

March 8, 2011

Alan Woodmansey, PE – Field Project Operations Engineer  
Federal Highway Administration (CTEP)  
585 Shepard Way  
Helena, MT 59601

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

Federal-aid Project Number: STPE 21(57)  
Federal-aid Project Name: Courthouse Pres – Hill Co.  
MDT Uniform Project Number: 7340

This is a request for the FHWA's concurrence that this proposed project meets the criteria for classification as a Categorical Exclusion under the provision of 23 *CFR* 771.117 (d). This proposed action also qualifies as 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 historic preservation project at the Hill County Courthouse that includes the following work: restoration of the exterior of the historic Courthouse, which includes the removal and replacement of the extant aluminum windows with historically accurate double-hung windows.

The location of the proposed project is the Hill County Courthouse, 315 Fourth Street, Havre, Montana 59501.

The intent of this proposed project is to restore the historical integrity of the Hill County Courthouse by removing and replacing the building's modern aluminum windows units, which are non-historic and not sympathetic to the Neoclassical Style architecture of the building. The new windows will be historically compatible.

This proposed action has been evaluated for and does not have any adverse effect on the following environmental concern:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Storm Runoff                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise                                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prime & Unique Farmlands         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Section 404 – <i>Clean Water Act</i> |
| <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 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"/> US DOT – 4(f)/NL&WCF – 6(f) Acts |  |

**PROJECT IMPACTS**

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

**Historical/Cultural Resources** – The Hill County Courthouse, erected in 1915, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places within the “Havre Historic Residential District.” It is one of Havre’s most significant public buildings. 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). A copy of their concurrence letter is attached.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

**Public Involvement** – Public participation is an essential element in Hill County’s selection of projects for CTEP funding. A legal notice advertising a public hearing to accept Community Transportation Enhancement Program (CTEP) ideas from the community was published in the Havre Daily News on April 15 and April 22, 2010. Additionally, an article detailing the County’s plan to accept the public’s CTEP ideas was published in the Havre Daily News on April 13, 2010, and broadcast on New Media Broadcasters (KOJM 610AM, KRYK 101.3, and KPQX 92.5) in the days preceding the public hearing.

The County Commission allocated funding to this project on April 29, 2010.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

**Americans with Disabilities Act** – the construction will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (PL 101-336).

**CONCLUSION**

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 (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 this proposed project is properly classified as Categorical Exclusion.

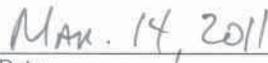


Environmental Certifying Official or Chief Elected Official

**Michael Wendland, Chair – Hill County Commission**

Name and Title

Concur   
CTEP Section Supervisor

  
Date

Concur

  
Federal Highway Administration

Date

17 MAR 11

Attachment: Project Location Map

cc: Mick Johnson – MDT Great Falls District Administrator  
Tim Conway, PE – MDT Consultant Design Engineer  
Tom Martin, PE – MDT Environmental Bureau Chief  
Eric Thunstrom – MDT Environmental Project Engineer  
Brad Burns – MDT Fiscal Planning  
Justin Greve – MDT Fiscal Planning  
Michael Wherley, PE – MDT CTEP Supervisor  
Todd Everts – Environmental Quality Council  
Hill County



Montana Department of Transportation

2701 Prospect Avenue  
PO Box 201001  
Helena MT 59620-1001

2011-02-05  
Jim Lynch, Director  
Brian Schweitzer, Governor

RECEIVED  
FEB 15 2011

BY: SHPO

RECEIVED

FEB 18 2011

ENVIRONMENTAL  
MONTANA SHPO  
DATE 2/16/11 SIGNED [Signature]

CTEP  
WINDOW  
HILL COUNTY  
COURTHOUSE  
HAVRE, MT  
(24HL940)

February 10, 2011

Mark Baumler, Ph.D.  
State Historic Preservation Office  
1410 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
P O Box 201202  
Helena, MT 59620-1202

Subject: STPE 21(57)  
Courthouse Preservation - Havre  
UPN 7340

Dear Mark:

Enclosed are the preliminary plans and bid package for the above CTEP project in Hill County. The proposed project would involve the replacement of windows at the Hill County Courthouse in Havre. The courthouse is a contributing component of the Havre Residential Historic District (24HL940). The existing windows do not appear to be original to the building. Based on our review of the preliminary bid package, we have determined that the proposed project would have **No Adverse Effect** to the Hill County Courthouse. We request your concurrence.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 444-6258.

*Jon Axline*  
Jon Axline, Historian  
Environmental Services

Enclosure

Copies: Mike Wherley, P.E., Consultant Design  
Phil Inman, P.E., Consultant Design  
Bonnie Gundrum, Resources Section