



Montana Department of Transportation

2701 Prospect Avenue
PO Box 201001
Helena MT 59620-1001

Jim Lynch, Director
Brian Schweitzer, Governor

County CASCADE

July 18, 2005

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JUL 19 2005

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Cooperating Agency Environmental Documentation

As a Cooperating Agency under the provisions of 23 CFR 771.111 the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is providing you a copy of this project's environmental documentation.

This environmental documentation complies with the provisions of 23 CFR 771.117(a) and (d) for categorically excluding this proposed project from further National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.) documentation requirements. The attached also complies with the provisions of 75-1-103 and 75-1-201, MCA (see ARM 18.2.237 and 18.2.261, MEPA "Actions that qualify for a Categorical Exclusion" as applicable to the MDT).

If you have any questions concerning the attached environmental documentation please call the MDT Environmental Services Division at (406) 444-7228.

Sincerely,

Jean A. Riley, P.E.
Bureau Chief
Environmental Services Division

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Attachment



June 27, 2005

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JUL 13 2005

Janice W. Brown
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
2880 Skyway Drive
Helena, MT 59602-1230

ENVIRONMENTAL

**MASTER FILE
COPY**

Subject: CM 5299(60)
Sidewalks – Great Falls
CN 4920

This is a request for the FHWA's concurrence that this proposed project meets the criteria for classification as a Categorical Exclusion under the provisions of 23 CFR 771.117(d). This proposed action also qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion under the provisions of ARM 18.2.261 (Sections **75-1-103** and **75-1-201 MCA**). A project location map is attached.

This proposed project includes constructing new sidewalk and ADA facilities along on-system, state maintained routes in Great Falls.

The location of this proposed project includes two areas located on two different routes within Cascade County in the City of Great Falls. The areas are described below. A project site map is also attached.

1. U-5203/NH-101 (3rd St NW) RP 0.447 to RP 2.431
[Between Central Ave and 10th St N] This portion of the project is located in the north half of section 11 and the east half of section 2 of and the north half of section 1, all in Township 20 N Range 3 E of the Principle Montana Meridian.
2. U-5206 (NW Bypass) RP 2.00 to RP 3.22
[From STA 38+83± on S 421(3) to 3rd St NW] This portion of the project is located in sections 2 and 3 of Township 20 N Range 3 E of the Principle Montana Meridian.

These areas are adjacent to the roadways and do not have sidewalks or ADA accessible ramps. The intent of this proposed project is to provide sidewalk access for the walking public that is compliant with current ADA standards in the areas described above. The proposed project is limited in scope; therefore disturbances due to construction activities will be minimal. The majority of the work will be performed within existing right-of-way. Connections to existing parking, driving, and landscaped areas that extend beyond existing right-of-way would utilize construction permits. New right-of-way may be necessary in a few isolated locations to provide minimum sidewalk widths around large traffic signal bases and other obstructions.

This proposed project has been evaluated for, and does not have any adverse effect on the following environmental areas of concern:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Storm water Runoff | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prime & Unique Farmlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Section 404 - Clean Water Act |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Floodplains(E.O. 11988/FEMA) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Economic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Waste | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stream Preserv./Water Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historical/Cultural Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Threatened/Endangered Species |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Changes in Land Use | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands(E.O. 11990) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> USDOT - 4(f)/NL&WCF - 6(f) Acts | |

The proposed project will have a minor effect on the following environmental area(s):

Hazardous Waste

A review of the contents of state and federal environmental databases obtained during the Phase I ESA for the project corridor and for the surrounding vicinity showed numerous facilities with known or potential contamination. However, it is anticipated that the construction project will impact only surface soils to a depth of less than 400 mm along the corridor. Based on this information, the noted properties are believed to pose little threat to the proposed project; however, during construction activities all entities should be aware that the potential does exist to encounter petroleum contaminated soils, and special provisions for handling contaminated soils will be included in the construction contract.

Historic/Cultural Resources –Due to limited scope and minimal construction disturbances along existing roadway facilities, no historical or cultural resources will be impacted as part of this project.

Threatened/Endangered Species – Due to limited scope and minimal construction disturbances along existing roadway facilities, no threatened/endangered species will be impacted as part of this project.

Permits Required – The proposed project is located a significant distance from any surface waters or streams and is limited in scope and construction disturbance, therefore, no environmental permitting is anticipated; however, if more than 1 acre of ground is disturbed, an MPDES Permit from DEQ will be necessary.

The Montana Department of Transportation Erosion and Sediment Control Best Management Practices Manuals will be adhered to during construction.

Americans with Disabilities Act – In new sidewalk areas, lay-down curb and sidewalk ramps will be installed in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (PL 101-336).

Approximately 0.50 hectares 1.291 (acres) of new Right-of-way/construction permits scattered throughout the three individual corridors will be needed for this proposed project. At this time, no new permanent right-of-way is anticipated. There will be limited utility involvement. Two

areas have fire hydrants that will need to be relocated in order to provide the minimum sidewalk width.

Public Involvement – The public involvement plan generally follows Level B guidelines set forth in the MDT Public Involvement Handbook, with the addition of a public informational meeting. To improve public participation, mailing invitations to the informational meeting to residents and businesses within the project limits is proposed. An informational meeting will be held near the Plan-In-Hand stage of the project. The intent of this meeting is to provide businesses and residences in the area an overview of the project. Since the scope of this project is limited, no formal comment period will be in place. However, any questions or concerns during the meeting will be addressed and contact information will be provided so individual meetings can be held with adjacent landowners to for specific concerns.

Cumulative Impacts – It is anticipated that the MDT will have a pavement preservation running concurrently with this project. This project number is NH 101-1(2)0, Third ST NW – Great Falls. This project consists of a bituminous plant mix overlay from Central Ave NW to 10th ST N (Area No. 1 as listed above). This project will be entirely within an existing roadway corridor and therefore, the above project, in conjunction with the proposed project, will not have any significant cumulative environmental impacts.

This project will not induce significant land use changes or promote unplanned growth. There will be no significant affects on access to adjacent properties or present traffic patterns. This project will not create disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations (E.O. 12898) and complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 USC 2000d). In accordance with 23 CFR 771.117(a), this action will neither individually nor cumulatively, have any significant environmental impacts. Therefore, we are requesting FHWA's concurrence that this proposed project is properly classified as Categorical Exclusion.

Norm S. Lockhart, Date: 6/27/05
(Signature of Person submitting for concurrence)

Concur Tom Hansen, Date: 6/27/05
Tom Hansen, P.E. - Engineering Section Supervisor
Environmental Services Bureau

Concur Robert J. Selcher, Date: 6/30/05
Federal Highway Administration

Janice W. Brown
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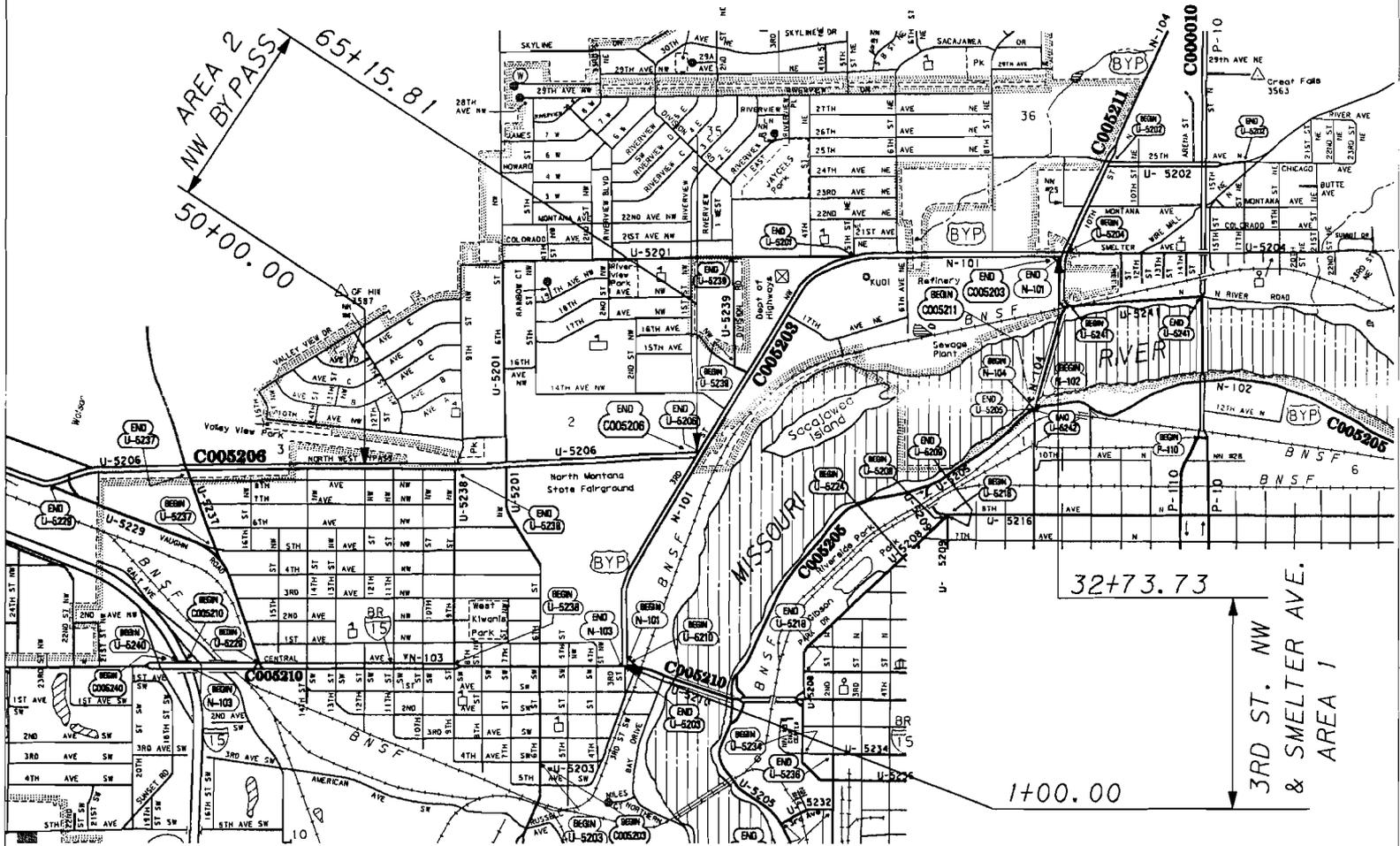
CM 5299(60)
Sidewalks – Great Falls
CN 4920

**"ALTERNATIVE ACCESSIBLE FORMATS OF THIS DOCUMENT WILL
BE PROVIDED ON REQUEST."**

Attachments: Project Location Map

cc: Michael P. Johnson - District Administrator-Great Falls
Tom S. Martin, P.E. - Consultant Design Engineer
Paul R. Ferry, P.E. - Highway Engineer
John H. Horton – Chief, Right-of-Way Bureau
Suzy Althof – Chief, Contract Plans Bureau
David W. Jensen, MDT, Supervisor – Fiscal Programming Section
Jean A. Riley, P.E. – Chief, Environmental Services Bureau
Environmental Quality Council
File

PROJECT SITE MAP



ACTIVITY 784 Final Environmental Review

DEFINITION:

Review of Environmental documents and activities necessary to project plan development prior to Plan-in-Hand

TASKS:

Output Required

		Yes	No	N/A	Initial
1	Revised Env. Assessment,/FONSI, Final Section 4(f) Eval., Cat. Ex. and distribution of same. (722) ***				

- * Hazardous Waste Bureau Chief
- ** Resources Bureau Chief
- *** Engineering Bureau Chief
- **** Reclamation Specialist

Date Received ____ Date Approved

Reviewed by
(Signature/Title) (Date)

START DEPENDENCIES:

Completion of 266.

FLOWCHART PREDECESSORS:

Flowchart	Pred.	Description	Relationship
Consultant Design	126	Final Environmental Document	FINISH-START

FLOWCHART SUCESSORS:

Flowchart	Succ.	Description	Relationship
Consultant Design	128	Prepare Scope of Work	FINISH-FINISH