

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY BOARD OF PLANNING



PLANNING DIVISION
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June 25, 2019

Mayor and City Council
City of Billings, Montana

RE: Amendment to the South Billings Boulevard Urban Renewal Plan for the South Billings Boulevard Urban Renewal District

As President of the Yellowstone County Board of Planning, I am forwarding the Board's recommendation for the amendment of the Urban Renewal Plan for the South Billings Boulevard Urban Renewal District. On June 25, 2019, the Planning Board reviewed the proposed amendments to the South Billings Boulevard Urban Renewal Plan as to conformity with the 2016 City of Billings Growth Policy. The Planning Board voted to forward a recommendation to City Council of approval of the amended Plan and its conformity with the Growth Policy.

This item was posted on the Planning Board agenda for its regular meeting held July 25, 2019. The Yellowstone County Board of Planning reviewed the amendments to the South Billings Boulevard Urban Renewal Plan and found the changes conformed with the 2016 City of Billings Growth Policy. Specifically, several Growth Policy Guidelines are addressed by the new projects topics proposed in the plan, and some examples are called out here by the Board:

Parks & Recreational Amenities – Construct and enhance public facilities that will increase the quality or quantity of parks and recreational activities within the District. This may include, but is not limited to, a recreation center, swimming pool, ice arena, indoor and outdoor park development, and other amenities.

Place Making (Enhance, maintain, preserve, and improve existing public places)

- *A multi-use community recreation facility is desirable*

Essential Investments (relating public and private expenditures to public values)

- *Developed parks that provide recreation, special amenities (community gardens, dog parks, viewing areas), and active living opportunities are desirable for an attractive and healthy community*

Public Safety – Construction of Police or Fire facilities within the District, to include necessary furnishings for such facilities.

Essential Investments (relating public and private expenditures to public values)

- *Public health and safety and emergency service response are critical to the well-being of Billings' residents, businesses, and visitors*

Walking Paths and Trails – Construct sidewalks, trails and pathways throughout the District with landscaping to ensure the safety of children and all pedestrians, as well as provide access to neighborhoods and services.

Essential Investments (relating public and private expenditures to public values)

- *The safety of all users and the connectivity of the transportation system are important criteria to consider in roadway designs and transportation plans*

Community Fabric (attractive, aesthetically pleasing, uniquely Billings)

- *Planning and construction of interconnected sidewalks and trails are important to the livability of Billings*

School and Community Services – Assist in funding projects and programs in the District to enhance school playgrounds and athletic fields, health and wellness programs, access to community meeting and activity spaces, and other efforts that improve access to school and community services.

Mobility and Access (transportation choices in places where goods and services are accessible to all)

- *“Safe Routes to Schools” promotes physical health and reduces vehicle trips, earning parents more time and less costs for transportation*

The Board respectfully submits this recommendation to the City of Billings Mayor and City Council for consideration.

Respectfully Yours,

Darell Tunnicliff, President
Yellowstone County Board of Planning