



April 15, 2025

Mitch Buthod
Statewide & Urban Planning Supervisor
Montana Department of Transportation
2701 Prospect Avenue
Helena, MT 59620

Subject: Request for Federal Funding Priority for Grand Avenue, Billings, Montana

Dear Mr. Buthod,

On behalf of the Billings Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the Policy Coordinating Committee members (City of Billings, Yellowstone County, Yellowstone County Planning Board, Montana Department of Transportation District 5) is formally requesting that Grand Avenue be designated as a priority for federal funding through the Surface Transportation Program – Urban (STPU) and Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ). As the MPO for the Billings urban area, we recognize the critical need to improve this corridor to support regional mobility, economic development, and safety.

Portions of Grand Avenue exist as a two-lane county road section in a growing area of the city that has no sidewalk or other multi-modal element. Increasing traffic levels on a narrow road and the inability to separate left-turning vehicles are a main safety concern. This project completes Grand Avenue to City arterial standards where the street has not been constructed between 41st Street West and 62nd Street West. Grand Avenue is proposed as a three-lane roadway from 41st Street West to 62nd Street West, including a transition west from Shiloh Road. The project will construct a separate, multi-use path on one side and a separated sidewalk on the opposite side of the roadway. Multi-modal improvements, including recommendations from the Safe Routes to School plan, will be considered and implemented. Streetlights will be installed along the roadway corridor. A new traffic signal is anticipated at Grand Avenue and 56th Street West. Additionally, stormwater improvements will be constructed with the project, which will serve the roadway runoff as well as developments within the area. This will result in an overall improvement to the functionality of the stormwater on Billings' west end.

