

COMMISSIONER MEETINGS

All meetings take place in the Commissioners Conference Room (308)
located in the Ostlund Building @ 2825 3rd Ave N (3rd Floor)
and are open to the public unless otherwise noted

THURSDAY - AUGUST 27, 2026

8:45 Calendar

9:00 COMMISSIONERS DISCUSSION

PLEDGE

DEPARTMENTS

1. **Public Works** - MOU - City of Billings, Traffic Signals at Central Avenue & 48th Street West 2nd Correction
2. **Alexandra Amonette** - Comprehensive Permitting Reform
3. **Larry Bean** - Data Centers

COMMISSIONERS

1. Commissioner Board Reports

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON COUNTY BUSINESS

**Public comment is an opportunity for individuals to address the Board, however, the Board cannot engage in discussion or take action on items not properly noticed on the agenda. Public comment is limited to 3 minutes per individual.*

Closed - Personnel Matter

B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

1.

Meeting Date: 08/27/2026

Title: MOU - City of Billings, Traffic Signals at Central Avenue & 48th Street West_2nd
Correction

Submitted For: Monica Plecker, Public Works Director

Submitted By: Jay Anderson, Deputy Public Works Director

TOPIC:

Public Works - MOU - City of Billings, Traffic Signals at Central Avenue & 48th Street West 2nd
Correction

BACKGROUND:

On June 30, 2026, BOCC signed a revised MOU, with Exhibits, that set in place an agreement between Yellowstone County and City of Billings as the county has requested the city provide services for traffic signal maintenance and operations at the 48th Street West and Central Avenue intersection. After BOCC signature, the city requested additional revisions aimed at clarifying the roles and responsibilities of city staff, and defining base fee coverage. The base fee was also increased from \$1,581.81 to \$1,737.19 in accordance with city employee wage rate increases. City Council approved the MOU during regular session on Monday, August 24, 2026.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends the BOCC discuss the revised MOU and place it on the Tuesday, September 1, 2026, regular agenda for action.

Attachments

Traffic Signals Agreement-48th&Central

**Interlocal Agreement Between Yellowstone County and the City of Billings
to Maintain and Operate the Traffic Signals at the Intersection of
Central Avenue and 48th Street West**

Introduction

Yellowstone County is a political subdivision of the State of Montana. The Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners through the Yellowstone County Public Works Department manages various roads in the County. The Director of the County Public Works Department is Monica Plecker, address, (406) 256-2730, mplecker@yellowstonecountymt.gov.

The City of Billings is a municipality in Yellowstone County. The City Administrator through the City of Billings Public Works Department manages various roads in the City. The Deputy Director of the City Public Works Department is Jennifer Duray, durayj@billingsmt.gov, (406) 657-8239.

The County manages Central Avenue and 48th Street West. The roads are within the County and outside of the City. The County intends to install four (4) traffic signals at the intersection of Central Avenue and 48th Street West. The installation of the signals is part of a larger general improvement of the intersection. The County Public Works Department does not have the staff or equipment to maintain or operate the signals. The City Public Works Department has the staff and equipment to maintain and operate the signals. The County and the City would like the City to maintain and operate the signals and the County to pay the City for the maintenance and operations of the signals. The County and the City entered into this agreement for the City to maintain the and operate the signals and the County to pay the City for the maintenance and operations of the signals.

Traffic Signals

A total of four (4) traffic signals is included in the maintenance and operations agreement at the intersection of Central Avenue and 48th Street West.

Three (3) traffic signals are powder coated black Type 3A signal standards with 45-foot mast arms and 15-foot luminaire arms, one (1) each in the NW, SW, and SE quadrants of the intersection. Each of the three (3) mast arms supports one (1) – 3 section vehicle signal head with flashing arrows, and two (2) – 3 section vehicle signal heads. All signal indicators are LED. The standard in the NW corner supports one (1) ethernet radio communication device. The NW quadrant mast arm supports one (1) video detection camera, and one (1) emergency vehicle preemption detector.

One (1) traffic signal is powder coated black Type 3A signal standard with 40-foot mast arm and 15-foot luminaire arms in the NE quadrant of the intersection. The mast arm supports one (1) – 3 section vehicle signal head with flashing arrows, and one (1) – 3 section vehicle head. All signal indicators are LED.

One (1) signal controller cabinet pedestal (Type P) with an 8-phase controller is in the NW quadrant. The controller is Trafficware 980 ATC.

Responsibilities of the Parties

The City shall operate and maintain the signals. The City shall contact the County prior to changing operations of the traffic signals, unless the City determines that there is a need to respond to a signal malfunction or other public safety concern, in which case the City may respond and notify the County after the issue is resolved. The County may contact the City to perform any maintenance or request changes to the operation of the signals. The City shall respond to service requests in accordance with its standard response times, subject to staff availability and prioritization of public safety needs.

The County shall pay an annual base fee of \$1,737.19 to cover standby, inspection, and administrative costs, which include in-office inspections, camera cleaning, Opticom testing, detection review, pre-emption testing, CMU testing, cabinet preventative maintenance, and controller programming review. Items not covered by the base fee include items required for traffic signal repair, including lamp failure, controller failure, general repairs, push button failure due to equipment failure, accidents or weather caused failures.

As part of the routine maintenance of the traffic signals, the City shall purchase and replace routine parts and operating materials as the City deems necessary and bill the County as part of the time and materials billing. The City may also proceed to replace critical components resulting from controller failures, vehicular knockdown, or other issues affecting public safety under an emergency scenario and bill the County. The County shall be responsible for all capital replacement and major rehabilitation costs, including but not limited to signal poles, mast arms, detection software or performance upgrades, controllers, cabinets, and detection systems. The City shall not be responsible for capital replacement unless separately agreed in writing. The base fee does not include costs billed for operational changes completed at the request of the County, which will be billed separately on a time and materials basis. Likewise, any operational maintenance services or other work requested by the County or beneficial to the operation and maintenance of the signal that are not specifically included in the base fee should be performed on a time-and-materials basis. The billed rates for labor and equipment shall be adjusted annually for labor, equipment, and overhead due to inflation.

The City shall invoice the County Public Works Department for the work performed following completion of the work on a monthly basis. The County shall reimburse the City within 30 calendar days of receiving an invoice.

Effective Date

This AGREEMENT is effective on August 25, 2026 and will terminate on July 30, 2036. The parties may extend this AGREEMENT, by mutual concurrence, in writing prior to its termination.

Default and Termination

The right is reserved by both the CITY and the COUNTY to terminate this AGREEMENT at any time upon not less than thirty (30) days' written notice to the County. In the event the CITY terminates this AGREEMENT, the CITY shall be paid for the amount of work performed or services rendered to date of termination per the AGREEMENT fee.

If either party fails to comply with any condition of this AGREEMENT at the time or in the manner provided for, the other party may, at its option, terminate this AGREEMENT and be released from all obligations if the default is not cured within ten (10) calendar days after written notice is provided to the defaulting party. Said notice shall set forth the items to be cured. Additionally, the non-defaulting party may bring suit for damages, specific performance, and any other remedy provided by law. These remedies are cumulative and not exclusive. Use of one remedy does not preclude use of the others. Notices shall be provided in writing and hand-delivered or mailed to the parties at the addresses set forth in the first paragraph of this AGREEMENT.

Contact Person for Agreement

The contact people for the agreement are the Public Works Director for the County and the Deputy Public Works Director for the City. The contact information for them is in the introduction.

Indemnification

The COUNTY SHALL:

A. Indemnify, defend and save the CITY, its officers, agents and employees harmless from any and all losses, damage and liability occasioned by, growing out of, or in any way arising or resulting from any intentional, reckless or negligent act on the part of COUNTY or its officers, agents or employees.

B. Not indemnify, defend, save and hold the CITY harmless from claims, causes of action, lawsuits, damages, judgments, liabilities, and litigation costs and expenses or attorneys' fees, expert fees and costs arising from wrongful, reckless or negligent acts, error or omission solely of the CITY occurring during the course of or as a result of the performance of the AGREEMENT.

C. Where claims, lawsuits or liability, including attorneys' fees, expert fees and costs arise from wrongful, reckless or negligent act of both the CITY and COUNTY, COUNTY shall indemnify, defend, save, and hold the CITY harmless from only that portion of claims, causes of action, lawsuits, damages, judgments, liabilities, and litigation costs and expenses including attorneys' fees, expert fees and costs, which result from COUNTY'S wrongful, reckless or negligent acts occurring as a result from COUNTY'S performance pursuant to this AGREEMENT.

The CITY SHALL:

A. Indemnify, defend and save COUNTY, its officers, agents and employees harmless from any and all losses, damage and liability occasioned by, growing out of, or in any way arising or resulting from any intentional or negligent act on the part of CITY or its agents or employees.

B. Not indemnify, defend, save and hold the COUNTY harmless from claims, causes of action, lawsuits, damages, judgments, liabilities, and litigation costs and expenses or attorneys' fees and costs arising from wrongful, reckless or negligent acts, error or omission solely of COUNTY occurring during the course of or as a result of the performance of the AGREEMENT.

C. Where claims, lawsuits or liability, including attorneys' fees and costs arise from wrongful, reckless or negligent act of both the COUNTY and the CITY, the CITY shall indemnify, defend, save, and hold the COUNTY harmless from only that portion of claims, causes of action, lawsuits, damages, judgments, liabilities, and litigation costs and expenses including attorneys' fees and costs, which result from the CITY'S or its officers, agents or employee's wrongful, reckless or negligent acts occurring as a result from the CITY'S performance pursuant to this AGREEMENT.

Governing Law and Venue

This **AGREEMENT** shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Montana. Venue for any suit between the parties arising out of this **AGREEMENT** shall be the State of Montana Thirteenth Judicial District Court, Yellowstone County.

Severability

Any provision or part of the **AGREEMENT** held to be void or unenforceable under any law or regulation shall be deemed stricken and all remaining provisions shall continue to be valid and binding upon the **CITY** and the **COUNTY**, who agree that the **AGREEMENT** shall be reformed to replace such stricken provision or part thereof with a valid and enforceable provision that comes as close as possible to expressing the intention of the stricken provision.

Successors and Assigns

Neither the **CITY** nor the **COUNTY** shall assign, transfer or encumber any rights, duties or interests accruing from this **AGREEMENT** without the written consent of the other.

Yellowstone County

Executed this ____ day of _____ 2026.

Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners

Mark Morse, Chair

Michael J. Waters, Member

ATTEST:

Chris White, Member

Jeff Martin, Clerk and Recorder

City of Billings

Executed this ____ day of _____.

City of Billings Administrator

City of Billings Administrator

Exhibit A: Estimated Annual Maintenance Cost

TYPE	RATE	FACTOR	HOURS	TOTAL
EMPLOYEE	\$71.19	HOURLY	17	\$1,210.23
1122 - AERIAL TRUCK	\$65.87	HOURLY	8	\$526.96
SCENARIO TOTAL				\$1,737.19

Estimated Annual Signal Maintenance

DESCRIPTION	TYPE	HOURS
DATA BASE MAINTENANCE	EMPLOYEE	1
PRE-EMPTION TESTING	EMPLOYEE	2
CAMERA/ DETECTION PMI	EMPLOYEE	4
CABINET PMI	EMPLOYEE	2
TRAFFIC SIGNAL INSPECTION	EMPLOYEE	4
CMU TESTING	EMPLOYEE	4
PRE-EMPTION TESTING	1122 - Aerial Truck	1
DETECTION PMI	1122 - Aerial Truck	2
CABINET PMI	1123 - Aerial Truck	1
TRAFFIC SIGNAL INSPECTION	1124 - Aerial Truck	2
CMU TESTING	1125 - Aerial Truck	2

Exhibit B: On-Call Services Cost for Items not Included in Annual Maintenance

Billed hourly at EMPLOYEE rate , equipment rate, and required materials

Overtime Rates Billed for Weekend or after-hours

All labor and equipment rates shall be increased annually for inflation by the City

B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

2.

Meeting Date: 08/27/2026

Title: Alexandra Amonette - Comprehensive Permitting Reform

Submitted By: Erika Guy

TOPIC:

Alexandra Amonette - Comprehensive Permitting Reform

BACKGROUND:

See Attached

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discuss

Attachments

Permitting

Permitting Reform Support Letter Template

Time to finish the job on permitting reform

To lower energy costs and strengthen America's grid

July 2026

The problem

Americans are facing rising energy demand and increasing pressure on reliability—all while families are feeling the strain of higher electricity bills. We need to build energy infrastructure faster and more efficiently to keep energy **affordable, reliable, and secure**.

A bipartisan permitting reform package will:

Lower energy costs for families and businesses

Up to **\$14.4B**

in potential annual savings for residential consumers if well-planned transmission is built

Up to **\$300**

annual energy bill savings per average household from expanding transmission and clean energy

Strengthen grid reliability and security

100x increased risk of power outages by 2030 without grid modernization and increased capacity

10+ yrs current avg time to site, permit, build a transmission line

Restoring U.S. energy leadership

3x China is building ultra-high voltage transmission lines 3x faster than the U.S. is building high voltage transmission lines

CHINA

U.S.

Seize the moment

Bipartisan negotiations have created the best opportunity in years to enact meaningful permitting reform, but the remaining decisions will determine whether a deal gets across the finish line. This is the time to resolve outstanding issues—not walk away from the table.

Transmission must be part of the solution

Permitting reform won't deliver affordable, reliable American energy without the transmission lines needed to connect new generation to homes, businesses, and manufacturers.

Our ask

Please work with your colleagues to resolve the remaining issues and pass comprehensive bipartisan permitting reform this Congress.

County Commission Letterhead

Honorable Daines, Sheehy, Downing, and Zinke
United States Congress
Washington, D.C. 20515

Date

Dear Representatives Downing and Zinke and Senators Daines and Sheehy:

Thank you for your leadership and service to our country. Our organization is a vital part of our community, with [# residents], and we are proud to call Montana home.

We're writing to urge you to support reforms that will allow America to build energy faster and smarter, while ensuring projects are done safely and with strong local engagement that encourages early consultation with local communities and stakeholders. As energy demand increases and costs rise, modernizing our permitting process is one of the most effective ways to deliver reliable, affordable energy to all Americans.

Meeting America's future energy needs will require doubling or even tripling transmission capacity. Permitting reform is a practical, bipartisan opportunity to accelerate this buildout and the critical energy projects waiting to be deployed. Done right, it will speed up good projects that reduce electricity bills, create good-paying jobs, and strengthen our nation's energy security. We need a process that moves quickly and responsibly, not one that stalls the progress we urgently need to meet energy demand.

We also need certainty so that there are clear, enforceable timelines for federal reviews and stable, predictable rules of the road.

Permitting reform is the next essential step in providing reliable, affordable energy and building a stronger, more resilient economy. We're asking you to please make permitting reform a top priority and enact a comprehensive permitting reform package in this Congress.

Sincerely,

[Names]

[Title]

[Contact Information]

[City, State]

B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

3.

Meeting Date: 08/27/2026

Title: Larry Bean - Data Centers

Submitted By: Erika Guy

TOPIC:

Larry Bean - Data Centers

BACKGROUND:

NA

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discuss

B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

Meeting Date: 08/27/2026

Title: Closed Personnel Matter

Submitted By: Teri Reitz, Board Clerk

TOPIC:

Closed - Personnel Matter

BACKGROUND:

N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

N/A
