

## Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

December 8, 2023

1. **United expands capacity in Billings** - United Airlines is increasing the frequency of their daily flights to Denver International Airport with the fourth trip per day returning on March 31. A fifth seasonal daily flight is scheduled to begin on May 23. This increases Denver International Airport flights by 19% and available seats by 13% over January to August 2023. This is another win for the BIL – Community Air Service Development Team!
2. **Skyline Trail Ribbon Cutting** – Planning started in the early 90's and the ribbon was cut Thursday afternoon on arguably one of Billings most iconic assets The Skyline Trail. See the media coverage below.
3. **Council Operation Committee** – The committee made progress on the draft resolution setting the size and budget for the local government study commission. A resolution must be approved by the Council no later than March 2024. Voters will decide on local government study commissions for both city and county during the 2024 primary.
4. **Council Orientation** – This morning we held our first council orientation session with Scott and Bill. The session was on the development review process with Community Dev., Public Works, and Transit. Our next session is December 19.
5. **Park, Rec. Trail Bond Discussion** – Staff debriefed on the failed bond election. One significant takeaway is to press forward to expand our recreation programming using both public and private spaces throughout the city. This activates spaces and provides safe options for kids and parents.
6. **New City Hall Tour** – City Council toured the new city hall Monday afternoon. The project remains on schedule for completion in late summer early fall 2024.
7. **Leadership Billings** – Government Day focused on navigating difficult conversations; state of the city with Mayor Cole and myself; addressing housing challenges panel with Rep. Katie Zolnikov, CC Kendra Shaw, Building Association Kim Welzenbach and HomeFront Pam Tenancy; CPTED 101 Dan Brooks and Joe Stout conducting several abbreviated assessments around town; Police and Fire with Chief St John, Assistant Chief Banfield and their teams.
8. **City of Billings Receives Grant Funding** – Please see the attached update on the Northwest Billings Connector/Skyline Trail Project.
9. **Public Safety Mill Levy Breakdown** – Current PSML implementation statistics pursuant to Councilmember Neese's request. (Please see attached.)
10. **Next Week's Meetings/Task Forces**
  - a. Legislative & Local Affairs Committee – Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 4:00 PM, City Hall Conference Room.

**11. 2024 Council Meeting Schedule** – Please see the attached Council Meeting schedule for upcoming items on the agenda.

**12. New City Hall Update –**

**5th Floor**

HVAC trim out is completed in all of the areas it can be for now.  
Install of light fixtures in ceiling grid.  
Pulling wire to electrical panels for lights.  
Installation of WCT-3 in council chambers has started.  
Worked on the replacement of the sprinkler pipe for the dry system.  
Received and stocked the new windows.

**4th Floor**

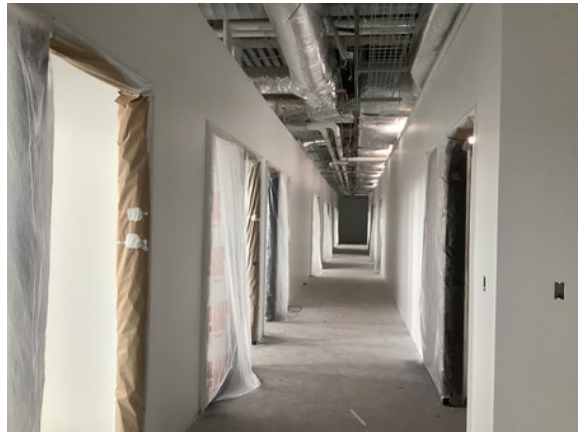
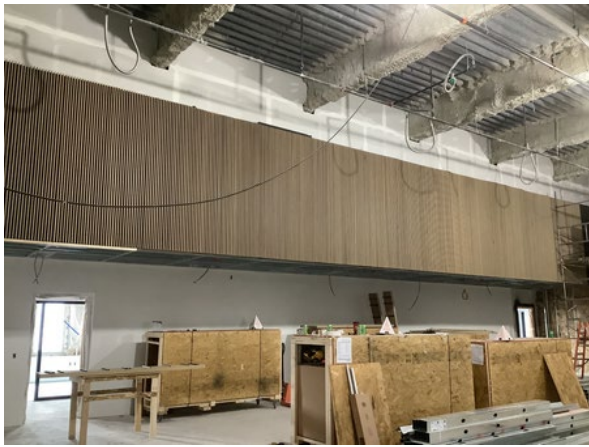
Worked on lighting control, home runs and light boxes.  
Prime and paint walls throughout the floor.  
Frame hard lids in interrogation and restrooms.  
Spray head of wall above hard lids.

**2nd Floor**

HVAC overhead rough in.  
Build and start install of new plenum boxes.  
Hydronic piping to VAV's.  
Waste, vent, and wall rough in.  
Core drilling for waste and vent piping.  
Install overhead conduit, light boxes, and cable tray.  
Hanging sheetrock on north end of building.  
Sheetrock taping on the south end of the building.  
Misc. framing in restroom group.

**1st Floor**

Installation of new glass in window frames has started.  
Wall and soffit framing continue.  
Wall framing layout on the SE side of the building.  
Plumbing wall rough in layout started.  
Core drilling for waste piping.  
HVAC overhead rough in got started.



### 13. City Communications –

*Billings welcomes two additional daily flights by United Airlines with service to Denver*

<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2551>

*Terminal Expansion Project update at BIL*

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=371928441891247&set=a.281445274272898>

*North Park projects update*

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=746157524213095&set=a.222453499916836>

*New LED street lights installed on Montana Avenue*

<https://www.facebook.com/billingsmtpublicworks/posts/pfbid037iVRJvEjpuuW6ETVHHEBq9Ej688owSjt9ytwRdH2qJXsBUAPckumvd8ZSC44cXzkI>

*Two new officers graduate from Montana Law Enforcement Academy*

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=740884051406709&set=a.226302889531497>

*Billings PD weekly brief*

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=739995431495571&set=a.226302889531497>

*New Library Express Lockers installed in Lockwood*

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=750785360409935&set=a.551966893625117>

## **Admin & Council**

*Mill levy money poured into response to crime surge in Billings*

[https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/crime-courts/roles-created-by-billings-public-safety-mill-levy-out-in-nearly-full-force/article\\_d3d9a3de-90a4-11ee-a142-1fbe5e4c4a43.html](https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/crime-courts/roles-created-by-billings-public-safety-mill-levy-out-in-nearly-full-force/article_d3d9a3de-90a4-11ee-a142-1fbe5e4c4a43.html)

*Photos: Billings City Council members tour new City Hall*

[https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/city-hall-tour/article\\_8b260db4-92ff-11ee-a2c9-4b92024d2abc.html](https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/city-hall-tour/article_8b260db4-92ff-11ee-a2c9-4b92024d2abc.html)

*Yellowstone County seeks short-term solution for jam-packed jail and 2024 bond for expansion*

[https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/yellowstone-county-seeks-solutions-for-overcrowded-jail/article\\_5c350d6e-9482-11ee-a770-1f6b0ad2422c.html](https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/yellowstone-county-seeks-solutions-for-overcrowded-jail/article_5c350d6e-9482-11ee-a770-1f6b0ad2422c.html)

*Billings city leaders hold public meeting aimed at improving safety*

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/billings-city-leaders-holding-public-meeting-aimed-at-improving-safety>

*The City of Billings hosted a public safety roundtable discussion on improving health and safety*

[https://www.kulr8.com/news/the-city-of-billings-hosted-a-public-safety-roundtable-discussion-on-improving-health-and-safety/article\\_b5785f76-9328-11ee-a8ca-4306806728ef.html](https://www.kulr8.com/news/the-city-of-billings-hosted-a-public-safety-roundtable-discussion-on-improving-health-and-safety/article_b5785f76-9328-11ee-a8ca-4306806728ef.html)

*Billings sets sights on public safety after five killed in spate of shootings*

[https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/billings-shootings-spur-public-safety-work/article\\_9868c8d8-934d-11ee-83ff-9b73cc85aa37.html](https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/billings-shootings-spur-public-safety-work/article_9868c8d8-934d-11ee-83ff-9b73cc85aa37.html)

## **BPD**

*Billings police reporting increase in theft from vehicle complaints, vandalism*

[https://www.kulr8.com/news/billings-police-reporting-increase-in-theft-from-vehicle-complaints-vandalism/article\\_e02e035a-945f-11ee-87ad-338d510e477c.html](https://www.kulr8.com/news/billings-police-reporting-increase-in-theft-from-vehicle-complaints-vandalism/article_e02e035a-945f-11ee-87ad-338d510e477c.html)

## **CE**

*'Flop houses' suck police resources in Billings. Whose job is the cleanup?*

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/flop-houses-suck-police-resources-in-billings-whose-job-is-the-cleanup>

## **BIL**

*Billings Logan expansion due for completion in 2024*

[https://www.kulr8.com/news/billings-logan-expansion-due-for-completion-in-2024/article\\_2549b594-9535-11ee-8ffd-f319182866e7.html](https://www.kulr8.com/news/billings-logan-expansion-due-for-completion-in-2024/article_2549b594-9535-11ee-8ffd-f319182866e7.html)

## **PW**

*Billings Skyline Trail opening celebrated on the Rims*

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/billings-skyline-trail-opening-celebrated-on-the-rims>

*Skyline Trail officially opens to public use*

[https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/skyline-trail-officially-opens-to-public-use/article\\_ae310e45-928c-5172-85af-4a3c6d0fa581.html](https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/skyline-trail-officially-opens-to-public-use/article_ae310e45-928c-5172-85af-4a3c6d0fa581.html)

*Skyline Trail opens Thursday*

[https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/skyline-trail-opening/article\\_f7dc49e6-954d-11ee-9910-afb43b0552d8.html](https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/skyline-trail-opening/article_f7dc49e6-954d-11ee-9910-afb43b0552d8.html)

*Billings Public Works announces a new update to the River Intake System*

[https://www.kulr8.com/billing-public-works-announces-a-new-update-to-the-river-intake-system/video\\_d41daab8-8f21-11ee-8198-fbf21ceade3f.html](https://www.kulr8.com/billing-public-works-announces-a-new-update-to-the-river-intake-system/video_d41daab8-8f21-11ee-8198-fbf21ceade3f.html)

*Downtown Billings one-way streets set to upgrade into two-way streets*

[https://www.kulr8.com/news/downtown-billings-one-way-streets-set-to-upgrade-into-two-way-streets/article\\_635a17f6-939c-11ee-bce1-c3715c7f9ddb.html](https://www.kulr8.com/news/downtown-billings-one-way-streets-set-to-upgrade-into-two-way-streets/article_635a17f6-939c-11ee-bce1-c3715c7f9ddb.html)

## **In other news...**

*Open letter from a Billings mom on youth crime in Montana*

<https://realnewsmontana.com/ixp/990/p/open-letter-from-a-billings-mom-on-youth-crime-in-montana/>

*Downtown Billings housing developments underway*

[https://www.kulr8.com/news/downtown-billings-housing-developments-underway/article\\_db8f4362-93e3-11ee-863b-5bdacdb9b398.html](https://www.kulr8.com/news/downtown-billings-housing-developments-underway/article_db8f4362-93e3-11ee-863b-5bdacdb9b398.html)

*Library directors across Montana oppose removal of master's degree requirement*

<https://dailymontanain.com/2023/12/01/library-directors-across-montana-oppose-removal-of-masters-degree-requirement/>

*'Not In Our Town' movement marks 30 years*

[https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/not-in-our-town-movement-marks-30-years/article\\_5d2f0ef6-ac67-5977-a7a4-8421341a9214.html](https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/not-in-our-town-movement-marks-30-years/article_5d2f0ef6-ac67-5977-a7a4-8421341a9214.html)

*In case you missed it – PBS story on Family Justice Center*

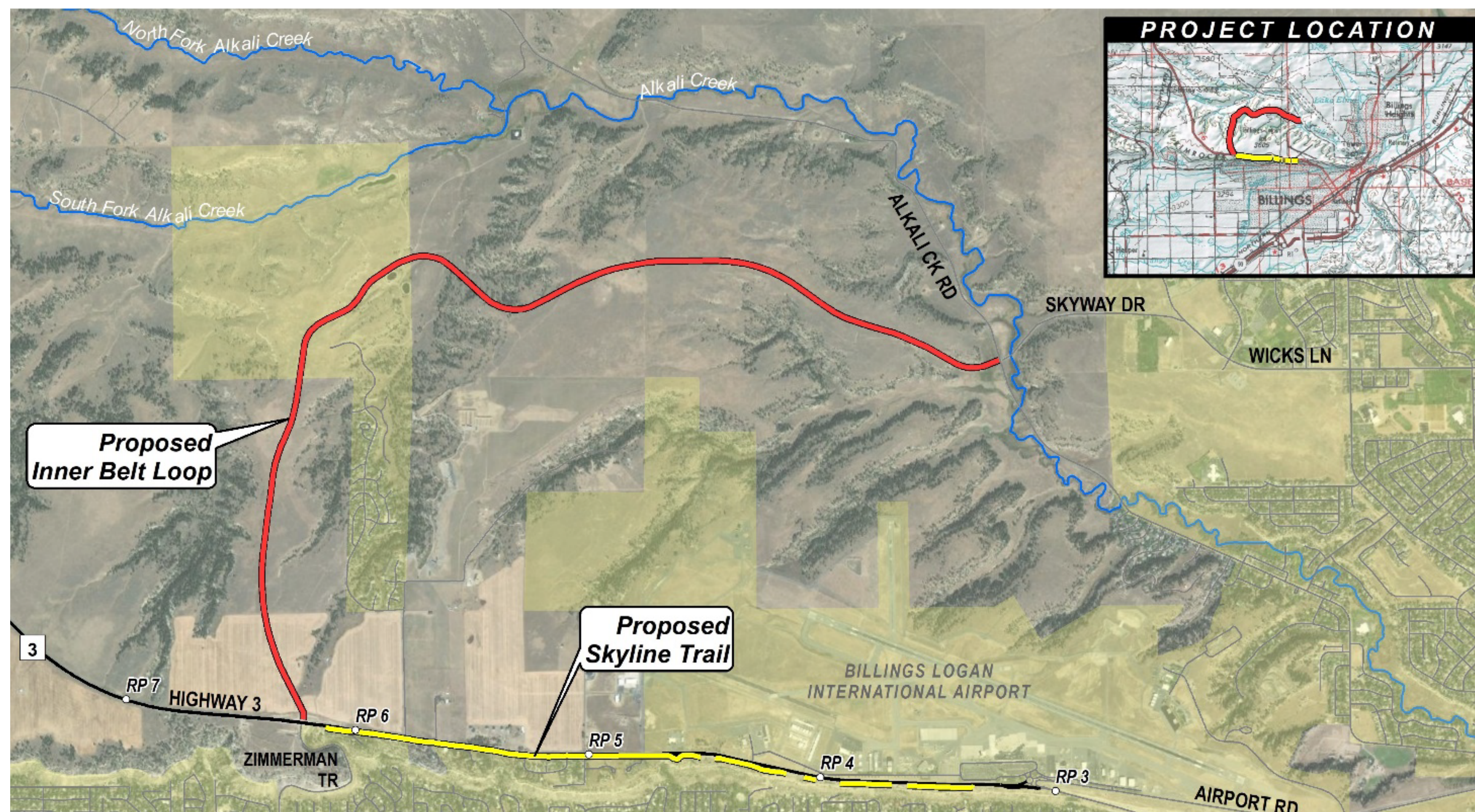
<https://youtu.be/509rO5UdQ4Q?si=k4qGFSvX3f8Yx2PF>





# Update on Grant Funding Received by the City of Billings December 2023

## Northwest Billings Connector/ Skyline Trail



This project was funded in part by a \$11.7 million 2020 Department of Transportation grant. Officially the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program, DOT awarded grant funds to the City of Billings in September 2020. Leveraged against \$7 million in local funding (arterial and gas tax funds), and more than \$80,000 from Billings TrailNet, the full project construction cost came in at about \$18.7 million. The federal funding provided the boost needed to reach the finish line. For the Skyline Trail, that finish line was celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Dec. 7. For the Northwest Connector/Inner Belt Loop, the finish line will be celebrated in 2024.

### Why These Projects Matter

The Northwest Connector and Skyline Trails move Billings forward in important ways:

- Those traveling from the Heights to the West End have an alternative route that does not require traveling down Main to connect.
- The Northwest Connector route unlocks land that can now be developed for housing and commercial enterprises.
- The Northwest Connector Trail provides an important Marathon Trail connection to the future Stagecoach trail, as well as a Heights loop connection to the new Skyline trail and multi-use pathways on and around Wicks.
- The Skyline Trail connects Sword's Park to Zimmerman Park, and will eventually provide connection to the Yellowstone River and to the Billings West End when those segments of the Marathon Trail are completed.
- Residents and visitors alike will have access to the beautiful Billings skyline on the Rimrocks, and have the opportunity to bike/run/walk/roll along about 8 miles of new trail as a result of the Skyline and Connector projects.

**To learn more about this grant-funded project, contact:**

Ted Wilson  
City of Billings Grants Administrator  
406-869-3997  
wilson@billingsmt.gov



## PSML Breakdown

### Addition of FTEs:

#### Operations

- 12 Sworn positions
  - Allowed us to add 3 positions to investigations (1 Sgt and 2 general detectives), re-organize SRO and STEP teams, add a domestic violence investigator, and add bodies to patrol.
- 7 Community Service Officer Positions
  - Jan 1- Nov 29: 4,363 incidents and 1,657 case reports
  - Speed up response times by hours and in some cases days.
  - Increase the solvability of the property crimes they investigate by being available to collect evidence, photographs, surveillance footage, conduct follow-ups to identify suspects.
  - Assist patrol with collections of evidence and scene security.
  - Moving to assisting with investigating minor crashes in December.
- 2 Front desk Support staff
  - Keep up with the constant and increased need for the processing of information, reports, warrants, citations/warnings, court paperwork, front counter requests, and phone calls.

#### Investigations

- 1 Investigations Crime Analyst
  - Completed 172 cell phone downloads, processed thousands of hours of data, completed 29 detailed analysis reports, responded to calls outs to assist in exigent evidence collection, assisted multiple state and federal agencies, even located a homicide confession while processing phone data.

#### Evidence

- 1 ID tech
- 4 Evidence techs (1 outstanding position to be filled)
  - In first three quarters of this year:
    - Evidence Techs:
      - Items received – 13,185
      - Items released – 12,517
      - Discovery requests- average 16 requests per day
      - Goal of cross training techs in ID and evidence collection and creating an application for a crime scene tech that could respond with investigations in the field to assist in processing.
    - ID Techs:
      - Photo lineups – 46

- Videos processed – 32
- Total items processed for prints – 270
- Vehicles processed – 13
- Prints taken by Ofc's examined – 351
- Prints taken by ID examined – 905
- Positive ID's – 214



## 2024 COUNCIL MEETINGS SCHEDULE

(Year to date listing appears at the end of this schedule)

\*\*Judge Kolar would like to be first during budget meetings

### January 2, 2024 (Tues.) – WORK SESSION

1. Administration of Oaths and Affirmations of Office for new Councilmembers
2. DES Emergency Management Update (K.C. Williams)
3. Ordinance Amendments to Water and Wastewater Utilities (Debi)
4. Stormwater Billing (Debi) Keep with Water and Wastewater
5. Council Discussion

### January 8, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

#### CONSENT:

- A. Bid Award: W.O. 24-03: Contract 2 Chip Seal / Scrub Seal
- B. Water Reclamation Facility Equipment – Disinfection
- C. Northwest Energy easement for Mountview Cemetery
- D. Resolution Authorizing Release of Easements North 28th Street

#### REGULAR:

1. PH – ZC 1040 - 1404 and 1406 Avenue B (Not a Joint PH – this must be approved before the Special Review can be heard)
2. PH – Special Review 998 – 1406 Avenue B
3. Nomination and Election of Deputy Mayor Pro Tempore

### January 16, 2024 (Tues.) – WORK SESSION (will this be at Library?)

1. Billings Mustangs - move
2. Family Violence Response Unit Update
3. Strategies and Priorities Update
4. Tax Abatement Policy (Dianne, BSEDA/Chris) move
5. Council Discussion

### January 22, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

#### CONSENT:

1. MT Dept. of Commerce Infrastructure Grant Application
2. 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Final Reading ORD. – ZC 1040 – 1404 and 1406 Avenue B

#### REGULAR:

- 1.

### February 5, 2024 – WORK SESSION

1. MRM (let Matt Lundgren know)
2. CRU and MRT Updates (Pepper)
3. Council goals and strategies
4. Council Discussion

### February 12, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

#### CONSENT:

1. Adoption of Council Goals and Strategies

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**February 20, 2024 (Tues.) – WORK SESSION**

1. PMD Assessment Approval Discussion (Per Rupsis's question) (Schedule Staff Prep meeting to discuss the impacts of Rupsis's questions)
2. Council Discussion

**February 26, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**March 4, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION 4:30 – 5:30 PM**

1. Council Discussion

**March 11, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**March 18, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

1. Council Discussion

**March 25, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**April 1, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**April 8, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**



**CONSENT:**

1.

**REGULAR:**

1.

**April 15, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

1.

2. Council Discussion

**April 22, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1.

**REGULAR:**

1.

**May 6, 2024 (BUDGET) – WORK SESSION**

1.

2. Council Discussion

**May 13, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1.

**REGULAR:**

1.

**May 20, 2024 (BUDGET) – WORK SESSION**

1.

2. Council Discussion

**May 28, 2024 (Tues.)- REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1.

**REGULAR:**

1.

**June 3, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION 4:30 – 5:30 PM**

1.

2. Council Discussion

**June 10, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**June 17, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**June 24, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**July 1, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**July 8, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**July 15, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**July 22, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.



**August 5, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**August 12, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**August 19, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**August 26, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**September 3, 2024 (Tues.) – WORK SESSION**

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION 4:30 – 5:30 PM**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**September 9, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**September 16, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**September 23, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

1.

**October 7, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION 4:30 – 5:30 PM** CA Annual Review

1. Council Discussion

**October 15, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1.

**REGULAR:**

1.

**October 21, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

1.

2. Council Discussion

**October 28, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1.

**REGULAR:**

1.

**November 4, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

1.

2. Council Discussion

**November 12, 2024 (Tues.) - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1.

**REGULAR:**

1.

**November 18, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

1.

2. Council Discussion

**November 25, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1.



**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**December 2, 2024 – WORK SESSION**

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION 4:30 – 5:30 PM**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**December 9, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

1. Beartooth RC&D MOU

**REGULAR:**

- 1.

**December 16, 2024 – WORK SESSION (Vacate?)**

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

**December 23, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CONSENT:**

- 1.

**REGULAR:**

- 1.