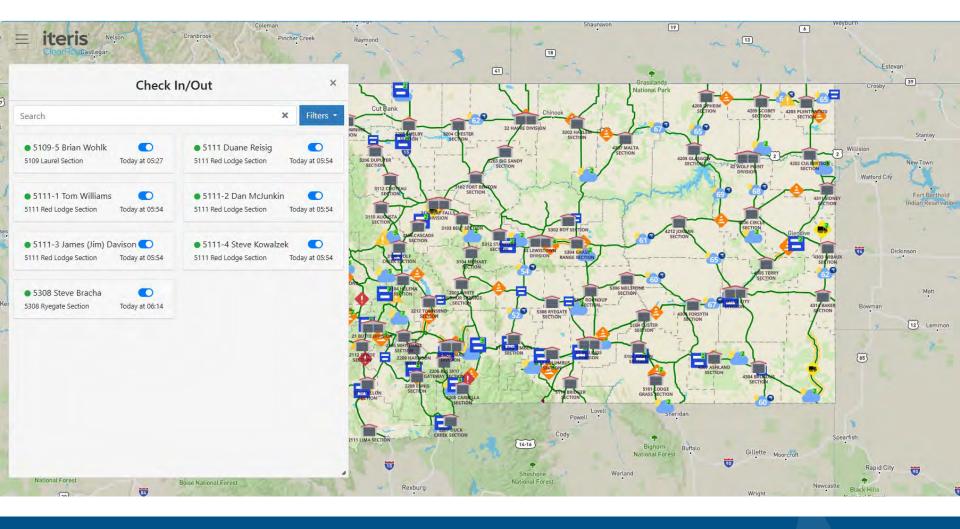
Year 5 2024-2025

- 511/RMS no changes
 - Initial talks underway about eliminating 511 IVR in Montana due to associated costs, declining use, and flexibility to expand reporting when not tied to older technology
- ATMS DMS phase 2 on track to go live July 2025
 - 10-year Contract expires on 6/30/2025, not renewing with Parsons
 - Added 22 new permanent full-color DMS between April and October 2024
 - I-90 Three Forks to Billings, I-90 Hardin, I-94 Miles City, US-212 (I-90 to WY)
 - 2 perm full-color DMS being added (summer 2025) in SD for messaging info re: US-212
 - 6 new permanent DMS approved this session to be placed near Missoula and Drummond on I 90 and near Garrison Junction I 90 US 12
 - MDT acquired Vanguard client software to control full-color DMS
- ATMS RWIS
 - Added 6 new PTZ cameras on DMS structures, more to come in 2025-2026 and will be standard on all new DMS contracts
- Call Log still using SharePoint, working on next version to launch on July 1, 2025, initial talks about Call Log being Phase 3 of ATMS
- Personnel check-in/out still being managed in RMS, talks about adding this functionality to Call Log build in the future

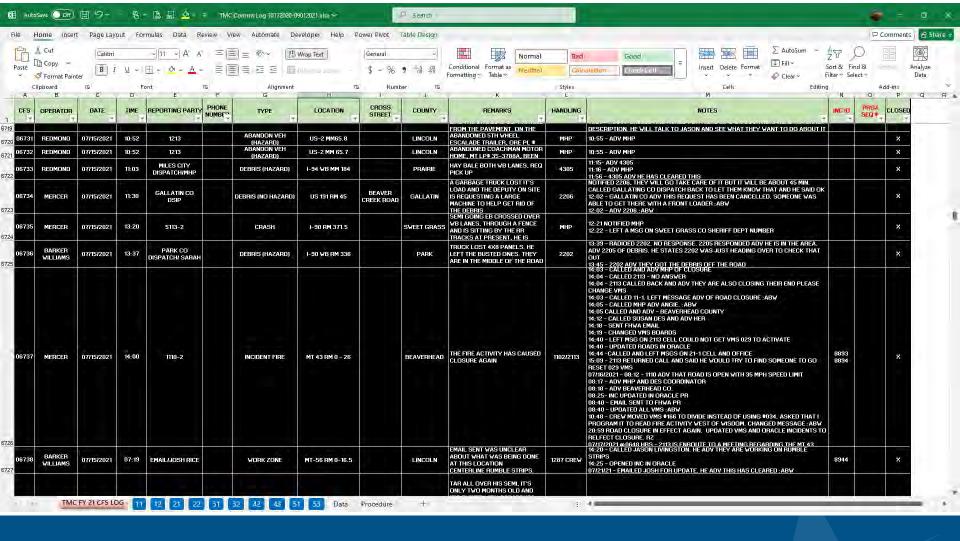


In/out of Service Times (2020 – Excel)

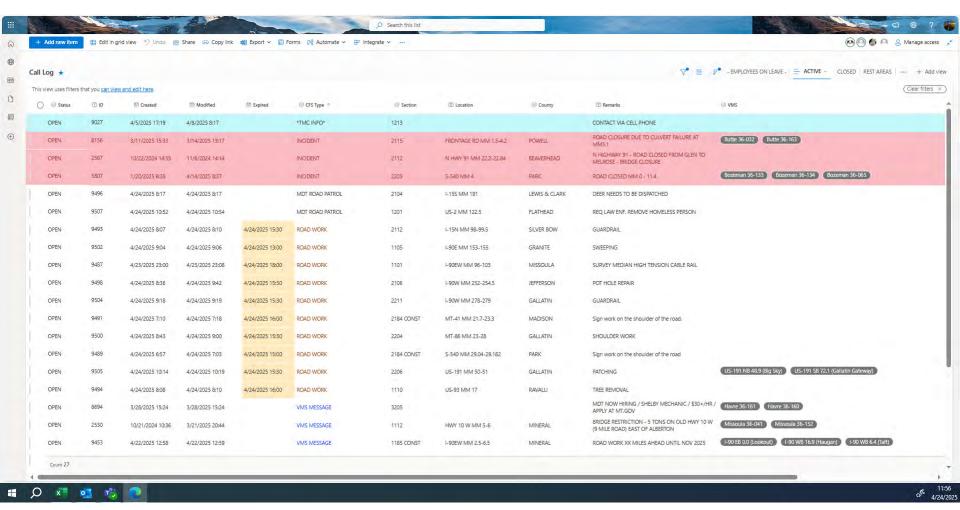
 Staff would document in/out times manually in an excel sheet, one sheet was used per area for tracking.



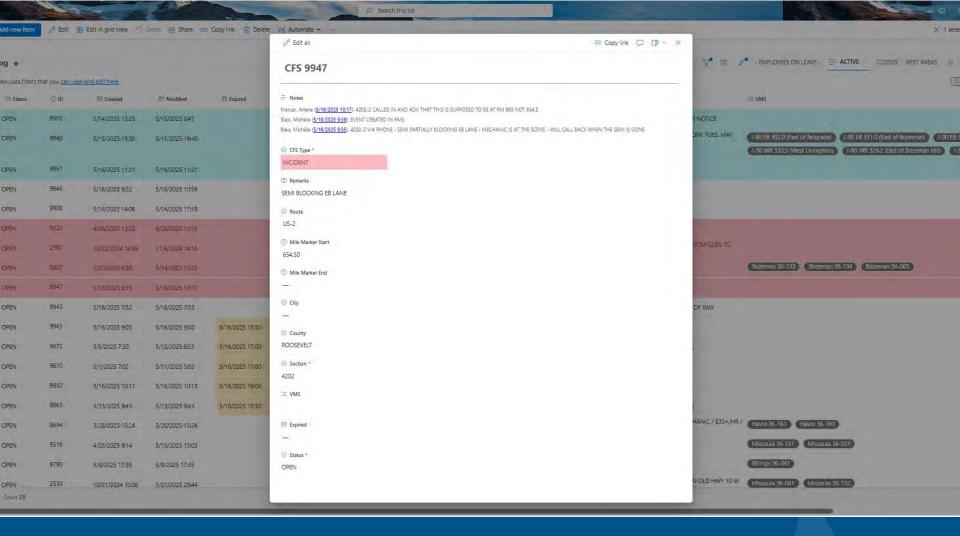
In/out of Service Times (2024 – RMS, ITERIS Inc.)



First Call Log Version (2020 – Excel)



TMC Call Log 2024 version (SharePoint Online – Microsoft Lists)



Call Log – Call for Service entry form

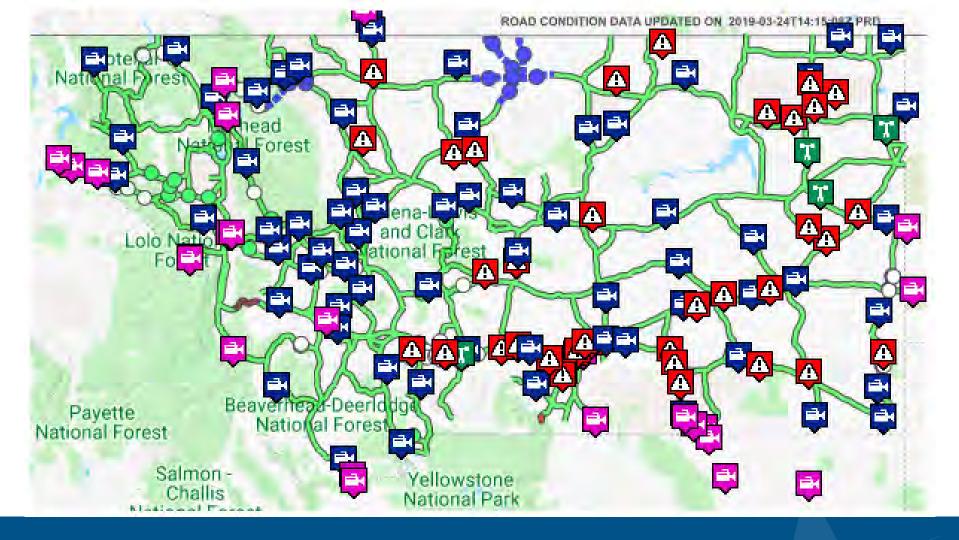
Old 511 Travel Info Map



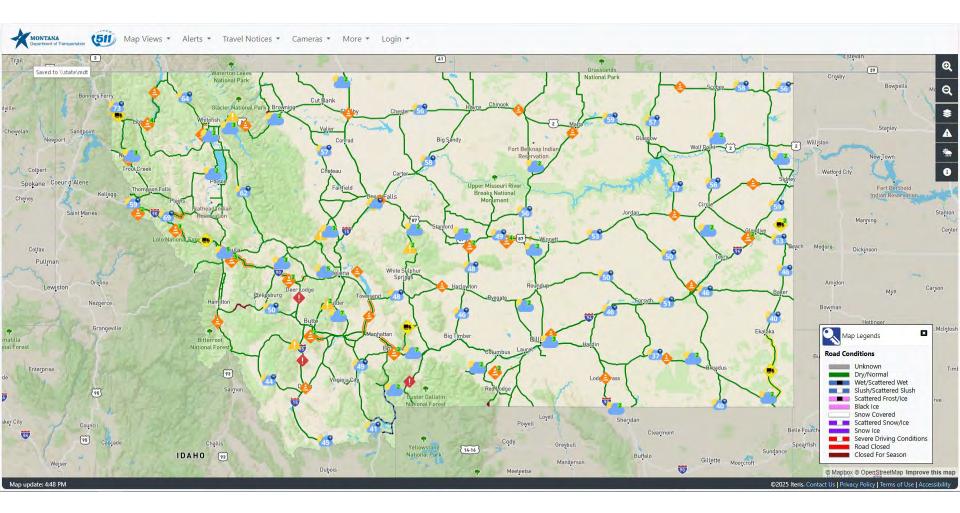




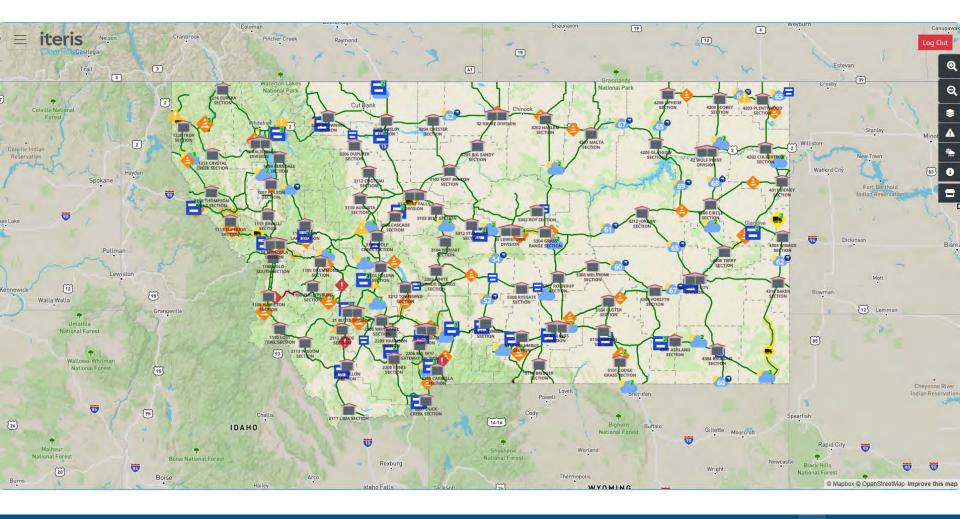




Old Travel Info Map (cont.)



New 511 Travel Info Map – ITERIS Inc. (switched to new product September 2021)



Roadway Management System – ITERIS Inc. (replaced Oracle database)



511 Stats

since Sept 2021

- 433k IVR Calls
- 11.6+ million web hits
- 10.5+ million mobile hits

2024-2025 TMC Winter Stats

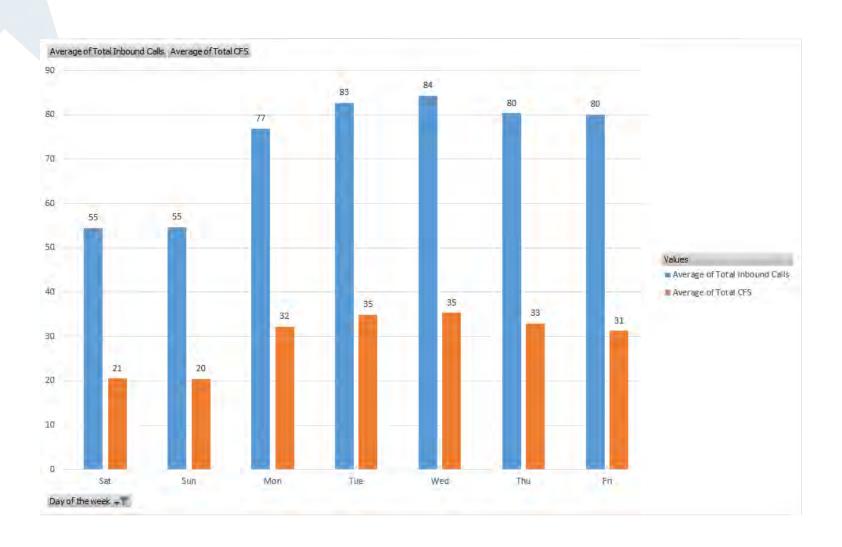
Month	In-bound calls	Calls for Service
November 24	3,009	982
December 24	3,483	953
January 25	4,140	1,498
February 25	4,119	1,682
March 25	2,579	899
April 25 (thru 4/21)	975	641
Total	18,305	6,655

TMC Annual Stats

Year	In-bound calls	Calls for Service
2020 TMC Opened 10/2020	6614	1,754
2021	25,111	10,429
2022	27,319	12,217
2023	25,156	9,872
2024	24,854	9,882
2025 (YTD)	11,813	4,720
Totals	120,867	48,874

- Avg over 25,000 in-bound calls each year (25,600)
- Avg over 10,000 calls for service each year (10,600)

Historical Stats Weekend vs. Weekday



Winter vs. Summer Stats

Months	Avg. In-bound calls per day	Avg. Calls for Service per day
Summer (May-Oct)	36	21
Winter (Nov-Apr)	105	37

- Call volume in winter almost triples on average.
- TMC hires an additional 8-12 temporary dispatchers to supplement permanent staff during winter months.

TMC 2025 Summer Schedule

April 5 - October 17, 2025

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Hours
OFF	OFF	6am-2pm	6am-2pm	6am-2pm	6am-2pm	6am-2pm	40
7am-7pm	7am-7pm	7am-3pm	OFF	OFF	OFF	7am-3pm	40
OFF	OFF	OFF	7am-3pm	7am-3pm	7am-3pm	OFF	24
OFF	OFF	7am-3pm	7am-3pm	7am-3pm	7am-3pm	7am-3pm	40
OFF	OFF	3pm-11pm	3pm-11pm	3pm-11pm	3pm-11pm	3pm-11pm	40
OFF	OFF	3pm-11pm	3pm-11pm	3pm-11pm	3pm-11pm	3pm-11pm	40
7pm-7am	7pm-7am	11pm-7am	OFF	OFF	OFF	11pm-7am	40
OFF	OFF	OFF	11pm-7am	11pm-7am	11pm-7am	OFF	24

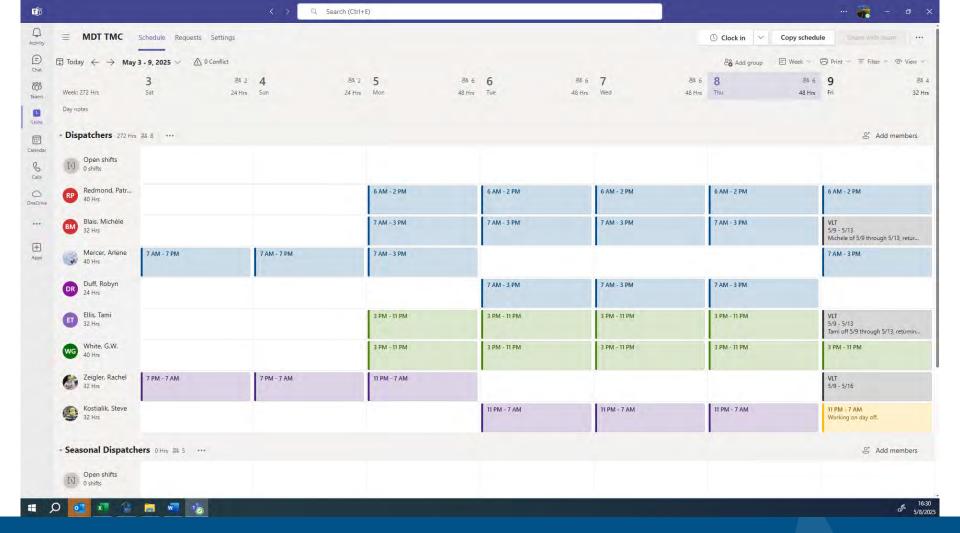
Summer Schedule

TMC 2024-2025 Winter Schedule

October 19, 2024 - April 4, 2025

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Hours
OFF	OFF	3am-11am*	3am-11am*	3am-11am*	3am-11am*	3am-11am*	40
5am-5pm	5am-5pm	5am-1pm	OFF	OFF	OFF	5am-1pm	40
OFF	OFF	7am-3pm	7am-3pm	7am-3pm	7am-3pm	7am-3pm	40
OFF	OFF	11am-7pm	11am-7pm	11am-7pm	11am-7pm	11am-7pm	40
OFF	OFF	3pm-11pm*	3pm-11pm*	3pm-11pm*	3pm-11pm*	3pm-11pm*	40
5pm-5am*	5pm-5am*	9pm-5am*	OFF	OFF	OFF	9pm-5am*	40
OFF	OFF	11pm-7am	11pm-7am	11pm-7am	11pm-7am	11pm-7am	40
							40
5am-5pm	5am-5pm	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	24
OFF	OFF	3am-8am*	3am-8am*	3am-8am*	3am-8am*	3am-8am*	25
OFF	OFF	OFF	3am-11am*	3am-11am*	3am-11am*	OFF	24
OFF	OFF	7am-3pm	7am-3pm	7am-3pm	7am-3pm	7am-3pm	40
OFF	OFF	OFF	11am-7pm	11am-7pm	11am-7pm	OFF	24
11am-7pm	11am-7pm	11am-7pm	OFF	OFF	OFF	11am-7pm	32
OFF	OFF	3pm-11pm*	3pm-11pm*	3pm-11pm*	3pm-11pm*	3pm-11pm*	40
5pm-5am*	5pm-5am*	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	24
OFF	OFF	7pm-3am*	7pm-3am*	7pm-3am*	OFF	OFF	24
7pm-5am*	7pm-5am*	OFF	OFF	OFF	7pm-5am*	7pm-5am*	40
3am-11am*	3am-11am*	3am-11am*	OFF	OFF	OFF	3am-11am*	32
OFF	OFF	OFF	9pm-5am*	9pm-5am*	9pm-5am*	OFF	24

Winter Schedule (includes temporary employees)



Microsoft Shifts App

• Employees use to view weekly schedule, request/view time off, etc.

2025 TMC Structure

TMC

- 1 Supervisor
- 2 Lead Dispatchers (16-hours of lead support 5 days a week)
- 6 Dispatchers
- 8-12 temporary dispatchers work October April

TMC Support

- 24-hour support from State Dept of Admin and MDT IT staff
- 1 Communication Technician assigned to TMC
- Communication technicians in each district work closely with TMC on maintenance of DMS, RWIS, cameras, and radio communication.

Challenges

- Road condition reporting times were all the same prior to TMC. We had to find a way to contact and obtain road conditions statewide with a minimum of 3 people.
 - Reporting times were 6:00 am or 6:10 am and 1:00 pm or 1:10 pm
 - Changed to start at 5:30 am and every 15 minutes, concluding at 6:40 am, and 1:30 pm and concluding at 2:40 pm.
- Getting PSAP's on board with contacting the TMC instead of directly contacting field staff in certain areas.
- MDT did not have standards for handling emergency situations due to seldom occurrence and State Patrol dispatch staff usually contacting PASP's on MDT's behalf pre-TMC.

Challenges continued

- Growing pains/opposition of change from field staff, lack of trust, etc.
- Radio audio failure
- SharePoint data/item limit and custom form.
- Portable DMS without GPS antenna's
- Addition of full-color signs
- Telecommunications are dependent on cell modems that occasionally go down

Wins and Benefits so far...

- DMS are now being used to actively manage incidents and closures
- Traveler information accuracy and update frequency has improved
- Improved trust, relationships, and communication with MDT staff and other agencies
- Department standards are now consistent for routine events
- AMBER Alert Program Partnership strengthened

More wins and benefits...

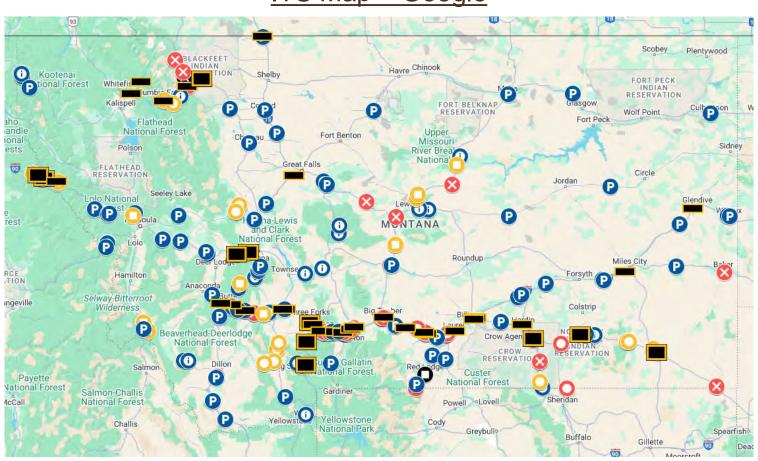
- Inter-agency incident management efforts and coordination have improved
- Enforcement of regulatory messaging on DMS is underway
 - Fact sheets have been developed to educate law enforcement on new laws in Montana
- Work zone communication and speed enforcement has improved
- MDT has been asked to teach a course at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy and is being considered.

Recent and Future ITS

- Recent
 - 20+ more perm full color DMS
 - Wrong way ramp detection
 - When Flashing signs installed with radio activation capability
- Variable speed limits

ITS Map Demo

ITS Map - Google



What are your questions?

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