

[March 17, 2015](#)

Pam Langve-Davis, Planner
Program & Policy Analysis Bureau
Montana Department of Transportation
Rail, Transit and Planning
PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001


RE: Community Transportation Safety Planning and Development Assistance

Dear Ms. Langve-Davis:

The Billings-Yellowstone County Metropolitan Planning Organization is formally requesting technical and financial assistance from MDT to develop a Community Transportation Safety Plan (CTSP). This letter describes transportation safety issues in Billings that a CTSP could help alleviate, describes ways that the community will benefit from the development and implementation of a CTSP and identifies a local plan sponsor.

Safety Issues in the Billings-Yellowstone County Metropolitan Planning Organization include but are not limited to:

- Crash data for Montana and the City of Billings highlight several transportation safety issues in the community, many which align with the specific emphasis areas (EAs) in the State Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan (CHSP). The FFY 2011 Montana Traffic Safety Problem Identification report states that Yellowstone County ranked third in severe crashes (EA: Urban Crashes), the report also shows that 10.4% of total crashes are related to alcohol-related crashes (EA: Drugs & Alcohol).
- Data from the 2014 Billings Urban Long Range Transportation Plan identified through MDT Crash Data the following information within the MPO boundary:
 - Total of 8,792 crashes;
 - 2,402 injury crashes (27%) with total injuries of 3,315;
 - 122 incapacitating injuries (5% of injury crashes); and
 - 33 fatal crashes (< 1% of total crashes)



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Ways That Development of a CTSP Would Benefit the Community include but are not limited to:

- The CTSP would complement the recently completed 2014 Billings Urban Area Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update's recommended investment of over \$15 million in safety improvements in the metropolitan region.
- The CTSP will provide a coordinated set of strategies that work for and are consistent with the goals, objectives and policies of all safety partners in the community.
- The CTSP will clarify the working relationship between the safety partners in the community. In this way the CTSP will ensure coordination and consistency among various community safety initiatives.

Local Plan Sponsor

The Yellowstone County Planning Board is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and oversees transportation planning for the Billings Urban Area. The MPO will serve as the Local Plan Sponsor and will be the point of contact for the planning process and for the coordination of the development and implementation of the CTSP. MPO staff will track and report progress on the plan implementation annually to MDT.

Agency partners representing the four E's have contributed letter of support for this application and look forward to participating in a community safety planning process with MDT and the MPO.

Thank you for the opportunity to develop a Community Transportation Safety Plan with MDT's technical assistance and financial support. We look forward to working with MDT to develop strategies that will enhance Billings' ongoing efforts to reduce the number of severe and fatal crashes. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Lora Mattox at (406) 247-8622 or mattoxl@ci.billings.mt.us.


Sincerely,

Richard Clark, President
Yellowstone County Planning Board

Bill Kennedy, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Yellowstone County

Thomas W. Hanel, Mayor
City of Billings

TBD
Policy Coordinating Committee



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