

As of May 20, 2026

Montana Highway 42: Summer 2026 Construction & Travel Impacts

In Montana, Highway 42 (MT 42) is a key route in the northeastern part of the state, serving as the primary link between the city of Glasgow and the Fort Peck Dam/Lake area.

For the summer of 2026, a major project is slated for this corridor.

Primary Project: Fort Peck – Northwest

This is a significant rehabilitation project aimed at improving the structural integrity and safety of the highway leading into the Fort Peck recreational area.

Project Detail	Information
Location	MT 42, starting from Fort Peck and extending approximately 13.7 miles northwest toward Glasgow.
Project Scope	Major Rehabilitation: This typically includes asphalt milling, resurfacing, and potential shoulder improvements.
Status	Letting (contract bidding) is scheduled for June 2026, with active construction expected to follow shortly thereafter in mid-to-late summer.

Travel & Mission Impacts

Because MT 42 is a two-lane highway with limited alternative routes for reaching the Fort Peck Dam from the north, travelers should anticipate the following:

- **Pilot Car Operations:** Expect single-lane traffic controlled by pilot cars and flaggers. This is standard for major rehabilitation on Montana’s primary routes.
- **Delays:** Anticipate wait times of 15 to 30 minutes during peak travel hours (weekdays and weekend afternoons).

- **Speed Reductions:** Speed limits will be significantly reduced within the 13.7-mile work zone to protect ground crews.
- **Recreational Access:** Heavy boat-towing traffic frequenting Fort Peck Lake may experience increased congestion, especially near the dam approach.

Montana Highway 117: Summer 2026 Construction & Travel Impacts

MT 117 is the critical 12-mile stretch connecting Nashua (US 2) to the Fort Peck Dam area. For the summer of 2026, travel on this route will be heavily influenced by surrounding major construction on MT 24 and local repairs.

Project Overview & Detour Status

While MT 117 itself is primarily seeing minor repairs, it is designated as a key alternate route due to massive reconstruction on the parallel Highway 24.

Feature	Details
Role in 2026	Primary Detour Route: Because MT 24 (Glasgow to Fort Peck) is undergoing major repairs, MDT and the Army Corps of Engineers are directing traffic to use MT 117 via Nashua instead.
Local Work	Intermittent road repairs and surface maintenance are scheduled along the 10.5-mile stretch from Nashua to the Yellowstone Rd intersection.
Yellowstone Rd Access	Access to the Downstream Campground and the Interpretive Center/Museum via MT 117 will remain open, but expect increased congestion.

Travel & Mission Impacts

Due to the diversion of traffic from Highway 24 onto Highway 117, you should plan for the following:

- **Significant Traffic Increase:** MT 117 will handle nearly double its usual volume, including heavy recreational vehicles, boat trailers, and local industrial traffic.

- **Minor Delays:** While there are no planned full closures on MT 117, the intersection with MT 24 near the Dam may have temporary signals or flaggers to manage the diverted flow.
- **Infrastructure Watch:** Heavy equipment and material hauling for the MT 24 bridge rail work (Nelson Creek/Timber Creek) may utilize MT 117 for staging or transit.