

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY BOARD OF PLANNING

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
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March 23, 2021

Mayor and City Council
City of Billings, Montana

RE: South Billings Boulevard Urban Renewal District Expansion

As President of the Yellowstone County Board of Planning, I am forwarding the Board's recommendation for the proposed expansion of the South Billings Boulevard Urban Renewal District and modification of the Urban Renewal Plan. On March 23, 2021, per MCA 7-15-4213 (5)(d) the Planning Board reviewed the proposed expansion of the District and modification of the 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 expanded District and Plan modification and their conformity with the Growth Policy.

This item was posted on the Planning Board agenda for its regular meeting held March 23, 2021. The Yellowstone County Board of Planning reviewed the proposed expansion of the South Billings Boulevard Urban Renewal District and Plan modification and found the changes conformed with the 2016 City of Billings Growth Policy. Specifically, several Growth Policy Guidelines are addressed by potential development and redevelopment that may occur on properties to be included in the District expansion. Some examples are called out here by the Board:

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*
- *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.*
- *The safety of all users and the connectivity of the transportation system are important criteria to consider in roadway designs and transportation plans*
- *Infill development and development near existing City infrastructure may be the most cost-effective*
- *Infrastructure and service investments that stabilize or improve property values, secure future utility costs, consider maintenance costs, and improve our environmental quality far into the future (i.e. energy efficient) are desirable*

Community Fabric (attractive, aesthetically pleasing, uniquely Billings)

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

Home Base (healthy, safe and diverse housing options)

- *A mix of housing types that meet the needs of a diverse population is important*

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

Respectfully Yours,

Woody Woods, President
Yellowstone County Board of Planning