

Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

May 27, 2021

1. **BBWA Ditch** – The last 24-28 hours personnel with the BBWA Canal have noticed cracks appearing in the slope below their canal. The city has hired a geotechnical firm to analyze the situation. Please see the attached letter going out to property owners along the BBWA Canal this afternoon.
2. **BUILD Grant Update** - The City of Billings was awarded a BUILD grant in September of 2020. To keep the City Council updated on activities and milestones, this update will be provided monthly. Information will be provided by the Public Works Engineering Division, Planning Division and City Administration. To provide as much information on the BUILD grant process, staff has developed a website to house information. This website is still in development and information will be continually added as available if please check back for updated material. [BUILD Grant](#)
 - The draft agreement template has been received by the City. This agreement will be developed with input from the City and FHWA in the next few months. Note: The agreement cannot be submitted until the construction documents are ready. This means the City will need to complete the right-of-way purchase, environmental documents and final construction documents before the agreement is sent to Federal Highways (FHWA) for its review. It is anticipated that the FHWA review and signing could take up to 6-months. This tentatively puts an executed agreement to April 2022; however, staff is doing everything possible to expedite any requirement. Once the city receives the executed agreement, the project can be bid. [These tentative dates do not take in account the potential for some back and forth between the city and FHWA on the final agreement.](#)
 - There are four active Engineering items occurring.
 - The City received the appraisals from Mr. Repac and is contracting with a second appraiser for the review appraisal required by right-of-way procurement procedures.
 - The NEPA scope of work was contracted with the consultant and is underway. The field biological resources field work will be performed the week of May 25. The indirect/cumulative effects analysis is approximately 50% complete and the noise determination memo is 100% complete.
 - A cultural resources report update was required as part of the NEPA process and the City engaged Ethnoscience to complete that work. Ethnoscience will be conducting the field review in the next two weeks with the report delivered shortly thereafter.
 - As the remaining geotechnical work and final design of the Skyline Trail are now part

of the Build grant, the City issued a request for proposal for the remaining work. Proposals are due on May 21 and the City will select the consultant the following week. The consultant agreement will be placed on the city council agenda June 14 for approval. We anticipate completing the additional geotechnical work requested and final design of the Skyline Trail in the next two months.

- Planning continues to work on setting up the numerous progress reports that will be required FHWA to administer the grant.
- **Save the Date: June 15, 2021 at 12p.m.** – The official kickoff/press release of the project is scheduled for the above date and time. Staff will be coordinating between FHWA, Congressional delegation, and Mayor/Council for the event timing.

Next steps: Continue initial review of the agreement, continue right-of-way procurement and environmental work. Staff will continue with regular meetings and correspondence with our FHWA representative. Finalize public announcement and press event. BUILD website will be continually updated with information as it is available

3. **Height's Task Force** – Scott Walker, Mac Fogelsong, Travis Harris and I provided an update to the Heights task force on the Inner Belt Loop. We answered questions and committed to attending future meetings to continue sharing progress.
4. **Public Safety Mill Levy – Mayor Cole, Councilmembers Shaw, Neese and Choriki** along with Kevin Iffland, Gina Dahl and I reviewed the draft 2021 Public Safety Mill Levy draft ordinance and resolution for Council's consideration June 14th and 28th.

Have a wonderful weekend!



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Attention Property Owner or Current Tenant:

Within the last 24-48 hours, personnel with the BBWA Canal noticed cracks appearing in the slope below their canal. They contacted the city as the affected land is a city park and because a portion of the road below the slope is "heaving". These observations concerned city staff and we have hired a geotechnical firm to inspect the site and surrounding area. The geotechnical engineers' inspection is continuing and will continue into Friday. While we do not have any definitive information yet, we wanted to make you aware that there will be activity on the slope above your property. We recognize the impact a failure of this slope would have on adjacent properties and we are taking the necessary steps to assess the situation and take necessary actions. We will continue to keep you apprised of progress on the inspection and potential stabilization activities. To assist us in sharing information with you in a timely manner or to advise you in the event an emergency arises, please provide us with an email or phone number where you can reliably be reached.

The following people can be contacted for information about the project:

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