

Yellowstone County



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February 3, 2026

Honorable Sean Duffy
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: *FY2026 BUILD Grant: Exposition Drive (Main Street) and 1st Avenue North Project*

Dear Secretary Duffy,

On behalf of the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners, we write in strong support of the Montana Department of Transportation's application for Fiscal Year 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) funding for the Exposition Drive (Main Street) and 1st Avenue North Project. This project, located in the City of Billings within Yellowstone County, represents a critical investment in regional transportation infrastructure that will advance safety, mobility, and economic vitality.

The proposed improvements will reconstruct key segments of Main Street and 1st Avenue North and modernize the intersections at Main Street/1st Avenue North and Main Street/4th Avenue North. Planned upgrades include redesigned turning movements to better accommodate freight and truck traffic, additional travel lanes and queue storage, upgraded traffic signals, new pedestrian crossings, raised medians, and significant sidewalk and buffer enhancements. Together, these improvements will address longstanding operational and safety challenges along an essential corridor.

The project strongly aligns with BUILD program priorities. Safety will be enhanced for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists through improved intersection geometry, traffic control, and expanded pedestrian facilities. The replacement of outdated stormwater infrastructure will improve environmental sustainability by reducing roadway ponding and flood duration during major storm events. Quality of life will be improved through stronger pedestrian connectivity and better integration with existing walking and cycling networks.

In addition, the project will improve mobility and community connectivity by increasing roadway capacity and reliability along a corridor that serves residents, businesses, and regional freight movement. Investment in this area – located within the East Billings Urban Renewal District – will support economic competitiveness, facilitate goods movement, and contribute to

job creation. Modernizing aging infrastructure will also advance the state of good repair and reduce long-term maintenance demands.

Yellowstone County values the collaborative approach taken in developing this project, including engagement with community stakeholders and the use of innovative design tools to improve project delivery. For these reasons, the Board of County Commissioners strongly supports MDT's BUILD grant application and encourages favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA.

Mark Morse, Chairperson

Michael J. Waters, Member

Chris White, Member