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ENVIRONMENTAL

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December 13, 2012

Jeff Patten, Operations Engineer  
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)  
585 Shepard Way  
Helena, MT 59601

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

Reference: Federal-aid Project Number: NA  
Federal-aid Project Name: VISITOR CENTER – COOKE CITY  
MDT Uniform Project Number: 8007

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 the installation of interpretive displays in the Cooke City Visitor Center. The project includes lighting, fencing, and the establishment of a ground cover on the Visitor Center property.

The location of the proposed project is at 206 Main Street, Cooke City, Montana.

The intent of the proposed project is to enhance the traveling public's experience through the interpretation of the scenic Beartooth All-American Highway and improve the appearance of the Visitor Center grounds.

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
- Historical/Cultural Resources
- Changes in Land Use
- USDOT – 4(f)/NL&WCF – 6(f) Acts
- Noise
- Section 404 – *Clean Water Act*
- Social/Economic
- Stream Preservation/Water Quality
- Threatened/Endangered Species
- Wetlands (EO 11990)

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

**Public Involvement** – The project was initiated and approved through the Park County Commissioner Meeting process.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

**Americans with Disabilities Act** – All amenities 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"

Signature of Environmental Certifying Official or Chief Elected Official

Marty Malone, Commissioner, Park County  
Park County, Environmental Certifying Official

Concur:   
Supervisor, Environmental Engineering Section

12/26/12  
Date

Concur:   
Federal Highway Administration

1/3/13  
Date

Attachment: Project Location Map

cc: Jeff Ebert, MDT, District Administrator – Butte  
Tim Conway, MDT, Consultant Design Engineer  
Tom Martin, MDT, Bureau Chief – Environmental Services Bureau  
Nicole Pallister, MDT, Fiscal Planning Administrator  
Mike Wherley, MDT, CTEP Section Supervisor  
Maureen Theisen, Legislature, EQC  
Tom Erving, MDT, Fiscal Planning  
Marty Malone, Park County, Commissioner  
Donna Rowland, Cooke City Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director  
Barry Brosten, MDT, Butte District Engineer – Environmental Engineering Section  
Heidy Bruner, MDT, Supervisor – Environmental Engineering Section