

## 2012 Lewis & Clark County Traffic Count Program Update Summary

In June 2012 Abelin Traffic Services contracted with Lewis & Clark County to perform traffic counts for the County's annual Traffic Count Program. The Traffic Count Program is an important tool for engineers and planners to help determine growth characteristics within the county and determine where maintenance funds should be spent. Abelin Traffic Services (ATS) has previously overseen the Traffic Counting Program from 2006 to 2011.

The goal of the 2012 counting program was to update all of the previous year's standard traffic data. In all 117 regular sites, 20 MDT, and 6 'Special' sites were counted for a total of 143 count locations. Traffic count data for these locations was collected between the months of June and October 2012. No traffic count data was collected on weekends or holidays.

The raw data collected within Lewis & Clark County during the 2012 traffic counting season was then factored to an Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) volume by using the MDT Portable Vehicle Combined Count Factors. These monthly traffic factors are available from MDT each year for different classifications of roadways based on MDT's historic traffic volume information. The data provides a monthly factor which is used to determine an accurate AADT traffic volume no matter which month the counts were performed. The monthly count factors used for 2012 are included with this report.

After the traffic data was collected the raw hourly data was exported for each site. This data was then transferred into a Microsoft Excel worksheet and factored to produce AADT traffic volumes for each location. The factored data was then assembled into a book with the same format as was used on the traffic booklets created for previous years. All traffic data was submitted to MDT for review and approval. The data collected by ATS indicates an overall 2.9% decrease in traffic volumes from 2011 to 2012. This slight decrease in traffic volumes is consistent with data collected by MDT for this area.

The following is a summary of where most of the traffic variation has occurred within the Helena Valley in 2012. These major roadways (+500 VPD) had greater than 10% traffic growth or decrease between 2011 and 2012. The trend in 2012 was a decrease in traffic volumes from 2011. Only one of the major roadways surveyed showed a significant increase in traffic volumes. Hauser Damn Road south of Lincoln Road (988 VPD) showed a 12% increase in traffic volumes. The following roads showed a decrease in traffic volumes of 10-21%:

<b>Road</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>2012 ADT</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Applegate Drive	North of Lincoln Rd.	876	-15%
Canyon Ferry Road	West of Wylie Dr.	7,383	-15%
Dusty Maiden Drive	North of Canyon Ferry Rd.	1,143	-12%
Frontage Drive	North of Sierra Rd.	572	-19%
Frontage Drive	South of Sierra Rd.	1,655	-15%
Howard Road	East of Wylie Dr.	675	-19%
Lake Helena Drive	North of Canyon Ferry Rd.	1,510	-12%
Lake Helena Drive	North of Old US 12	4,048	-18%
Lincoln Road	East of Applegate Dr.	3,794	-12%
Old US 12	West of Lake Helena Dr.	2,272	-21%
Old US 12	East of Lake Helena Dr.	2,698	-14%
Remington Street	East of Lake Helena Dr.	1,092	-14%
Sierra Road	West of Frontage Rd.	1,951	-17%
Valley Drive	South of Canyon Ferry Rd.	2,062	-17%
Wylie Drive	North of Canyon Ferry Rd.	2,439	-15%
Wylie Drive	South of Canyon Ferry Rd.	4,118	-14%
York Road	West of Lake Helena Dr.	2,325	-14%
Old Lake Helena Dr.	North of Old U.S. 12	729	-17%
Stanley Street	N of Billings Ave.	1,920	-16%