



January 2, 2009

Kevin McLaury  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
585 Shepard Way  
Helena, MT 59601-9785



Subject: Request for Concurrence of Continued Validity of CE Designation  
JCT Bootlegger Trail – NE  
MT 10-1(25)3  
Control Number: 6049000

Dear Kevin McLaury:

As the design phase of the subject project has progressed, some new information has become available. Based on recommendations from the May 14, 2008 meeting with the city of Great Falls, Cascade County, and the Great Falls Development Authority, the southern termini of the proposed project has been modified to begin at Reference Post (RP) 3.39 (north of the urban boundary RP 3.125) instead of at RP 2.99±. The northern termini will remain at RP 4.08±. The proposed scope of work is described below. The reduced project length eliminates the original proposed improvements at the intersection with Bootlegger Trail.

**Scope of Work**

The proposed project has been nominated to provide for additional lanes to improve public access to the Value Added Commodity Agricultural Park (AGRI Park) being developed north of Great Falls. Funding for the project is a Congressional Earmark being provided thru Section 117 of the 2005 Appropriations Act and has approximately \$1.6 million for this project.

The method of construction will be widening with an overlay and a seal and cover. The scope of work consists of extending the two existing northbound lanes to accommodate northbound vehicle acceleration leaving AGRI Park and extending the terminus of the project northerly past the entrance to AGRI Park far enough to provide a dedicated southbound left-turn lane into AGRI Park.

The proposed roadway will consist of two northbound lanes, one southbound lane, and a median/left turn lane. The proposed work includes grading, slope work, gravel, plant mix surfacing, seal and cover, pavement markings, signing, and drainage culverts. The project will require acquisition of new right-of-way and relocation of utilities. The selected design speed will be 110 km/h.

Please see the enclosed June 25, 2008, Scope of Work Report for additional project information.

MDT has reviewed this new information in regard to NEPA/MEPA applicability. MDT concludes that the proposed action will still not have a significant environmental impact, will still qualify as a CE under 23 CFR 771.117(d), and will still qualify as a CE under ARM 18.2.261. At this time, we request the FHWA's concurrence that the proposed action is still properly classified as a CE under 23 CFR 771.117(d).

Eric Thunstrom  
Eric Thunstrom  
Environmental Services Bureau  
Great Falls District Project Development Engineer

Date: 1/2/09

Heidy Bruner  
Concur Heidy Bruner, P.E.  
Environmental Services Bureau  
Engineering Section Supervisor

Date: 1/5/9.

[Signature]  
Concur [Signature]  
Federal Highway Administration

Date: 6 JAN 2009

enclosure

copies without enclosure:

Tom Martin, P.E.	Environmental Services Bureau Chief
Heidy Bruner, P.E.	Environmental Services Bureau Engineering Section Supervisor
Michael P. Johnson	Great Falls District Administrator
Paul Ferry, P.E.	Highway Engineer
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Steve Prinzing, P.E.	Great Falls District Engineering Services Supervisor
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File Environmental Services Bureau  
Montana Legislative Branch Environmental Quality Council (EQC)

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