

Billings- Yellowstone MPO 2023 LRTP Amendment 1

Adoption Presentation
December 2025



Project Purpose

- + Address several key concerns of the FHWA/FTA/MDT Process Review
 - Metropolitan Planning Area – Update Boundary to Reflect 2020 Census Urban Area
 - Project List – Correct Errors, Improve Clarity, and Increase Functionality for Daily Use / Practical Application
 - Financial Plan – Improve Clarity and Demonstrate Fiscal Constraint

Amendment 1 – Project Advisory Committee

+ Project Advisory Committee Members:

- Lora Mattox, Billings-Yellowstone MPO
- Elyse Monat, Billings-Yellowstone MPO
- Mike Hayes, Billings-Yellowstone MPO
- Dakota Martonen, City of Billings
- Rusty Logan, MET Transit
- Jay Anderson, Yellowstone County
- Woody Woods, Lockwood
- Mitch Buthod, MDT
- Kenn Winegar, MDT
- Samantha Wood, MDT
- Katie Potts, FHWA
- Emma Belmont, FTA

+ Meeting #1:

- May 15th, 2025
- Topics Covered: Project Purpose, Key Process Review Findings, Metropolitan Planning Area Map, Typical Uses of the Project List

+ Meeting #2:

- June 13th, 2025
- Topics Covered: Proposed Updates to Project List, Proposed Updates to Metropolitan Planning Area Map

+ Meeting #3:

- July 23rd, 2025
- Topics Covered: Data Dashboard Review, Project List Updates in LRTP, Revised Metropolitan Planning Area Map

+ Meeting #4:

- October 29th, 2025
- Topics Covered: Key Changes to LRTP Text, Webinar, Final Metropolitan Planning Area Map



Key Findings from the MPO Process Review

2023 LRTP Process Review – Background

- + In 2024, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) completed a process review of the Billings-Yellowstone MPO, including its documents like the 2023 LRTP.
- + The purpose of the review was to determine if the planning processes and practices comply with governing laws, regulations, and guidance.



2023 LRTP Process Review – Recommendations

- + The review includes a list of priority recommendations, two of which are addressed by Amendment 1 (bolded):
 - **Update Financial Plan and Project List to better demonstrate fiscal constraint**
 - **Adjust the Metropolitan Planning Area boundary to encompass the entire Census-designated Urban Area (to be completed by the end of FY2025)**
 - Ensure the next LRTP fully addresses federally-required performance measures, targets, and system reports
 - Enhance the TIP to describe how investment priorities related to performance targets
 - Document how critical tasks are completed to prevent institutional knowledge loss due to staff turnover

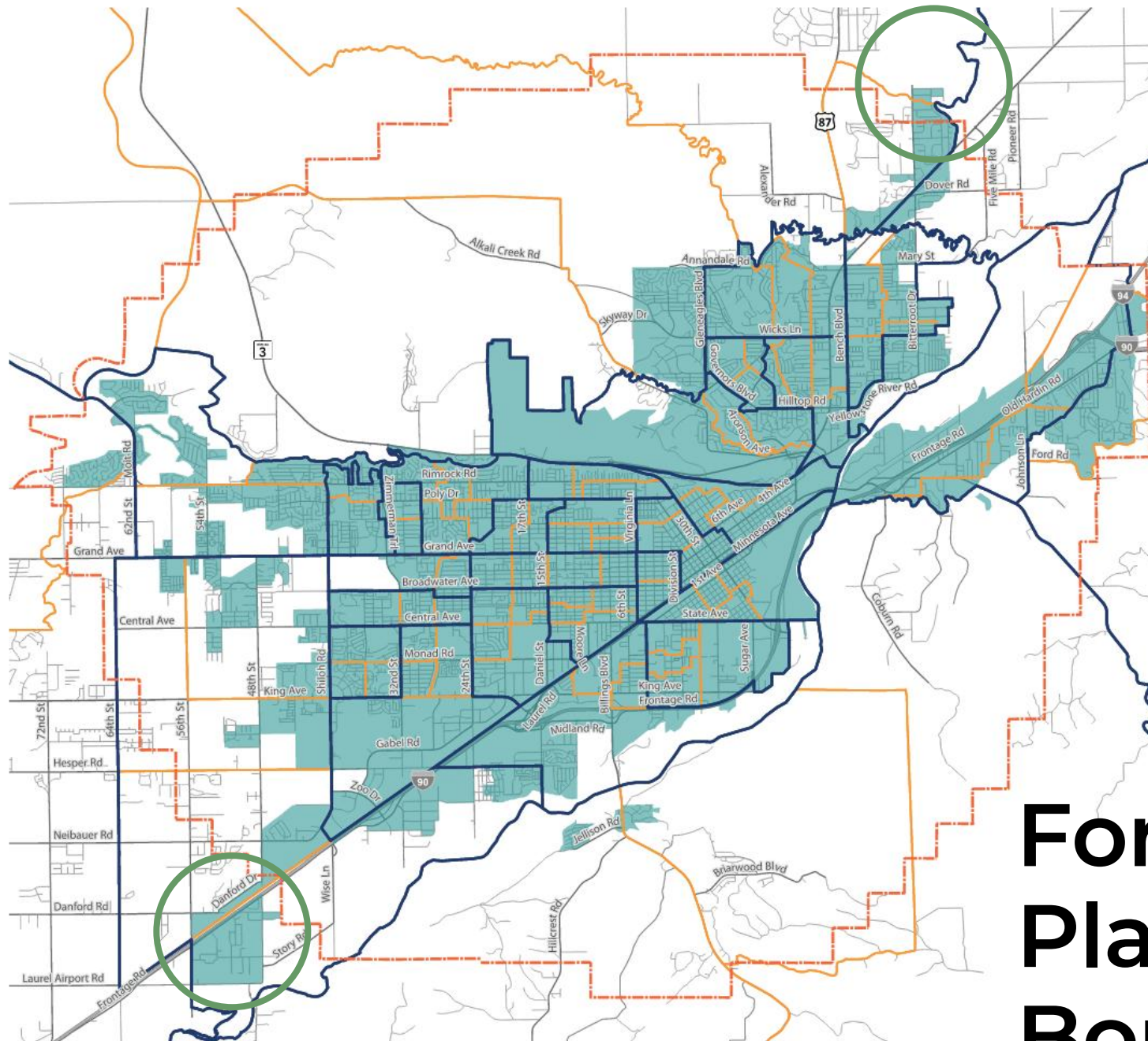




Updates to the Metropolitan Planning Area

Metropolitan Planning Area: The MPO's Boundary

- + The Census-Designated Urban Area for Billings was modified based on the results of the 2020 Decennial Census
- + The new Urban Area geography was released in early 2023, coinciding with the finalization of the 2023 LRTP
- + At the time, it was decided to utilize the 2018 boundary and urban area for the 2023 LRTP
- + Amendment 1 revises the Metropolitan Planning Area to encompass the 2020 Urban Area, in addition to removing areas formerly included that are not anticipated to urbanize in the next 20 years



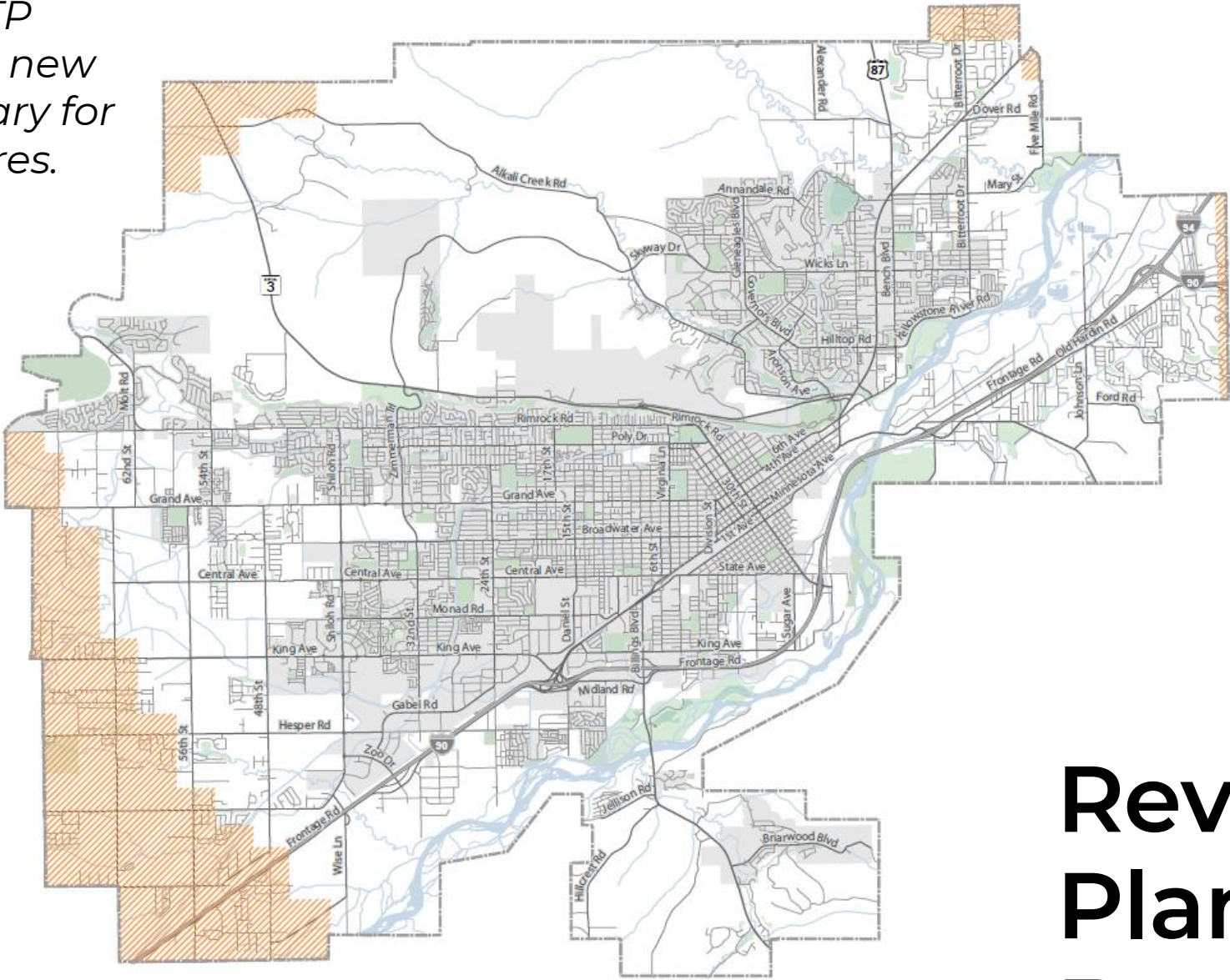
BILLINGS PLANNING AREA

- MPO Planning Area Boundary
- Census Tract
- Census Block Group
- Urban Area

Data Sources: City of Billings, Yellowstone County

Former Planning Area Boundary

Amendment 1 of the 2023 LRTP includes this new MPA boundary for all map figures.



**BILLINGS
PLANNING AREA**

- Billings MPO Boundary
- MPO Boundary Additions
- City of Billings Limits
- Park / Open Space

Data Sources: City of Billings, Yellowstone County

Revised
Planning Area
Boundary



Updates to the Project List and Financial Plan

Project List and Financial Plan

Key Issue & Solution in Amendment 1

Issue

Clarity in Fiscal Constraint

The Project List does not clearly or succinctly demonstrate the MPO’s fiscal constraint.

Solution

The 2023 LRTP Amendment 1 includes a clear, concise table that demonstrates the MPO’s fiscal constraint.

TABLE 38. SUMMARY OF LRTP PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT CATEGORIES	COMMITTED	RECOMMENDED	2045 FISCALLY CONSTRAINED TOTAL
Pedestrian, Bicycle, Safe Routes to School, Trail	\$17,424,598	\$105,026,000	\$122,450,598
Congestion Management, Intersection, Roadway	\$301,582,000	\$203,910,000	\$505,492,000
Transit	\$37,583,950	\$70,380,000	\$107,963,950
Annual Programs (2029-2045) ¹	-	\$299,570,600	\$299,570,600
Total	\$356,590,548	\$379,316,000	\$735,906,548
2045 Revenue Projection Total			\$959,560,000
Difference			\$223,653,452

¹ Committed projects from annual programs are included in their respective project list type (Pedestrian, Bicycle, SRTS, Congestion Management, Intersection, Roadway, and Transit).

Project List and Financial Plan

Key Issue & Solution in Amendment 1

Issue

Solution

Assigned Funding Sources

Several projects were assigned funding sources for which they are ineligible.

All projects in the 2023 LRTP Amendment 1 Project List were reviewed with MDT and City staff to clarify and confirm funding eligibility.

Cost Estimation Approach

Inconsistencies were identified in how project cost estimates were developed, particularly for projects carried over from previous plans and studies.

All projects' cost estimates in the 2023 LRTP Amendment 1 Project List were reviewed with MDT and City staff to clarify and confirm cost estimate assumptions and standardize the approach.

Project List and Financial Plan

Key Issue & Solution in Amendment 1

Issue

Solution

Non-Infrastructure Projects

The Project List includes projects scoped only for studies, which does not account for the full costs of designing constructing improvements (inconsistent with the cost estimation approach for capital projects).

The 2023 LRTP Amendment 1 includes a new, separate table that includes transit activities, annual programs, and plans / studies to distinguish between capital and non-capital projects in the Project List.

Multi-Phase Projects / "Duplication"

The 2023 Project List included multi-phase projects programmed over several periods due to funding constraints, which appeared as duplicates in the Project List.

The 2023 LRTP Amendment 1 reorganizes funding source and funding timeframe information to increase clarity and remove "duplicates" in the Project List.

Project List and Financial Plan

Key Issue & Solution in Amendment 1

Issue

Solution

Project Description Clarity

Some projects in the Project List lack clear descriptions.

The 2023 LRTP Amendment 1 includes a Project List that has been thoroughly reviewed and updated for clarity and descriptiveness.

General Formatting Issues

Several formatting decisions make the Project List more difficult to use.

The 2023 LRTP Amendment 1 Project List is updated to round cost estimates, renumber project IDs in an intuitive manner, and clarify table captions to guide users.

Project List and Financial Plan

Key Issue & Solution in Amendment 1

Issue

Solution

Multiple Project Source Documents

Committed projects were sourced from CIPs and TIPs spanning different fiscal years, which created confusion around funding priorities and cost estimates.

The 2023 LRTP Amendment 1 Project List only includes projects from the City of Billings FY24-28 Capital Improvement Program and the Billings-Yellowstone MPO FY24-28 Transportation Improvement Program.

General Format of the Project List

The 2023 LRTP (and previous LRTPs) use static PDF tables to communicate the Project List, which are neither dynamic nor user-friendly.

The 2023 LRTP Amendment 1 Project List is available in three formats: static PDF tables as part of Appendices H and J; a Project List spreadsheet with separate tabs for capital projects, plans & studies; annual programs & transit, as well as financial plan information; and an [interactive, online, map-based data dashboard](#).

Amendment 1 – Other Updates

- + In 2025, MDT updated the targets for several of the federally-required performance measures (which now differ from those included in the MPO's FY24-28 TIP)
- + Amendment 1 includes updates to Appendix B – Performance Measures to include the updated targets provided by MDT



Amendment 1 “Cheat Sheet”

Amendment 1 “Cheat Sheet”

- + Resource to Direct Review of the 2023 LRTP Amendment 1
- + Includes the Location, Page #, and a Description for Each Text, Figure, Chart, or Appendix Update

2023 BILLINGS LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN – 2025 UPDATE

Note: All Figures reflect the updated MPA planning area boundary. Only figures with new data are noted in the table.

Location	Page #	Update
Cover Page	i	Added “(Updated October 2025)”
Front Matter	iii	Added “Amendment 1” under 2023 Billings Urban Area Long Range Transportation Plan Added new dates for Amendment adoption Added update date of October 2025
Content	v	Added “Appendix J” to the Appendices list
Chapter 1	1	Updated description of the MPA “The planning area for the Long Range Transportation Plan encompasses the City of Billings, the community of Lockwood, and adjacent portions of Yellowstone County. The boundary includes areas that are currently urbanized as well as those identified for anticipated future growth.”
Chapter 1	2	Updated MPA boundary figure with call-out “The planning area shown was updated from the 2018 boundary as part of the 2025 update. Newly added areas are shown in Orange. Because these areas were incorporated after the adoption of the 2023 LRTP, some analyses noted throughout the plan were not conducted for them. These areas will be evaluated in the next LRTP update.” This boundary is utilized for the remainder of the maps in the update, and shall not be further identified.
Chapter 1	4	New section “Plan Update (2025)” with the following text: “In July 2024, the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in coordination with the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), conducted a Metropolitan Planning Organization Process Review which included a review of the 2023 Billings Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), adopted in 2023 by the Policy Coordinating Committee of the Billings MPO. The



Questions?

Lora Mattox, Billings-Yellowstone MPO
Rachel Grosso, Kittelson & Associates, Inc.