

Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

December 15, 2023

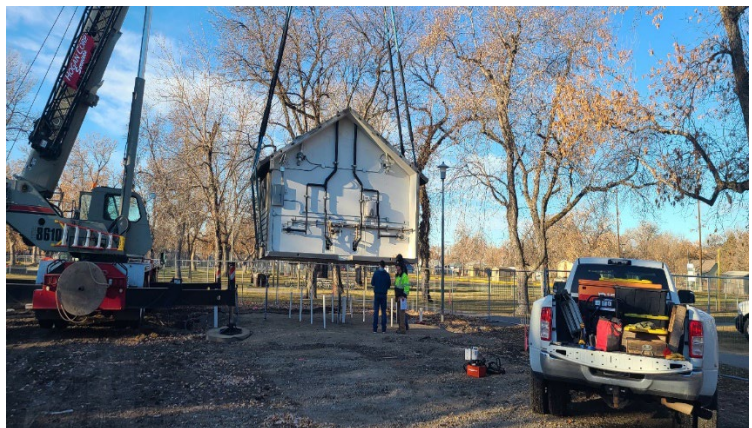
1. **Emergency Notification** - Code Red is being replaced with a different software system called EverBridge. KC will provide a presentation on the change early in 2024. The new system does not require an app just a phone number.
2. **St Vincent/Intermountain Health** – Intermountain Health’s development team is conducting a final review making sure the hospital replacement project is the right size. Their board will make a final decision no later than the second quarter 2024 (by June 30). While they are finalizing their decision work will continue on the prep work for the project.
3. **CoC Annual Meeting** – the Continuum of Care held its annual meeting Tuesday. They elected a new board and voted to pursue splitting off from the State CoC. The board believes the State CoC is not working in the best interest of Billings and eastern Montana. Most of the money that comes from the federal government to the state continues to go to western MT even though we have most of the needs. This is not a final decision, but the vote was required to take the next step pursuing a split.
4. **Yellowstone Conservation District** – Mike, Debi and I met with the YCD to continue pursuing state funding for the conservation and recreation investment at our west reservoir. Tuesday there will be a follow-up meeting that will include legislators, staff, and the mayor.
5. **Budget and Finance Committee** - the committee reviewed the storm water fee proposal moving from annual to monthly. They reviewed the new city hall project voting to support upgrades to the elevators. They also reviewed upcoming budget amendments all of which are consistent with the adopted budget. This was the last meeting for the committee until the 2024 appointments are completed in January.
6. **Legislative and Local Affairs Committee** – the committee discussed next steps to pursue legislative issues that came up during the fall MLCT conference and our public safety round table meetings. This was the last meeting for the committee until the 2024 appointments are completed in January.
7. **CJCC Meeting** – The Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee shared progress across the justice system. Future meetings in 2024 will be back to the jail conference room. The county reported that their architect will be reporting back to them January 11th with base info on the jail site for both temporary and permanent expansion options.
8. **Public Works News** - Public Works is moving away from uncontrolled intersections on local streets to improve safety. An uncontrolled intersection is one where no stop signs, traffic signals, road markings, or signs indicate driver right-of-way. Even though there is clear State law for motorist operation, many drivers are unclear of who yields to whom at uncontrolled intersections. Confusion over right-of-way contributes to uncontrolled intersection accidents. Furthermore, large, clear sight distances are required to stop for uncontrolled

intersections. These clear sight areas may be impeded by large trees, residential fences, park cars, and the like.

For new developments, controlled intersections (stop, signalized or roundabout) will be the norm in accordance with generally accepted engineering standards. Public Works will be reviewing certain areas of the city to add stop-controlled intersections, while maintaining neighborhood integrity and minimizing cut-through traffic with strategic placement of stop signs. Stay tuned for a roll-out of the plan.

9. **Park and Recreation News** - The Parks and Recreation Department would like to introduce our two new hires. John Gayvert and Brad Wright have been hired as Project Manager/Asset Coordinators. Both Brad and John are experienced and have already started moving projects through the system. We are excited to have both join our team.

Castle Rock Park Playground - The parts to repair the swings have arrived from the factory. The installer is onsite and repairing the swings is his top priority. Watch the PRPL website ([Update: Castle Rock Playground - Billings Parks and Recreation](#)) for updates.



North Park Restroom - The new restroom building for North Park was delivered on 12/11/2023. The restroom was paid for using CBDG grant funds. The new facility has 4 individual restrooms, so safety will improve. The restrooms will open next Spring when the Parks Division activates all the restrooms in the city.

Senior Recreation - 'Tis the season to celebrate. Over the last two weeks we have had several opportunities to celebrate the holiday season with our seniors. On December 4 the Breakfast Exchange and Zoo Montana hosted us for the tour of lights. Fifty seniors along with two staff toured the festive lights in Billings. This was the first time this event was hosted since 2019 and was well received by our seniors. We will be hosting the 2024 Christmas Celebration on December 15. Currently 106 seniors have signed up to join us for the celebration. Our partnership with the Adult Resource Alliance allows us to provide a meal at the Community Center.

For Senior Recreation and Wellness programming we continue to offer classes and activities. Typically, there is only a small dip in participation during the holidays. Many of the classes and activities have put on their own little holiday celebrations during or after the activity. One of the

biggest things we hear from participants continuing to come is they have built a community among their peers. This also helps those seniors who otherwise might face isolation have an opportunity to find joy and happiness. “There are no strangers here; Only friends you haven’t yet met.” – William Butler Yeats

Please see the attached Park Project Progress Report.

10. 25 Best Cities in the West to Live In – Billings is #24 on the list <https://livability.com/topics/where-to-live-now/top-25-best-places-to-live-out-west/>

11. Tester Secures \$3.5 Million for Billings Street Safety Improvements - (Big Sandy, Mont.) — U.S. Senator Jon Tester today secured \$3.56 million for street safety improvements in Billings, Montana. The funding comes from the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant program, which Tester established through his bipartisan *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)*.

Tester worked with five Republicans and four Democrats to negotiate the IIJA and was the only member of Montana’s Congressional delegation to vote for the bill.

“Montanans count on safe streets for everything from getting to and from their workplace to dropping their kids off safely at school,” said Tester. **“These targeted dollars will help Billings plan for the future and make sure Montana students can get to and from Billings schools safely. I’m proud to have worked with both Republicans and Democrats to deliver this funding through my bipartisan infrastructure law, and I’m looking forward to seeing these critical upgrades being made across the Treasure State.”**

This funding for the City of Billings through Tester’s bipartisan infrastructure law will implement safety countermeasures at 11 intersections and 6 corridors in support of a Safe Routes to School initiative. The project will implement intersection safety improvements including high-visibility crosswalks, pedestrian-scale lighting, and enhanced signing; pedestrian, bicyclist, and ADA facilities, including sidewalks and shared-use paths, bicycle facilities, and ADA-compliant ramps; and traffic-calming treatments, including curb extensions and signal upgrades. The Safe Routes to Schools projects will make active transportation to and from Billings schools safer.

Tester secured significant wins for Montana in the legislation, including \$2.82 billion for Montana’s roads, highways and bridges; \$2.5 billion to complete all authorized Indian water rights settlements; \$1 billion to complete all authorized rural water projects through the Bureau of Reclamation; \$65 billion to deploy broadband to areas across the country that lack internet access and additionally make online connectivity affordable; and \$3.37 billion to reduce wildfire risk nationwide, among others. Tester also worked to ensure that all iron, steel, and construction materials used for these projects must be made in America. A full list of Montana provisions in Tester’s bipartisan infrastructure law can be found [HERE](#).

12. City of Billings Receives Grant Funding – Please see the attached update on the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Project.

13. Next Week's Meetings/Task Forces

- a. West End Task Force – Tuesday, December 19th 7:00 PM, Connections Church.
- b. Southside Task Force, Thursday, December 21st 6:30 PM, Hope Center.

14. 2024 Council Meeting Schedule – Please see the attached Council Meeting schedule for upcoming items on the agenda.

15. New City Hall Update –

5th Floor

Sheetrock and fire tape north wall council chambers.
Framed second wall on the north wall of council chambers.
Pre punch list item touch up.
Wire up light fixtures.
Pull wire to new electrical panels.
AV rough in at council chamber.
WCT-3 panels on south and east walls in council chambers.
Prep and paint existing electrical/ data rooms.
Start window replacement NW corner moving east.
Wall tiles in restrooms.

4th Floor

Paint walls/accents.
Prep and paint existing electrical/ data rooms.
Lighting control and light boxes.
Low voltage wiring.
Install relite glass in Hollow metal frames.
Install fire treated plywood in existing electrical/ data rooms 4th- 1st.
Hard lid framing interrogation/ restrooms.

2nd Floor

HVAC overhead rough in.
Install new plenum boxes.
Insulated walls where rough in was completed.
Hung sheetrock north end of building.
Taping and sanding south end of building.
Hydronic piping to VAV's.
Plumbing wall rough in, waste and vent.
Install concealed countertop brackets.
Overhead conduit, cable tray and home runs.

1st Floor

Metal stud framing and layout.
Finish new glass installation.
Plumbing rough in for restrooms.
Core drilling for plumbing and new rain leaders.
HVAC overhead rough in/ VAV's.



16. City Communications –

First ever sensory pathway in Billings installed at Comanche Park

<https://www.facebook.com/billingsMVP/posts/pfbid0DrJYLmihsgYYVrGnmL7ZuNb9LrYiAL86NyuZCkmUCyiTdFHbSHgozkX8d7BR7Mxrl>

Grant updates; Safe Routes to School, Skyline Trail, Northwest Billings Connector

https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2553&fbclid=IwAR1bsSQLjyyC_mmlTQoyCsS8L3tS0J5hgUEt56GIHkigFlyjaegJcJc_Jdo

Podcast: Sgt. Stovall to take on PD's Public Relations role in 2024

<https://www.facebook.com/CityofBillings/videos/3478076842443935>

Water reclamation facility earns national & international awards

<https://www.facebook.com/billingsmtpublicworks/posts/pfbid02kmyA4Ab1yxfbYS3UpD3WZsJhFcBRCQz7LZEbZiPGtJqWyP1URH3L7z59i4PprNsmI>

Awesome library award; Reference Librarian Barb

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=755075479980923&set=a.551966893625117>

Billings PD weekly brief

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=743793701115744&set=a.226302889531497>

Billings PD hosts Narcan training for Crime Prevention Center volunteers

<https://www.facebook.com/BillingsPD/posts/pfbid0DiSunBNw2g3JTIRksPfAYXRYMocQeXy3mjpxb1mXk4qUuwNiJMfxYhYf284DqcEFl>

Short Term & Long Term parking updates at BIL

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=375566354860789&set=a.281445274272898>

PW

Billings water reclamation facility wins multiple awards for upgrades

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/billings-water-reclamation-facility-wins-multiple-awards-for-upgrades>

BPD

Billings police seek public help in solving retail thefts

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/crime-watch/tis-the-season-billings-police-seek-public-help-in-solving-retail-thefts>

Billings Police arrest teens involved in Monday evening shooting

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/crime-courts/billings-shooting-south-side-teenagers-arrests/article_c3672fea-9904-11ee-829a-d3e1bef37bce.html

One man injured, woman arrested after car drives through religious demonstration Saturday

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/crime-courts/fbi-religious-group-vehicle-pedestrians/article_5060dc10-979e-11ee-9934-c70b6c7b3703.html

PRPL

Billings Parks & Rec asks community support for reporting vandalism

https://www.kulr8.com/news/billings-parks-and-rec-asks-community-support-for-reporting-vandalism/article_0418a98e-9850-11ee-b278-87a016a5feca.html

BFD

Fire damages mobile home on King Avenue East

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/mobile-home-fire/article_bbc9a5a8-976d-11ee-bde3-bfe85ce82e08.html

Billings Firefighters organize stair climb fundraiser to support Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

https://www.kulr8.com/news/billings-firefighters-organize-stairclimb-fundraiser-to-support-leukemia-and-lymphoma-society/article_b4252476-984e-11ee-afe6-1badbab1b83b.html

BIL

Beacon Air Group opens new airport business

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/beacon-air-group-opens-new-airport-business/video_be72fe13-e004-5d6a-8501-dd4e1e79088d.html

Cabbie recalls encounter with suspect in Billings airport vandalism

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/crime-watch/im-going-to-stop-you-cabbie-recalls-encounter-with-suspect-in-billings-airport-vandalism>

Vandal strikes Billings airport, suspect arrested

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/crime-watch/vandal-strikes-billings-airport-suspect-arrested>

In other news...

Flu, COVID-19 cases increase in Yellowstone County

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/covid-19-flu-increase-yellowstone-county/article_1591eb94-99db-11ee-8a74-bfbd08c249ed.html

Suspect in Montana vehicle assault said religious group she targeted was being racist, witness said
https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/2023/12/11/montana-sidewalk-religious-demonstration-assault/19ef9cb4-987c-11ee-82d9-be1b5ea041ab_story.html

Community members, leaders call for changes at Billings Food Bank
<https://dailymontanan.com/2023/12/14/community-members-leaders-call-for-changes-at-billings-food-bank/>

Montana's future inmate population at heart of legislative criminal justice discussions
<https://dailymontanan.com/2023/12/13/montanas-future-inmate-population-at-heart-of-legislative-criminal-justice-discussions/>

Montana passenger rail gets \$15M for Malta infrastructure, southern rail planning
<https://dailymontanan.com/2023/12/08/montana-passenger-rail-gets-15m-for-malta-infrastructure-southern-rail-planning/>

Billings Jewish groups boost security in wake of Hamas attacks
<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/billings-jewish-groups-boost-security-in-wake-of-hamas-attacks>

Yellowstone Air Show crew wins big award in Vegas
<https://catcountry1029.com/ixp/990/p/yellowstone-air-show-crew-wins-big-award-in-vegas>

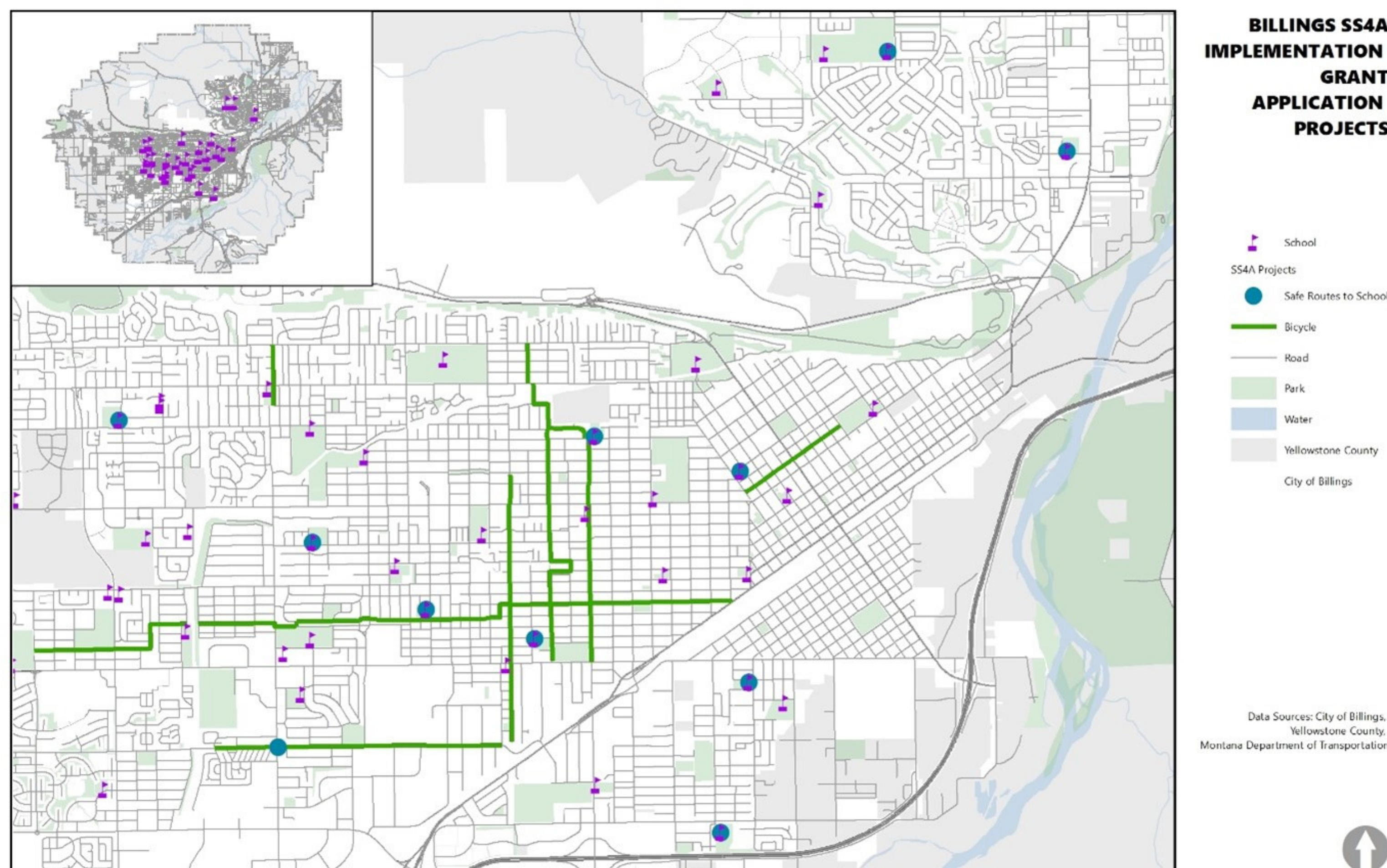
December 14th, 2023 progress report

Park	Progress	Project	Status	*updated information for this week
	Started ----->	Completed		
Arrowhead playground replacement	<div></div>		Playground punch list in progress	
*Castle Rock playground addition	<div></div>		*Slide replacement parts installed and completed, swing parts received coordinating with contractor for install	
Castle Rock parking lot & restroom	<div></div>		Design work with consultant underway	
Central tennis courts replacement	<div></div>		Submitting LWCF paperwork for project reimbursement	
Comanche playground replacement	<div></div>		Playground complete and open to the public	
Cottonwood Park masterplan	<div></div>		Presented at November 8th Park Board meeting and approved for recommendation to City Council	
Coulson Park South Improvements	<div></div>		Received approval from US Army Corps of Engineers, proceeding with design	
Gorham irrigation automation	<div></div>		Pump station being shipped by manufacture for installation	
Grandview irrigation automation	<div></div>		Advertised twice, no bids both times, rebid at a later date	
Highland playground replacement	<div></div>		Playground equipment was delivered, installer under contract for Fall completion	
Millice irrigation automation	<div></div>		Sealed bids opened, project over budget, rebid at a later date	
*North Park adult exercise & shelter	<div></div>		*Pad poured for shelter, Contractor began install of adult exercise equipment	
*North Park playground replacement	<div></div>		*Old playground equipment removed, sight cleared in preparation for install of new playground	
*North Park restroom replacement	<div></div>		*Concrete restroom placed on pad 12/8/23, Contractor continuing work to connect all services to building	
Pioneer Park tennis courts replacement	<div></div>		Consultant services contract signed, site survey work underway by engineering consultant	
*Poly Vista inclusive playground and parking lot	<div></div>		*Final bid documents reviewed, posted for bid on 12/7/23	
Ponderosa irrigation automation	<div></div>		Final walkthrough complete, system fully operational	
Rose Park pool spray equipment replacement	<div></div>		Spray equipment delivered, contractor being scheduled for installation	
Skypoint sail replacement	<div></div>		Structural Engineer's report completed, proceeding with recommended repairs prior to painting	
Aquatic Facility Assessment	<div></div>		Consultant performed on site visits and are compiling information for assessment	



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

Safe Streets for All (SS4A)



Announced by Senator Tester on Dec. 11, 2023, the \$3.56 million Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant funds 17 Safe Routes to Schools projects around Billings. The projects include six bicycle facilities, eight high-visibility crosswalks, two walkways (includes sidewalks and shared-use pathways), ADA-compliant ramps, lighting, signing, curb extensions, signal improvements and general traffic-calming elements. The projects have direct impacts on students traveling to Bench, Boulder, Burlington, Central Heights, Highland, McKinley, Miles Avenue, Orchard, Ponderosa, Sandstone, and Washington schools, as well as indirect impacts on routes to Lewis-Clark, Poly Drive, Meadowlark, Parkhill, and Big Sky schools.

About These Projects

The Safe Streets for All and Safe Routes to Schools projects move Billings forward in important ways:

- Students attending Highland, Washington, Lewis-Clark, Poly Drive, Miles Avenue, Meadowlark, Parkhill, Big Sky, Central Heights, and McKinley schools will access new bikeways and bike lanes in their neighborhoods.
- Students at Bench will gain important sidewalk connections at Rex Lane and Lola Lane.
- Students at Boulder and Burlington will utilize extended curbs that help reduce the amount of time needed to be in the crosswalk, and slowing traffic. Burlington students will also have access to a shared-use path connection from Arnold Drain to 24th Street W.
- Students at Burlington, Central Heights, Highland, McKinley, Miles Avenue, Orchard, Sandstone, and Washington will utilize high-visibility crosswalks.
- Ponderosa students who use the shared-use path from Ponderosa to Kings Green Drive will benefit from new pedestrian lighting.
- New signal timing and signage will also be made along pathways/intersections near Highland, Miles Avenue, Sandstone, and Washington schools.

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

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

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. Bid Award: W.O. 23-46: Compost Facility Waterline
- C. Library Hail Repairs Change Order No. 1
- D. New City Hall Asbestos Abatement, Change Order No. 1
- E. Water Reclamation Facility Equipment – Disinfection
- F. MT FWP trail stewardship grant application
- G. Northwest Energy easement for Mountview Cemetery
- H. Resolution Authorizing Release of Easements North 28th Street

REGULAR:

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

January 16, 2024 (Tues.) – WORK SESSION at the 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. Bid Award: W.O. 24-03: Contract 2 City Chip/Scrub Seal
2. Amend Park Development Council Agreement (Not in AQ)
3. MT Dept. of Commerce Infrastructure Grant Application
4. 2nd/ Final Reading ORD. – ZC 1040 – 1404 and 1406 Avenue B

REGULAR:

1. Sale of City Hall, South Parking Lot, and North Parking Lot

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.