

BROADWATER COUNTY OLD TOWN ROAD WEST BRIDGE PROJECT



The Problem

This bridge located on Old Town Road West spans the Jefferson River approximately two miles north of Three Forks, connecting Broadwater and Gallatin Counties. Due to its deteriorated condition, the bridge currently has a 7-ton load posting, requiring large agricultural and emergency service vehicles to use an alternate route. Gallatin County has also submitted a grant application to replace the Old Town Road East bridge, located approximately one-quarter mile east of this structure. Due to the significant population increases in both Gallatin and Broadwater Counties, Old Town Road and the two bridges will continue to be vital infrastructure for the region.

The Solution

Construct a new concrete bulb-tee beam bridge that can carry two lanes of traffic and legal load limits to provide connectivity for residents, agricultural businesses, and emergency services.

The Cost

Current Project Estimate: \$1,814,491
Funding Applied For (to date):
• MCEP (ranked #7) \$750,000
BIL Grant: \$3,426,341 (for two bridges on Old Town Road)



The Need

Broadwater County is financially responsible for 16 bridges over 20-ft in length, in addition to an additional 16 bridges less than 20-ft in length. With a minimal tax base and a project estimated at nearly \$2 million, the County is depending on grant funding to assist with this bridge replacement project.

The Importance

Old Town Road serves as a connector route between Broadwater and Gallatin Counties, providing access for residents of both counties. The bridge is used for both agricultural and recreational activities and provides an essential route for emergency services, which are dispatched from Three Forks. A new bridge will ensure the route can accommodate large agriculture and emergency services traffic, allowing residents and the traveling public to safely access homes, farms, and State Lands.

Your Support for the MCEP Program and other infrastructure funding is critical for the success of the Broadwater County Old Town Road West bridge project





Three Forks Ambulance Service
2 E. Hickory
P.O. Box 911
Three Forks, MT 59752
(406) 404-7396

May 17th 2022

To whom these concerns:

Old Town Road Bridges

The Three Forks Area Ambulance supports the efforts of Gallatin County and Broadwater County to upgrade the bridges on Old Town Road in Three Forks.

The upgrade improvements will help us respond to the community in a timely manner during an emergency.

Sincerely,

Barbara Mutter

Treasurer/ Board of Directors



**City of Three Forks
PO Box 187
Three Forks, MT 59752
Phone/Fax (406) 285-3431**



May 13, 2022

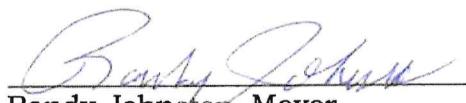
Ms. Becky Anseth
Montana Coal Endowment Program
Montana Department of Commerce
PO Box 200501
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Ms. Anseth,

The City of Three Forks Fire Department helps the Three Forks Rural Fire District by allowing our volunteer firefighters to operate the Rural's equipment when they are not needed in city limits. Because of this the City and Rural District both find a significant need to repair or replace the bridges over the Jefferson River in "Old Town" so that they can attend a fire quicker.

Without these bridge updates the firefighters must travel west on I-90 to the Hwy-287 exit and go around to Old Town. With the existing 7-ton weight limit on the bridges west of "Old Town, response time is greater than necessary, and mere minutes can save lives and homes. The trip around to 287 takes an additional 12 minutes! Bridge repair or replacement would greatly help the ability to provide standard and adequate fire services to this area.

Thank you for your consideration.


Randy Johnston, Mayor

***THREE FORKS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
PO BOX 1
THREE FORKS, MT 59752***

May 16, 2022

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Montana Coal Endowment Program
Montana Department of Commerce
PO Box 200501
Helena, MT 59620

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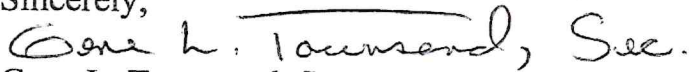
I am writing in regards to two bridges; one is in Gallatin County and the other is in Broadwater County. The Three Forks Rural Fire District Fire Protection Area is in both counties. These bridges are both in dire need of being replaced due to weight restrictions which do not allow our fire engines and water tender quick access to approximately 75 homes located on Old Town and Eustis Roads.

We currently have to travel to Highway 287 then go north to Old Town Road where it intersects with Highway 287. This route adds at least an additional 18 minutes to our response time.

The Three Forks Rural Fire District has a Jaws of Life unit that responds to traffic accidents. The Jaws unit is required to have a fire truck with a charged fire water line before operation; so, the Jaws unit is also prevented from using these bridges.

The Board of Trustees of the Three Forks Rural Fire District fully supports the efforts of both Gallatin and Broadwater Counties in the replacement of these bridges. Their replacements could help save lives and property in the future.

Sincerely,


Gene L. Townsend, Secretary
Three Forks Rural Fire District

Cc: Gallatin County Commissioners, Broadwater County Commissioners

Kathy Thompson

From: bunnykurk <bunnykurk@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:25 AM
To: Kathy Thompson
Subject: bridges

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows
May 18, 2022

Stahly Engineering & Associates, Inc
Attn: Kathy Thompson
851 Bridger Drive
Suite 1
Bozeman, Mt. 59715

Support for replacement of Old Town Rd. bridges.

To whom it may concern:

I am a land owner and user of the two bridges located on Old Town Rd. over the Jefferson river. I would like to voice my support of the

Bridge projects currently being planned by Gallatin and Broadwater Counties for replacement of these two structures.

I am concerned about the safety problems that have been identified with the existing structures. They have been registered as the two oldest bridges in Gallatin County. New bridges with the capacity to handle heavier loads and two lane traffic, would make transporting farm to market loads and emergency vehicle access much easier and less costly than pursuing alternate routes. My home is located just west of present bridges can only be reached by a 30 minute alternate route by emergency equipment.

Gallatin County GIS mapping has listed Old Town Rd. as short cut to highway 287 from Three Forks but with old single lane bridges and Gravel road between them, swimmers and other recreationist using that area, it is very dangerous. Traffic has multiplied many times over,

Thank you for looking at this very important project for our area.

Sincerely
Steven and Bunny Kurk
350 Old Town Rd.
Three Forks, Mt. 59752

MCEP Old Town Bridge Hearing

Mr./Madam Chair and members of the committee,

I would like to thank the committee for their selection of this project and to thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the Old Town Bridge Project.

Like many of our older truss style bridges that were installed at the turn of the 19th century they have served us well. However, they were not designed to last forever. Such is the case for the two bridges that span the Jefferson River on Old Town road north of Three Forks, Montana. Due to their deteriorating condition the bridges have been closed for public safety concerns. As you are aware whenever a bridge is closed it raises the level of concern by our citizens that rely on it for commuting to work, recreation, agriculture and emergency services.

Some benefits of this project are that Gallatin and Broadwater Counties have been able to work together to benefit our citizens in both counties. By combining these projects, we are able to mobilize equipment on the two bridges into one project, saving our taxpayers money and allow those savings to be used on other MCEP projects.

I would like to express one of our greatest concerns in regard to public safety. Currently because of weight restrictions and the bridge closure our first responders have to use an alternate route to respond to that area.

Having to use the Hwy 287 alternate route our first responder's response times are delayed when responding to the Old Town and Eustis areas.

Here is an example; response time from the TF Rural Fire Hall or TF Ambulance Barn to Eustis Road is 8 minutes or 3.2 miles via the route using the Old Town bridges to cross the Jefferson River.

Response time from the TF Rural Fire Hall or TF Ambulance Barn via Hwy 287 to Eustis Road is 19 minutes or 12.5 miles.

That's a significant amount of time in the first responder world, who knows if that additional response time would make a difference in someone's life?

Thank you for your time, your consideration and your support of the Old Town Bridge Project.

Respectfully,



Darrel Folkvord

Broadwater County Commissioner

BROADWATER COUNTY OLD TOWN ROAD WEST BRIDGE PROJECT

BROADWATER COUNTY
MONTANA

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