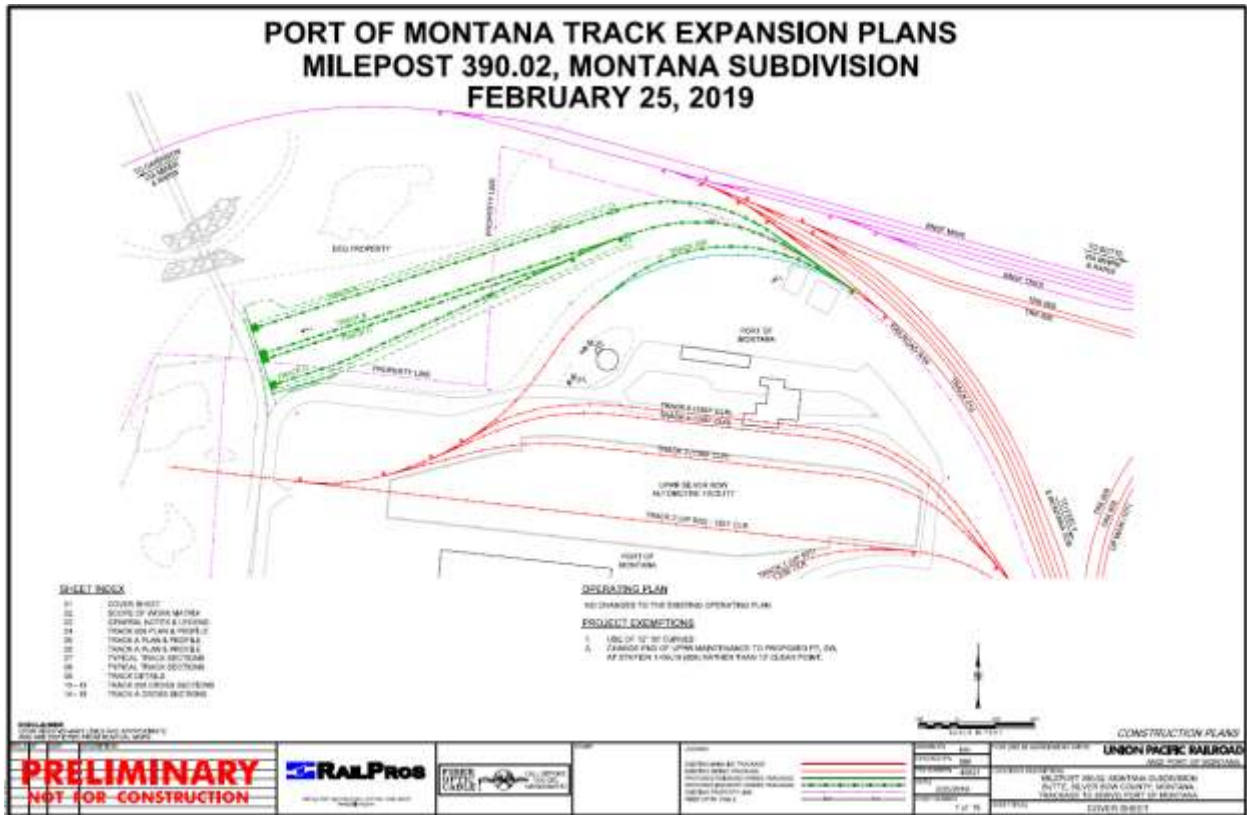


Appendix D – Port of Montana Rail Operations and Track Usage



While the Port currently has seven tracks on which all rail operations are conducted, Tracks 1-6, and Solvay Track, Track 1 houses the locomotive, to prevent freezing, and must be kept open except for temporary railcar switching movement or quick transloading. Tracks 2 and 3 are designated to service only the GM Auto Distribution Facility and are unavailable for other uses. Track 6 and the Solvay Track are needed for inbound and outbound railcars and temporary miscellaneous unloading can be conducted on these tracks when necessary. Tracks 4 and 5 are used to accommodate the majority of the Port’s permanent transloading operations which include commodities such as asphalt, ethanol, fertilizer and magnesium chloride. There are multiple occasions when the facility is so congested that operations are stalled until are able to railcars are pulled out of the Port’s yard. These inefficiencies are costly to the Port and cause shipping delays. The Port rail facility has reached maximum capacity, in order to serve additional rail customers and continue growth at Montana Connections, the Port must expand its rail footprint.