



Montana Department of Transportation

2701 Prospect Avenue
PO Box 201001
Helena MT 59620-1001

Jim Lynch, Director
Brian Schweitzer, Governor

County CASCADE

July 19, 2005

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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



Montana Department of Transportation

2701 Prospect Avenue
PO Box 201001
Helena MT 59620-1001

Jim Lynch, Director
Brian Schweitzer, Governor

July 11, 2005

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JUL 19 2005

ENVIRONMENTAL

Janice W. Brown, Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
2880 Skyway Drive
Helena, MT 59602

Subject: CM 5299(49)
2001 Sidewalks Program - Great Falls
CN 4568

MASTER FILE
COPY

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 is 140 blocks of sidewalk installation. The project includes construction of 1525 mm wide pedestrian pathways on the existing City of Great Falls right-of-way. The construction will include ADA compliant corner ramps, driveway laydowns, and alleyway crossings. The project involves approximately 25000 square meters of concrete sidewalk and 4500 meters of curb and gutter replacement.

The location of this proposed project is 29 different sites located in 14 areas within Cascade County in the City of Great Falls, Montana. Please see Exhibit A (Location Map). Please see Exhibit B (Location List).

The intent of this proposed project is to install sidewalk in areas where none currently exist. The project will include installation of ADA compliant features.

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stormwater 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 checked="" 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):

Permits Required – The proposed project locations are located significant distances from any surface waters or streams and are limited in scope and construction disturbance, however, since more than 1 acre of ground is expected to be disturbed, an MPDES Permit from MDEQ will be necessary.

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

In accordance with **7-22-2152**, and **60-2-208 MCA**, the City of Great Falls will re-establish a permanent desirable vegetation community along all areas disturbed by the proposed construction. A special provision will be developed and include instructions on sod installation or seeding methods, seeding dates, types and amounts of mulch and fertilizer, along with seed mix components. Seed mixes include a variety of species to assure that areas disturbed by construction are stabilized by vegetative cover as soon as possible. The Seeding Special Provisions developed for this proposed project will be forwarded to the responsible County Weed Board for approval.

USDOT-4(f) – A public park (Meadowlark Park) is involved in the project. The park is located in Area 1, Site 2 along Park Garden Road. The project includes installation of sidewalk along one edge of the park. The new sidewalk will overlap the right-of-way line into the park approximately 610 mm.

While this project involves a Section 4(f) resource, the local agency with specific jurisdiction over the resource has provided a letter to the department approving the proposed use. This letter is accepted as written approval from the official having jurisdiction and taken as evidence that this locally proposed project is consistent with the designated use of the property, and that all possible planning to minimize harm will be accomplished in the location and design process.

NL&WCF - 6(f) - Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) were not used to purchase or enhance any property within the project limits.

Americans with Disabilities Act – All pedestrian facilities (ramps, driveways, aprons, etc.) will be installed in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (**PL 101-336**).

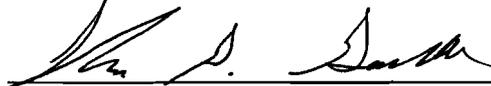
Public Involvement –The public involvement plan generally follows Level B guidelines set forth in the MDT Public Involvement Handbook, with the addition of a public informational meeting. An informational meeting was held on September 23, 2003. Since the scope of this project is limited, no formal comment period will be in place. However, individual contacts with all adjacent landowners will be completed to allow for addressing specific concerns.

Cumulative Impacts – MDT currently has no active and no proposed projects in the vicinity of any of the locations included in this proposed project.

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.

Janice W. Brown
Page 3
July 11, 2005

CM 5299(49)
2001 Sidewalk Program - Great Falls
CN: 4568


(Signature of Person submitting for concurrence), Date: 7/11/05

Concur 
Tom Hansen, P.E. - Engineering Section Supervisor
Environmental Services Bureau, Date: 7/13/05'

Concur 
Federal Highway Administration, Date: 7/15/05

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

Attachment: Exhibit A - Location Map
Attachment: Exhibit B - Location List

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

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MONTANA DIVISION
"NATIONWIDE" SECTION 4(f) EVALUATION JUL 19 2005
FOR MINOR USAGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PUBLIC PARKS, RECREATION LANDS, AND WILDLIFE
WATERFOWL REFUGES

Project # CM 5299(49) P.M.S. CN# 4568 Date: July 11, 2005
Project Name: 2001 Sidewalks Program-Great Falls Location: Cascade County

NOTE: Any response in a box requires additional information. Consult the "Nationwide" Section 4(f) Evaluation criteria.

Meadowlark Park	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. Is the 4(f) site adjacent to the existing highway?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Does the amount and location of the proposed impact area impair the use of the remaining Section 4(f) land for its intended purpose?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Does the proposed project require more than a <u>minor</u> amount* of the Section 4(f) site for Right-of-Way?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Are there any proximity impacts, which would impair the use of the 4(f) lands for their intended purpose (defined as "constructive use")?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Have the officials with jurisdiction over the property agreed <u>in writing</u> with the assessment of impacts and the proposed mitigation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Have Federal funds — such as the <i>National Land & Water Conservation Fund - Section 6(f)</i> — been used for the acquisition of, or improvements to the 4(f) site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If <u>yes</u> — has the land conversion/transfer been coordinated with the appropriate Federal agency, and are they in agreement?	<u>NA</u> <u>NA</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
7. Is the proposed action under an <u>Environmental Impact Statement (E.I.S.)</u> ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. Is the proposed project on a new location?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9. The Scope-of-Work for the proposed project is one of the following:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a) Improved traffic operation;		
b) Safety improvements;		
c) 3R;		
d) Bridge replacement on essentially the same alignment; or		
e) Addition of lanes.		

*NOTE: MDT's guidelines for "minor amounts" of Right-of-Way (including Construction Permits) are limited to either 10% of a parcel under 10 hectares (25 acres), or 1% of a parcel equal to or greater than 10 hectares (25 acres) in size.

NOTE: Any response in a box requires additional information. Consult the "NATIONWIDE" SECTION 4(F) EVALUATION criteria.

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
<u>ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED</u>		
1. The "do-nothing" ALTERNATIVE has been evaluated, and is <u>not</u> considered to be feasible and prudent. This impact is an improvement to the property, requested by the city. The do nothing alternative would not be prudent because it would not achieve the purpose of the project.	<u>X</u>	—
2. An ALTERNATIVE has been evaluated which improves the highway without any 4(f) impacts, and is also <u>not</u> considered to be feasible and prudent. The proposed action does not adversely impact the 4(f) resource, and is actually an improvement to the property, requested by the city, therefore no additional alternatives where explored.	<u>N/A</u>	—
3. An ALTERNATIVE on a new location avoiding the 4(f) site has been evaluated, and is <u>not</u> considered to be feasible and prudent. The proposed action does not adversely impact the 4(f) resource, and is actually an improvement to the property, requested by the city, therefore no additional alternatives where explored.	<u>N/A</u>	—

MINIMIZATION OF HARM

1. The proposed project includes all possible planning to minimize harm. This impact is an improvement to the property, requested by the city. No harm is being done.	<u>X</u>	—
2. Measures to minimize harm include the following:		
a) Replacement of the lands used with lands of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location, and of at least comparable value.	—	—
b) Replacement of facilities impacted including sidewalks, paths, benches, lights, trees, and other facilities.	—	—
c) Restoration/landscaping of disturbed areas.	—	—
d) Special design features.	—	—
e) Payment of, or improvements to the remaining 4(f) lands equal in cost to fair market value.	—	—
f) Other measures.	—	—

COORDINATION

1. The proposed project has been coordinated with the Federal, state, and/or local officials having jurisdiction over the 4(f) lands. List: <u>(City of Great Falls.) (Date: June 6, 2005)</u>	<u>X</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2) In the case of non-federal 4(f) lands, the official with jurisdiction has been asked to identify any Federal encumbrances — and none exist.	<u>X</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3) Coordination with the U.S. ARMY - Corps of Engineers has been completed, or a Section 404 Permit (if applicable) is pending. Due to the nature of this project, no 404 permit is required.	<u>X</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUMMARY AND APPROVAL

The proposed project meets all criteria under the "Nationwide Programmatic" Section 4(f) Evaluation approved on December 23, 1986, and is submitted pursuant to **49 U.S.C. 303**.

All required alternatives have been evaluated, and the findings made are clearly applicable to this proposed project.

This Programmatic Evaluation includes all possible planning to minimize harm which will be incorporated in this proposed project.



Tom Hansen, P.E.
Engineering Section Supervisor
Environmental Services Bureau

Date: 7/13/05

Approved: 
Federal Highway Administration

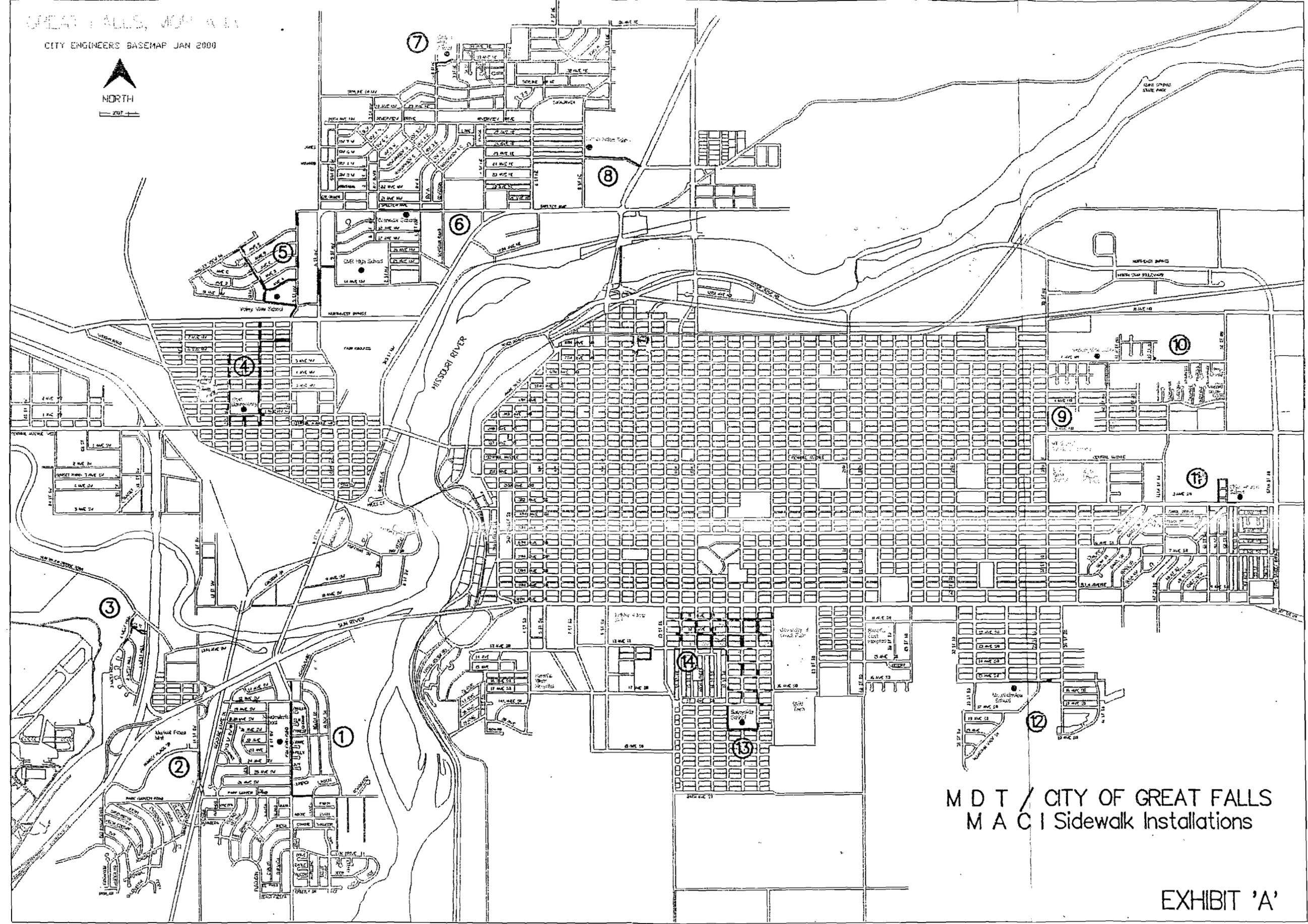
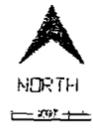
Date: 7/15/05

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

Attachments

- cc: Michael P. Johnson – District Administrator-Great Falls
- Tom S. Martin, P.E. – Consultant Design Engineer
- John H. Horton – Chief, Right-of-Way Bureau
- David W. Jensen – Supervisor, Fiscal Programming Section
- Jean A. Riley, P.E. – Chief, Environmental Services Bureau
- File

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA
CITY ENGINEERS BASEMAP JAN 2000



M D T / CITY OF GREAT FALLS
M A C I Sidewalk Installations

EXHIBIT 'A'

EXHIBIT B – LOCATION LIST

AREA	SITE	LOCATION	DETAILS
<u>Area 1</u>	Site 1	Fox Farm Road	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alder to Dahlia → 1 block east side 2. Dahlia to Elm → 1 block east side 3. Elm to Forest → 1 block east side 4. Forest to Grape → 1 block east side 5. Grape to Holly → 1 block east side 6. Holly to Ivy → 1 block east side 7. Ivy to Juniper → 1 block east side 8. Juniper to Park Garden → 1 block east side
	Site 2	Park Garden Road	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fox Farm to Linden → 1 block north side
	Site 3	18 th Avenue SW	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 100' 1 Lot between Treasure State + 11th Street SW → north side 2. 100' 1 Lot between Treasure State + 11th Street SW → north side
<u>Area 2</u>	Site 4	14 th Street SW	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. & 2. Long Block Park Garden to Market Place → 2 block east side
<u>Area 3</u>	Site 5	West Hill Place	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1st West Hill to 4th West Hill → 1 block one side
	Site 6	4 th West Hill Drive	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. West Hill Place to 2nd West Hill Drive → 1 block east side 2. 2nd West Hill Drive to 3rd West Hill Drive → 1 block east side
<u>Area 4</u>	Site 7	11 th Street NW	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Central Avenue to 1st Avenue → 1 block east side 2. 1st Avenue to 2nd Avenue → ½ block two sides 3. 2nd Avenue to 3rd Avenue → 1 block west side 4. 3rd Avenue to 4th Avenue → ½ block two sides ½ block west side 5. 4th Avenue to 5th Avenue → 1 block two sides 6. 5th Avenue to 6th Avenue → 1 block two sides 7. 6th Avenue to 7th Avenue → 1 block two sides 8. 7th Avenue to 8th Avenue → 1 block two sides 9. 8th Avenue to NW Bypass → ½ block two sides
		12 th Street NW	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Central Avenue to 1st Avenue → ½ block east side ½ block two sides
		13 th Street NW	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. 1st Avenue to 2nd Avenue → ½ block west side
		13 th Street NW	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. 2nd Avenue to 3rd Avenue → 1 block east side 13. 3rd Avenue to 4th Avenue → ¾ block east side 14. 4th Avenue to 5th Avenue → ½ block two sides → ½ block west side 15. 5th Avenue to 6th Avenue → ½ block two sides → ½ block east side
		1 st Avenue NW	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. 11th Street NW to 12th Street NW → 1 block one side 17. 12th Street NW to 13th Street NW → 1 block south side
		3 rd Avenue NW	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 18. 11th Street NW to 12th Street NW → 1 block two sides

		7 th Avenue NW	19. 9 th Street NW to 10 th Street NW → 1 block two sides 20. 10 th Street NW to 11 th Street NW → 1 block south side
<u>Area 5</u>	Site 8	11 th Street NW	1. 10 th Avenue to Avenue A. → 1 block east side 2. Avenue A. to Avenue B. → 1 block east side 3. Avenue B. to Avenue C. → 1 block east side 4. Avenue D. to Avenue E. → ½ block east side 5. Avenue E. to Valley View → 1 block east side
	Site 9	10 th Avenue NW	1. 6 th Street NW to 9 th Street NW → 1 place north side small 2. 9 th Street NW to 11 th Street NW → 3 blocks north side
	Site 10	Avenue A	1. 9 th Street NW to 11 th Street NW → 2 blocks north side
	Site 11	Avenue E	1. Removed.
	Site 12	6 th Street NW	1. 10 th Avenue NW to 16 th Avenue NW → 1 block two sides → 2 blocks east side
	Site 13	16 th Avenue NW	1. 5 th Street NW to 6 th Street NW → 1 block north side
<u>Area 6</u> Curb.	Site 14	Smelter Avenue	1. Division Road to River View B. → 1½ block north side 2. River View B to River View Blvd. → 3 blocks north side
	Site 15	18 th Avenue NW	1. 1 st Street NW to West → 1 block north side
<u>Area 7</u>	Site 16	33 rd Avenue NE	1. 2 nd Street NE to Skyline School → 1 block north side
	Site 17	2 nd Street NE	1. Removed.

<u>Area 8</u>	Site 18	25 th Avenue NE	1. 8 th Street NE to Highway. → blocks on north side → City Shop
<u>Area 9</u>	Site 19	38 th Street North	1. 2 nd Avenue No. to 3 rd Avenue No. → ½ block east side 2. 3 rd Avenue No. to 4 th Avenue No. → 1 block east side
<u>Area 10</u>	Site 20	7 th Avenue North	1. Riverwood Court to 45 th Street No. → 2 blocks north side
<u>Area 11</u>	Site 21	3 rd Avenue South	1. 52 nd Street So. to Chief Joseph School → 1 block north side
	Site 22	51 st Street South	1. 1 st Avenue So. to 2 nd Avenue So. → 1 block east side 2. 2 nd Avenue So. to 3 rd Avenue So. → 1 block east side
<u>Area 12</u>	Site 24	15 th Avenue South	1. 34 th Street So. to 39 th Street So. → 3 blocks south-north side
<u>Area 13</u>	Site 25	19 th Avenue South	1. 17 th Street So. to 18 th Street So. → 1 block two sides 2. 18 th Street So. to 19 th Street So. → 1 block north side - ½ block south side
		17 th Street South	3. 19 th Avenue So. to 17 th Avenue So. → 2 blocks east side
		19 th Street South	4. 19 th Avenue So. to 18 th Avenue So. → 1 block west side
		17 th Avenue South	5. 17 th Street So. to 20 th Street So. → 1½ blocks north and south side
		18 th Street South	6. 16 th Avenue So. to 17 th Avenue So. → ½ block west side 7. 14 th Avenue So. to 15 th Avenue So. → ½ block two sides ½ block west side
		19 th Street South	8. 14 th Avenue So. to 15 th Avenue So. → ½ block two sides 9. 16 th Avenue So. to 17 th Avenue So. → ½ block east side – ½ block west side
<u>Area 13</u>	Site 25	16 th Avenue South	10. 17 th Street So. to 19 th Street So. → Pieces → 1 block north side
		15 th Avenue South	11. 18 th Street So. to 19 th Street So. → ½ block south side
		14 th Avenue South	12. 18 th Street So. to 19 th Street So. → ½ block north side

Area 14

Site 26 11th Avenue South

1. 13th Street So. to 14th Street So. → ½ block south side
2. 14th Street So. to 15th Street So. → ½ block two sides ½ block south side
3. 15th Street So. to 16th Street So. → ½ block north and ½ block south side
4. 16th Street So. to 17th Street So. → 1 block south side → Piece two sides
5. 17th Street So. to 18th Street So. → ½ block two sides ½ block north side
6. 18th Street So. to 19th Street So. → 1 block two sides
7. 19th Street So. to 20th Street So. → ½ block two sides ½ block north side

Site 27 12th Avenue South

1. 13th Street So. to 14th Street So. → ½ block two sides
2. 14th Street So. to 15th Street So. → ½ block north side
3. 15th Street So. to 16th Street So. → ½ block two sides ½ block south side
4. 16th Street So. to 17th Street So. → ½ block two sides
5. 17th Street So. to 18th Street So. → ½ block two sides ½ block south side
6. 18th Street So. to 19th Street So. → ½ block two sides
7. 19th Street So. to 20th Street So. → ½ block two sides

Site 28 13th Avenue South

1. 13th Street So. to 14th Street So. → ½ block south side
2. 14th Street So. to 15th Street So. → 1 block south side
3. 15th Street So. to 16th Street So. → ½ block two sides – ½ block south side
4. 16th Street So. to 17th Street So. → ½ block two sides
5. 17th Street So. to 18th Street So. → 1 block north side
6. 18th Street So. to 19th Street So. → ½ block south side

Area 14

Site 29 14th Street South

1. 10th Avenue So. to 11th Avenue So. → ½ block east side
2. 11th Avenue So. to 12th Avenue So. → ½ block west side
3. 12th Avenue So. to 13th Avenue So. → ½ block two sides

15th Street South

4. 11th Avenue So. to 12th Avenue So. → 1 block two sides
5. 12th Avenue So. to 13th Avenue So. → 1 block east side

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 16 th Street South | 6. 10 th Avenue So. to 11 th Avenue So. → ½ block west side |
| | 7. 11 th Avenue So. to 12 th Avenue So. → ½ block two sides |
| | 8. 12 th Avenue So. to 13 th Avenue So. → 1 block two sides |
| 17 th Street South | 9. 10 th Avenue So. to 11 th Avenue So. → ½ block east side |
| | 10. 11 th Avenue So. to 12 th Avenue So. → ½ block east side ½ block west side |
| | 11. 12 th Avenue So. to 13 th Avenue So. → 1 block east side |
| | 12. 13 th Avenue So. to 14 th Avenue So. → ½ block two sides |
| | 13. 15 th Avenue So. to 16 th Avenue So. → ½ block east side |
| 18 th Street South | 14. 11 th Avenue So. to 12 th Avenue So. → 1 block east side ½ block west side |
| | 15. 12 th Avenue So. to 13 th Avenue So. → 1 block two sides |
| 19 th Street South | 16. 10 th Avenue So. to 11 th Avenue So. → ½ block east side |
| | 17. 11 th Avenue So. to 12 th Avenue So. → 1 block two sides |
| | 18. 12 th Avenue So. to 13 th Avenue So. → ½ block east side |
| 20 th Street South | 19. 10 th Avenue So. to 11 th Avenue So. → ½ block west side |
| | 20. 12 th Avenue So. to 13 th Avenue So. → ½ block west side |