



April 15, 2025

Mitch Buthod
Statewide & Urban Planning Supervisor
Montana Department of Transportation
2701 Prospect Avenue
Helena, MT 59620

Subject: Request for Federal Funding Priority for Grand Avenue, Billings, Montana

Dear Mr. Buthod,

On behalf of the Billings Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the Policy Coordinating Committee members (City of Billings, Yellowstone County, Yellowstone County Planning Board, Montana Department of Transportation District 5) is formally requesting that Grand Avenue be designated as a priority for federal funding through the Surface Transportation Program – Urban (STPU) and Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ). As the MPO for the Billings urban area, we recognize the critical need to improve this corridor to support regional mobility, economic development, and safety.

Portions of Grand Avenue exist as a two-lane county road section in a growing area of the city that has no sidewalk or other multi-modal element. Increasing traffic levels on a narrow road and the inability to separate left-turning vehicles are a main safety concern. This project completes Grand Avenue to City arterial standards where the street has not been constructed between 41st Street West and 62nd Street West. Grand Avenue is proposed as a three-lane roadway from 41st Street West to 62nd Street West, including a transition west from Shiloh Road. The project will construct a separate, multi-use path on one side and a separated sidewalk on the opposite side of the roadway. Multi-modal improvements, including recommendations from the Safe Routes to School plan, will be considered and implemented. Streetlights will be installed along the roadway corridor. A new traffic signal is anticipated at Grand Avenue and 56th Street West. Additionally, stormwater improvements will be constructed with the project, which will serve the roadway runoff as well as developments within the area. This will result in an overall improvement to the functionality of the stormwater on Billings' west end.

The project will require right-of-way acquisition to be constructed. Utility coordination, including coordination with Northwestern Energy and Yellowstone Valley Electric on power pole relocation, will also be required.

Given its significance and the demonstrated need, we urge the Montana Department of Transportation to consider Grand Avenue as a high-priority project for federal funding allocation in the upcoming Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) cycles.

We appreciate MDT's partnership in advancing critical transportation projects and look forward to collaborating on this initiative. Please let us know if additional information or supporting documentation is needed. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this request further and explore the next steps.

Signatures: Billings Metropolitan Planning Organization

President, Yellowstone County Board of Planning Date

Chairman, Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners Date

Mayor, Billings City Council Date

MDT Billings District Office Administrator Date