

## Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

October 28, 2022

- Proposed CIP for FY2024-FY2028** - Staff has completed the proposed CIP for FY2024-FY2028. The document can be found at [www.billingsmt.gov/cip](http://www.billingsmt.gov/cip) along with the currently approved FY2023 CIP and a link to the GIS map showing the locations of many of the projects. The proposed CIP is planned to be presented to City Council at the November 7<sup>th</sup> Work Session.
- Leaf Collection** - November is our last month for green barrel collection this year. As you know, it runs from April through November. We recognize that there are a lot of leaves this time of year and the green barrels get filled quickly. Also, residents may have leaves collected after our last green barrel collection. In order to help our citizens, we added containers to several parks around the city and our residents are welcome to drop off leaves in any of those locations. In addition, we will be running twice as many "extra" trucks each Monday throughout November to help with the many bags of leaves that will be set out for collection. We are planning to open the drop off facility as early as next week so it will be more inviting for our users to take leaves to the landfill directly. We will let you know exactly when the drop off facility will be open after the walkthrough on Monday, October 31.



3. **Top Honors - 2023 ACEC-Montana (American Council of Engineering Companies of Montana) Engineering Excellence Awards Announcement:** We are pleased to announce that a City of Billings project won the 2023 ACEC-Montana Grand Award! The Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) nutrient upgrade project that was done over the past several years claimed the top honor. This project was a \$75M upgrade to our Water Reclamation Facility to improve nutrient removal as required by our DEQ discharge permit. The project was a great success, and the plant is able to discharge incredibly clean effluent to the river.

**Top Honors!!**

**The ACEC-Montana Grand Project Award, honoring the year's top engineering achievement, will be presented to:**

**FIRM: HDR ENGINEERING, INC.**

**PROJECT: CITY OF BILLINGS NUTRIENT UPGRADE, EXPANSION, AND IMPROVEMENTS**

**CLIENT: CITY OF BILLINGS**

**WASTE AND STORM WATER CATEGORY**

The City of Billings' Water Reclamation Facility Nutrient Upgrade, Expansion and Improvements project provides a unique biological process to reduce the quantity of nitrogen and phosphorus discharged into the environmentally critical Yellowstone River. The team turned to innovative methods to add new treatment processes into the existing plant, while maintaining treatment capabilities throughout a complicated construction effort, and repurposing existing facilities. The effort saved approximately \$200 million, and the result is a 97% reduction in soluble reactive phosphorus discharge. Completed on schedule, the project met the reduced effluent nutrient requirements prior to the updated permit requirements and helps keep the Yellowstone River one of the world's greatest trout streams for decades to come.

---

**SPECIAL PROJECTS CATEGORY HONOR AWARD:**

**FIRM: MORRISON-MAIERLE, INC.**

**PROJECT: BILLINGS AIRPORT COMMERCIAL APRON CONSTRUCTION**

**CLIENT: BILLINGS LOGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

Alkali-Silica Reaction (ASR) is a chemical reaction in concrete that causes it to explode. ASR had not been seen in Montana until Morrison-Maierle discovered it at the Billings airport. This new project—which will last for 40 years or more—sets a new standard for concrete projects in Montana. (See attached.)

4. **Kudos from a customer -** Jim Duncan contacted us recently to give some feedback on positive interactions he had with some of our Public Works field personnel. Earlier this summer, the meter at Jim's home was operating incorrectly and Jeff Weber, Field Representative from our Meter Shop, came to his house and replaced it. Jim was impressed with the responsiveness, knowledge and professionalism displayed by Jeff. And recently, the sewer line near Jim's home failed. Adam Kuchin, Senior Equipment Operator, and his team responded and then when they found out what was wrong, they pulled in Quincy Clark, Distribution/Collection Supervisor. According to Jim, both Adam and Quincy and their teams have gone above and beyond in dealing with the

situation. Unfortunately, the issue will require more than a simple fix and according to Jim, "They have been service-oriented and obviously care about doing the right thing. The people on the team were incredible. I am impressed by their conscientiousness about resources and their communication through the process." According to Debi Meling, all three of these individuals and their teams exemplify the vision of Public Works to exceed expectations through innovation, integrity, and service to the community. Thanks to Jim for letting us know and thanks to Jeff, Adam and Quincy and their teams for living our vision!

5. **Thorn Run (TH) Meetings** – This week's Zoom meetings were with Aviation & Transit and Parks & Recreation to discuss department priorities and federal grant opportunities. TH are the City's advocates in DC. Next week's calls include transportation (PW, Planning and Transit) and a meeting with FEMA inclusive of FD and KC (county DES). The Council's adopted strategies and priorities are the foundation of our legislative priorities so far.
6. **City, County & School District 2 (SD2) Meeting** – our agenda and time primarily focused on safety. SD2 and the city collaborate on improvements to traffic and pedestrian safety in school zones. RiverStone also presented their Nurse Family Partnership program (NFP). NFP will be placed on an upcoming SD2 board agenda for further discussion and consideration. RiverStone is looking for a 5-year commitment at \$300k/yr. to double the size of the current program. NFP is one of the most successful evidence-based home visiting programs in the country with 40+ years in the US and 10 years in Yellowstone County. The program data shows strong reductions in domestic violence and the family staying out of the criminal justice system while also staying in the work force and the child being kindergarten ready.
7. **Board and Commission Volunteer Appreciation Dinner** – A big thank you to everyone who planned Tuesday evening's event.

8. **From the PIO Desk:**

City looks to fill board and commission vacancies, community members encouraged to apply -  
<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2399>

City of Billings Code Enforcement and Solid Waste team up to "toss out" graffiti -  
<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2397>

From Planning: Calling all artists for Mobilize the MAGIC City artist in residence opportunity -  
<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2398>

Regular business meeting recap – 10/24/22 -  
<https://www.facebook.com/CityofBillings/posts/pfbid024nzEDJijsiAJL6ig8zCsxfjaCqX8v1f1UjqqrgWkmmEKVfUBAECmk2US44CBVt8I>

## **Billings in the news**

Billings is a step closer to creation of downtown crisis response units -

[https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/billings-is-a-step-closer-to-creation-of-downtown-crisis-response-units/article\\_2b4ed6ca-53d4-11ed-ae5a-2f511ed1cbee.html](https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/billings-is-a-step-closer-to-creation-of-downtown-crisis-response-units/article_2b4ed6ca-53d4-11ed-ae5a-2f511ed1cbee.html)

Billings battalion chief learns about radiation during overseas training -

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/billings-battalion-chief-learns-about-radiation-during-overseas-training>

City boosting traffic safety on Lake Elmo Drive in Billings Heights -

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/city-boosting-traffic-safety-on-lake-elmo-drive-in-billings-heights>

Is it legal to rake your leaves into the streets in Billings? - <https://billingsmix.com/is-it-legal-to-rake-your-leaves-into-the-streets-in-billings/>

Billings to make leaf collection sites available at 6 parks -

[https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/billings-to-make-leaf-collection-sites-available-at-6-parks/article\\_0c01b2c4-53c0-11ed-a3ee-4f42396d1de8.html](https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/billings-to-make-leaf-collection-sites-available-at-6-parks/article_0c01b2c4-53c0-11ed-a3ee-4f42396d1de8.html)

Calling all artists for Mobilize the MAGIC City artist in residence opportunity -

[https://www.kulr8.com/news/calling-all-artists-for-mobilize-the-magic-city-artist-in-residence-opportunity/article\\_4de6efcc-5633-11ed-ac67-bb8e4272e154.html](https://www.kulr8.com/news/calling-all-artists-for-mobilize-the-magic-city-artist-in-residence-opportunity/article_4de6efcc-5633-11ed-ac67-bb8e4272e154.html)



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
*of Montana*

**ACEC-Montana is pleased to announce the results of its 2023 Engineering Excellence Awards Competition.**

Evaluating the entries was no small task. Accordingly, we would like to extend a huge **THANK YOU** to our distinguished panel of judges who contributed substantial time and effort in their review of this year's entries.

**Engineering Excellence Award Judges:**

Dan VanLuchene, Professor Emeritus - Montana State University

Anders Larsson, Engineering Professor - Montana State University

Gary Fischer, Engineering Professor – Carroll College

**SPECIAL PROJECTS CATEGORY HONOR AWARD:  
FIRM: MORRISON-MAIERLE, INC.**

**PROJECT: BILLINGS AIRPORT COMMERCIAL APRON CONSTRUCTION  
CLIENT: BILLINGS LOGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

Alkali-Silica Reaction (ASR) is a chemical reaction in concrete that causes it to explode. ASR had not been seen in Montana until Morrison-Maierle discovered it at the Billings airport. This new project—which will last for 40 years or more—sets a new standard for concrete projects in Montana.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MORRISON-MAIERLE'S CONTRIBUTION/DESIGN TO THE PROJECT**

Alkali-Silica Reactivity (ASR) is a chemical reaction in concrete that forms a gel (aggregate with certain forms of silica that reacts with alkali hydroxide during this process). When water absorbs into concrete slabs, ASR produces a gel that expands and causes pressure on the surrounding concrete. Over time—with rain, humidity, and the ASR reaction—the concrete will start to explode. This process happens over time, and once it begins, the explosions will create foreign object debris (FOD) on

the concrete's surface. FOD is particularly hazardous on airfields where aircraft need smooth surfaces.

While ASR has been an issue in many states, no actual cases of ASR were documented in Montana until Morrison- Maierle discovered it at the Billings Logan International Airport. The airport design team developed an innovative plan to mitigate the ASR problem on the airport's concrete aprons, including a phasing schedule alongside the terminal expansion project. They created a plan to pour additional concrete slabs for commercial aircraft use while they removed the ASR-impacted concrete. Since there were no previous ASR instances at Montana's other airports, Morrison-Maierle used a combination of lithium and fly ash in the new concrete pavement section. This solution prevented ASR from taking place within the new 16-inch-thick concrete slab and will be an example of how other projects can address this issue in the future.