

## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

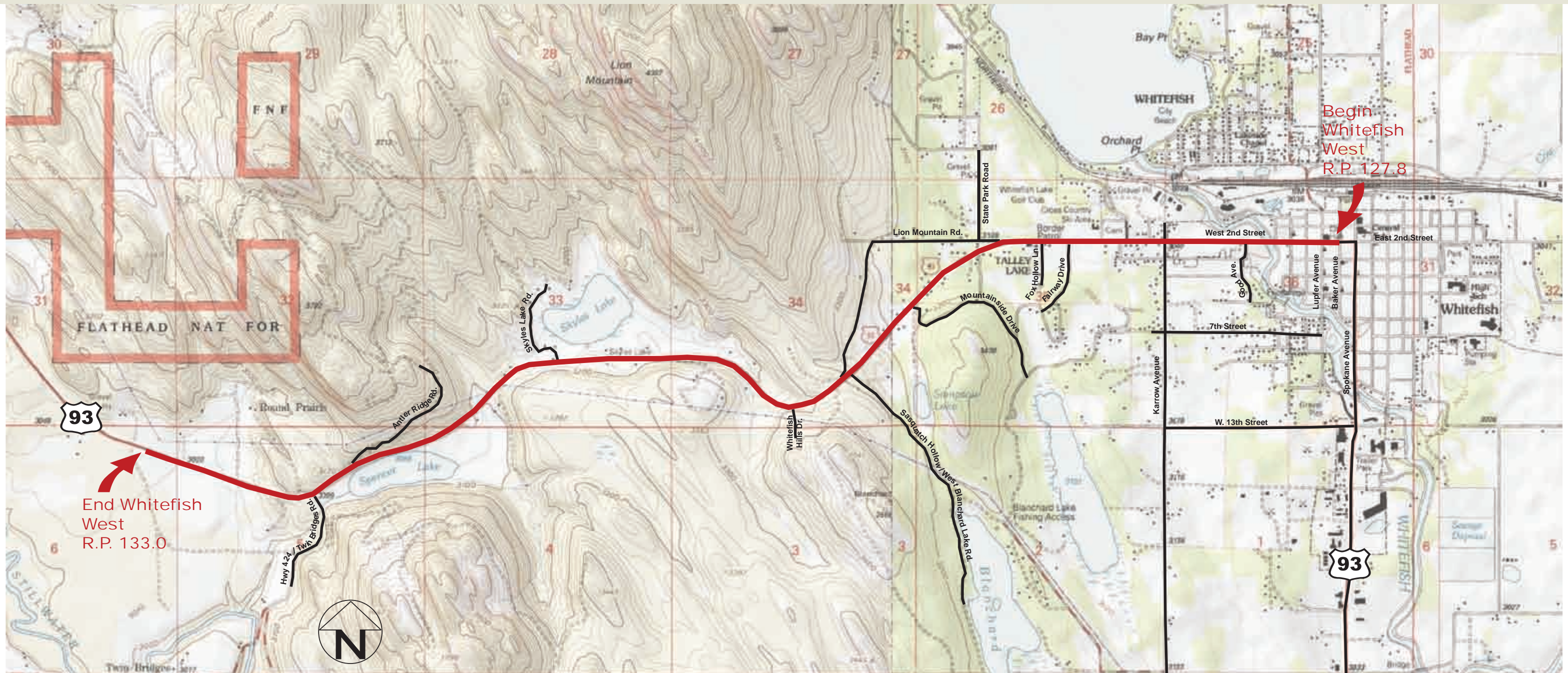
The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) proposes to reconstruct and widen 8.3 kilometers (5.2 miles) of U.S. Highway 93 (N-5) west of Whitefish, Montana. This project, known as *US 93 Whitefish West*, begins at milepost 127.8 in downtown Whitefish on West Second Street, one half block west of the Baker Street intersection, and extends westerly to milepost 133.0, west of Twin Bridges Road (see **Figure 1**).

The project was originally evaluated under a 1988 Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) prepared for the Kalispell to Whitefish segment of US 93. In 1992, due to public concerns over the social, economic, and environmental impacts of the project, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared. This EIS included 46.2 kilometers (28.7 miles) of US 93 from Somers, Montana to west of Whitefish, Montana (mileposts 104.3 to 133.0). The *US Highway 93 Somers to Whitefish West Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)* and *Record of Decision (ROD)* were approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in November 1994. The majority of the project segments included in the 1994 FEIS have been, or are currently being, constructed.

This re-evaluation pertains to the Whitefish West segment only.



**FIGURE 1: US 93 WHITEFISH WEST PROJECT LOCATION AND MILEPOST LIMITS**



End Whitefish West  
R.P. 133.0

Begin Whitefish West  
R.P. 127.8

