

Billings MPO FY26 UPWP Development Process

Start → MPO Initiates UPWP Development with April notification of FY26 PL Allocation



Step 1: May 8 – Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting

- MPO staff discuss initial UPWP development with TAC.
- Encourage City and County Public Works to suggest potential planning studies or projects.



Step 2: MPO proposes the following MPO led Projects

- Replacement and Upgrade of Traffic and Trail Counters. **MPO is required to maintain motorized and non-motorized counts.**
- Travel Demand Support for the Transportation Corridor Analysis. **Council Initiative/Directive.**
- Update the 2017 Household Travel Survey in preparation for the update to the 2023 LRTP.
- Alkali Creek Trail Feasibility Study. **This project was identified in the current approved CIP.**
- Downtown to the Heights Trail Feasibility Study. **This project was identified in the current approved CIP.**
- Phase II – Transportation Corridor Analysis. **The MPO proposed using PL funding to supplement the budget for this project. Council initiative/Directive.**
- Carryover projects from the FY25 UPWP included:
 - LRTP Project List/MPO Boundary Update. **Project developed from FHWA/MDT MPO review.**
 - 21st Street Underpass Feasibility Study. **This project was identified in the current approved CIP.**
 - Complete Streets Economic Analysis. **Proposed by MPO based on conversations with both the City Council and County Commissioners.**



Step 2: May - City Public Works Coordination

- City Public Works discusses possible projects with MPO.
- Support inclusion of Safe Routes to School analysis and public outreach. **Council Priority**
- Other projects discussed included potential Corridor Study of Wicks Lane from Bitterroot to Hawthorne and Monad from Daniels to Moore Lane. After further discussion, Public Works decided to not move forward with these two projects. Reason for elimination was the timing of the projects. **Proposed due to identification in current approved CIP.**



Step 3: May 21 – County Public Works Meeting

- MPO meets with County Public Works.
- Discusses project types MPO can assist with (e.g., intersection studies).
- Suggestion: update Lockwood Transportation Study after Billings Bypass completion.
- No specific projects were identified.



Step 4: June 4 – County Commissioners Discussion Meeting

- MPO briefs Board of County Commissioners.
- Discusses meeting outcomes with County Public Works and proposed MPO projects.
- Continue dialogue with Commissioners.



Step 5: June 11 – City Council Legislative & Local Affairs Committee Meeting

- MPO, City Public Works, and MET Transit meet with committee members.
- Discuss proposed projects and alignment with City Council goals. CM Neese proposed an addition to the project list: Aronson to Annadale Trail Feasibility Study. **Council member proposed and added to the CIP.**



Step 6: June 12 – TAC Review & Recommendation

- TAC reviews proposed projects from MPO, City, and County.
- Recommends projects identified in MPO memo for inclusion in the UPWP.



Step 7: June 16 – City Council Work Session

- MPO presents UPWP and proposed projects.
- City Council supports the projects recommended by the MPO.



Step 8: June 24 – Planning Board Public Hearing

- MPO presents FY26 UPWP to Planning Board.
- Public hearing conducted; no public comment received.



Step 8: July 8 – Planning Board

- Planning Board recommends that PCC approve the FY26 UPWP.



Step 8: July 8 – County Commissioners

- County Commissioners recommend that PCC approve the FY26 UPWP.



Step 8: July 14 – City Council

- City Council recommends that PCC approve the FY26 UPWP.



Step 8: July 22 – Policy Coordinating Committee

- Policy Coordinating Committee approves the FY26 UPWP.



Step 9: MPO staff sends locally approved FY26 UPWP to MDT and FHWA



Step 10: September 4 - FHWA sends approval of the Billings MPO FY26 UPWP



Step 11: Projects approved in adopted UPWP that fit in CIP are kept from past approved CIP or added in Draft CIP per process and Council direction.