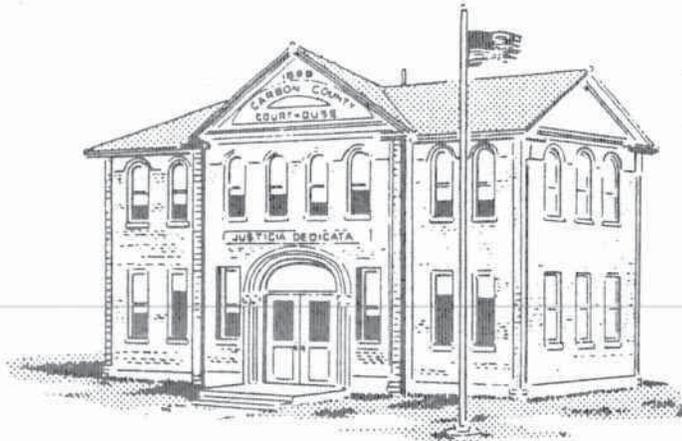


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August 16, 2010

Alan Woodmansey, Operations Engineer
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
585 Shepard Way
Helena, MT 59601

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AUG 19 2010
FHWA
MONTANA DIVISION

Subject: **Categorical Exclusion Group (d) Action Letter**

Reference: Federal-aid Project Number: STPE 5(42)
Federal-aid Project Name: BANK PRESERVATION - BEARCREEK
MDT Uniform Project Number: 6637

This is a request for FHWA concurrence that the 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 (MCA Sections 75-1-103 and 75-1-201). A project location map is attached.

This proposed project is a preservation of a historic bank building registered in the National Register of Historic Places.

The location of the proposed project is in the Town of Bearcreek, Montana.

The intent of the proposed project is to preserve the historic building through repairs and/or replacement of the roof, gutters, doors, windows, rafters, sills, and exterior wall work. Exterior wall work includes repointing mortar joints, patching cracks in the masonry and stonework, and painting and replacing exterior wood fascia.

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

- Stormwater Runoff
- Prime and Unique Farmlands
- Floodplains (EO 11988/FEMA)
- Hazardous Waste
- Noise
- Section 404 – Clean Water Act
- Social/Economic
- Stream Preservation/Water Quality

- Hazardous Waste
 - Stream Preservation/Water Quality
 - Historical/Cultural Resources
 - Threatened/Endangered Species
 - Changes in Land Use
 - Wetlands (EO 11990)
-
- USDOT – 4(f)/NL&WCF – 6(f) Acts

PROJECT IMPACTS

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

Historic/Cultural Resources – The Bearcreek Bank was built in 1906 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 2006. A Section 106 Determination of Effect has resulted in a finding of “No Adverse Effect,” which has been reviewed and concurred with by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on August 13, 2010. A copy of their concurrence letter is attached.

Section 4(f) – It has been determined that Section 4(f) does not apply to restoration, rehabilitation or maintenance of historic facilities when there is a “No Adverse Effect” determination, and when SHPO and the advisory council have been consulted and have not objected to this finding.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public Involvement – Carbon County conducted an advertised request for proposals in order for communities to obtain Community Transportation Enhancement Program (CTEP) funding. The proposals were opened on December 6, 2007. The Bearcreek Preservation project was chosen by Carbon County to be funded.

The Town of Bearcreek population is less than 100. The “Friends of Bearcreek” have conducted fund raising to enable preservation of their bank building.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Americans with Disabilities Act – will be installed in compliance with the *Americans with Disabilities Act* (PL 101-336).

CONCLUSION

The 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. The project will not create disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations (EO 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 the proposed project is properly classified as Categorical Exclusion.

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

Linda E. Mann

Signature of Environmental Certifying Official or Chief Elected Official

Linda E. Mann, Carbon County CTEP Administrator

Type Name and Title

Concur: *Mike Wherley*
CTEP Section Supervisor

Aug. 18, 2010
Date

Concur: *Stefan Streeter*
Federal Highway Administration

30 AUG 2010
Date

Attachment: Project Location Map

- cc: Stefan Streeter, MDT, District Administrator – Billings
Tim Conway, MDT, Consultant Design Engineer
Tom Martin, MDT, Bureau Chief – Environmental Services Bureau
Dave Jensen, MDT, Fiscal Planning Administrator
Mike Wherley, MDT, CTEP Section Supervisor
Todd Everts, Environmental Quality Council
Linda Mann, Carbon County CTEP Administrator
Lesley Gilmore, CTA Architects Engineers