

Meeting Date: Friday, November 19, 2021, 7:30 am

Location: The Post/Billings Depot

RE: Montana Avenue Pedestrian flashing beacons TIFD Assistance

Background:

On behalf of the Historic Montana Avenue Association (HMAA), the Billings Depot is submitting an application for TIF funding towards one Pedestrian Crosswalk project.

At some point in the day, everyone is a pedestrian, and unfortunately pedestrian incidents in Billings remain high. Specifically, on Montana Avenue, high rates of speed, three lanes of traffic, and unlit crossing zones make it extremely unsafe for pedestrians.

HMAA would like to request TIF funding to upgrade (1) pedestrian crossing along Montana Avenue with pedestrian-activated, rectangular, rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs). As this is a state highway, HMAA has already addressed this safety concern with MDT and has received authorization for this project. Each RRFB comes as a set of 2 and costs an estimated \$15,000 per set. The estimate includes parts, labor, and installation.

HMAA thinks the benefit of this project will support the following outcomes:

- Reduce rate of speed when pedestrians want to cross
- Improve walkability for the Montana Avenue district
- Provide greater sense of safety for visitors and Billings residents
- Align with CPTED practices promoting safe environments
- Reduce threat of vehicle accidents along Montana Avenue

HMAA Members in support of this project:

- Billings Depot
- Griffin Development
- Computers Unlimited
- The Marble Table
- First Montana Title
- Dickey's BBQ
- Buchanan Capital
- Liberty & Vine
- BarMT

Proposal:

HMAA is requesting 100% TIF funding towards this improvement because it is purely infrastructure and traffic related. If successful, its outcome will benefit the public where pedestrians feel safer, accidents are reduced, and businesses can continue to thrive.

Financials:

If recommended/approved, the City of Billings will be able to order parts and schedule installation. FY22 has enough excess funds for miscellaneous projects. \$15,000 would be taken out of Fund203 to pay for this project.