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Environmental Services
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Helena, Montana 59620

MASTER COPY

Memorandum

To: David W. Jensen, Supervisor
Fiscal Programming Section

From: Thomas L. Hansen, PE
Engineering Services Supervisor
Environmental Services Bureau

RECEIVED
AUG 08 2006
LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE

Date: August 4, 2006

Subject: Categorical Exclusion
HSIP 279-1(12)4
SF069-FLASHER – N OF HELENA
CN 6061 000

Environmental Services has determined that this proposed project will not involve unusual circumstances as described under 23 CFR 771.117(b). The project qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion under the provisions of 23 CFR 771.117(c), part (8). The 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).

In accordance with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) letter of March 29, 1999, please notify FHWA that the proposed action is being processed in accordance with 23 CFR 771.117(c).

cc (w/o attach):	Mick Johnson	MDT Great Falls District Administrator
	Paul Ferry, PE	MDT Highway Engineer
	Stacy Hill, PE	MDT Great Falls Environmental
	John H. Horton	MDT Right-of-Way Bureau Chief
	Suzy Price	MDT Contract Plans Bureau Chief
	David W. Jensen	MDT Fiscal Programming Section Supervisor
	Jean Riley, PE	MDT Environmental Services Bureau Chief
	Heidy Bruner	MDT Environmental Services
cc (w/attach):	FILE	MDT Environmental Services
	Montana Legislative Branch Environmental Quality Council (EQC)	
	Lewis and Clark County Office	

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Montana Department of Transportation
PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001

RECEIVED
JUL 20 2006
ENVIRONMENTAL

Memorandum

To: Duane E. Williams, P.E.
Traffic and Safety Engineer

From: Ivan B. Ulberg, P.E.
Traffic Project Engineer

Date: July 17, 2006

Subject: Project No. HSIP 279-1(12)4, U.P.N. 6061 000
SF069-Flasher-N of Helena
Work Type 410 – Traffic Signals & Lighting

We request that you approve the Preliminary Field Review Report for the subject project.

Approved Dan Williams Date July 19, 2006
Duane E. Williams, P.E.
Traffic and Safety Engineer

We are requesting comments from the following individuals who have also received a copy of the report. We will assume their concurrences if no comments are received within three weeks of the approval date.

Cc: (all with attachments)

J. Walther, Engineering

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J.H. I
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Preliminary Field Review Report

The field review for the subject project was held June 27, 2006 with the following personnel in attendance:

Ivan Ulberg	Traffic Project Engineer	Helena
Tom Hanek	Safety Management	Helena
Allen Levens	Traffic Electrical	Helena
Sandie Stiffler	Traffic Safety	Helena
Jim Cornell	Traffic Signing	Helena
Larry Talseth	Traffic	Helena
Steve Prinzing	Engineering Services Supervisor	Great Falls
Lee Alt	Traffic Engineer	Butte (office only)
Fred C. Smith	Lewis & Clark County	(office only)

Proposed Scope of Work

The proposed project was nominated through the Safety Engineering Improvement Program to replace curve warning signs, install flashing beacons on the posts used with the curve warning signs, and install delineator tabs on the guardrail for an S-curve on State Secondary 279. The intent of the project is to address an accident cluster involving loss of vehicle control on the subject S-curve. *In addition to the above work, it was decided at the field review to replace all of the existing signing, to replace and relocate existing chevrons, and to replace existing delineation.* **The Traffic Section will design this project.**

Benefit/Cost Analysis/Cost Estimate

The initial cost estimate and benefit/cost ratio is as follows:

Route	Description	Reference Post	Cost Estimate	B/C Ratio
S-279	N of Helena	RP 3.8 - 4.6	$ 20,825	17.15

The cost estimate is as provided by the Safety Management section for the purposes of calculating a benefit-to-cost (B/C) ratio. A more complete cost estimate will be prepared as design progresses.

Project Location and Limits

This project is located within the Great Falls Financial District on State Secondary Route 279, commonly known as Lincoln Road, RP 3.8 - 4.6, approximately 8 miles north of Helena, MT. A map is included on the last page of this report for ease of reference.

Physical Characteristics

The roadway in the project area is in a rural setting, in open, rolling terrain. This section of S-279 was built in 1940 under project FAS 2-A(1) as a gravel road, and then paved in

1942 under project FAS 2-A(2). It was last improved in 1993 under project RTS 279-1(1) with a plant mix overlay, seal and cover. The typical section of S-279 consists of a 22 ft surface width, two 11 ft travel lanes, no shoulders, no curb and gutter, and no sidewalk.

Traffic Data

Following is traffic data:

2006 ADT =	1,630	(Present)
2008 ADT =	1,740	(Letting)
2018 ADT =	2,460	(Future)
DHV =	390	
T =	3.7 %	
EAL =	30	
AGR =	3.5 %	

Accident History

For the period of January 1, 1995 through December 31, 2003 (9 years) there were 11 total crashes between RP 3.8 and RP 4.6, 4 of which are addressable with the proposed improvements. Of the 4 addressable crashes 3 were injury accidents, which resulted in a total of 5 injuries. There were no fatal accidents among the 4 addressable crashes and 1 crash involved property damage only.

Major Design Features

Design Speed – S-279 is functionally classified as a major collector and traverses rolling terrain in a rural area. The posted speed limit on S-279 in the project area is 70 MPH. Based on Geometric Design Criteria for a Rural Collector in rolling terrain the design speed is 50 MPH.

Horizontal Alignment – There will be no changes to the existing horizontal alignment.

Vertical Alignment – There will be no changes to the existing vertical alignment.

Typical Sections – The typical section of S-279 consists of a 22 ft surface width, two 11 ft travel lanes, no shoulders, no curb and gutter, and no sidewalk.

Road Design

There will be no road design involvement.

Hydraulics

There will be no hydraulics involvement.

Bridge

There will be no bridge involvement.

Traffic Engineering

Traffic will prepare the plans needed to replace existing signing and delineation, install pole mounted flashing beacons, and to update the chevrons.

Right of Way

No new right of way will be required.

Utilities/Railroads

There will be no involvement with utilities or railroads.

Geotechnical

There will be no geotechnical involvement.

Environmental

No apparent significant environmental impacts or issues were identified. A Categorical Exclusion is anticipated for this project.

Survey

Cross sections need to be obtained in the area where the advance warning signs are being placed. Other than that the survey used for project STPHS-STPP 0002(92), UPN 2386, will be adequate for design of this project.

Public Involvement

Level A public involvement is appropriate.

Ready Date

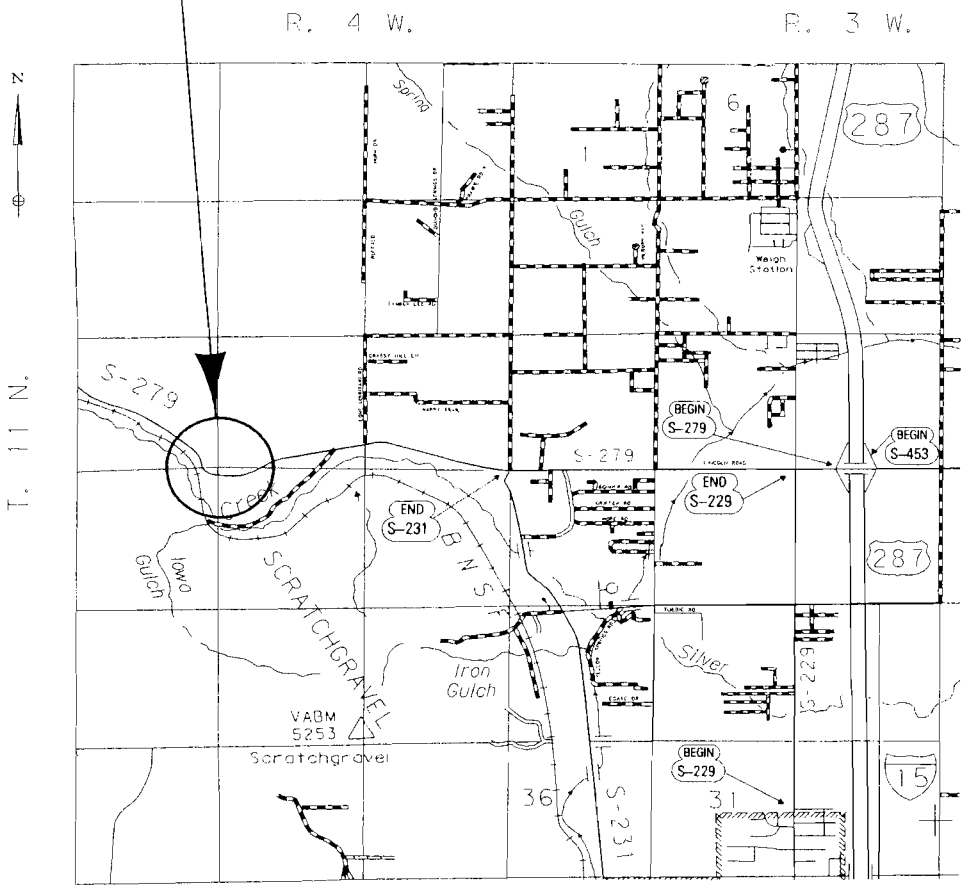
The project ready date will be established after the over-ride process is completed.

Traffic Control

Traffic will be maintained through the project construction with appropriate signing, flagging, etc., in accordance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

HSIP 279-1(12)4
SF069-FLASHER-N OF HELENA
UPN 6061000

S-279 RP 3.8 - 4.6



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