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Montana Department of Transportation
2701 Prospect Avenue
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Helena MT 59620-1001

Jim Lynch, Director
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ENVIRONMENTAL

April 7, 2009

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

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Subject: Request for Concurrence of Continued Validity of CE Designation
Sidewalk Program – GTF Phase 3
ARRA 5299(81)
Control Number: 4568003

Dear Kevin McLaury:

The Sidewalk Program – GTF Phase 2, ARRA 5299(80), CN: 4568002 project qualified as a categorical exclusion (CE). The Sidewalk Program – GTF Phase 2, ARRA 5299(80), CN: 4568002 project has been split into the following two projects:

- ARRA 5299(80), Sidewalk Program – GTF Phase 2, CN: 4568002
The first project will include: Area 13, Site 25; Area 14, Site 27 and Site 28; Area 14, Site 29 – areas south of 12th Avenue South.

- ARRA 5299(81), Sidewalk Program – GTF Phase 3, CN: 4568003
The second project will include: Area 14, Site 26; Area 14, Site 29 – areas north of 12th Avenue South.

Please note the project referenced in the subject line is the project referenced in the second bullet above.

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) has reviewed the proposed subject project in accordance with 23 CFR 771.129(c) and has determined that this segment of the proposed subject project still qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion (CE) under the provisions of 23 CFR 771.117(d). This proposed project also continues to qualify as a CE under the provisions of ARM 18.2.261 (Sections 75-1-103 and 75-1-201, M.C.A.). The original CE was signed by your agency on July 15, 2005 and the CE re-evaluation for Phase 2 was approved by FHWA on December 29, 2008. This determination is based on the following information:

This segment is still proposed to install new sidewalk in multiple locations throughout the city of Great Falls. The project involves construction of new sidwalk in areas where none currently exist, replacement of existing sidewalk in some locations, and installation of ramps to accommodate current ADA design criteria. Additional detail can be found in the attached Project Split Report dated February 4, 2009.

As a result of splitting the project, it has been found that in accordance with 23 CFR 771.117(a), this proposed action would not cause significant individual, secondary, or cumulative environmental impacts. 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 Date: 4/7/09
Eric Thunstrom
Environmental Services Bureau
Great Falls District Project Development Engineer

Concur Heidy Bruner Date: 4/7/9.
Heidy Bruner, P.E.
Environmental Services Bureau
Engineering Section Supervisor

Concur Date: 9 APR 2009
Federal Highway Administration

Attachment

copies without attachment:

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
Steve Prinzing, P.E.	Great Falls District Engineering Services Supervisor
Kent Barnes, P.E.	Bridge Engineer
Paul Ferry, P.E.	Highway Engineer
Miki Lloyd, P.E.	Consultant Project Engineer
Stacy Hill, P.E.	Great Falls District Environmental Engineering Specialist
John H. Horton	Right-of-Way Bureau Chief
David W. Jensen	Fiscal Programming Section Supervisor
Suzy Price	Contract Plans Bureau Chief
Eric Thunstrom	Environmental Services Bureau District Project Development Engineer

copies with attachment:

File	Environmental Services Bureau

Montana Legislative Branch Environmental Quality Council (EQC)

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