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STUDY LOCATION: Bitterroot River - W of  
Missoula

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into by and between the State of Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), , and Missoula County, hereinafter called the County.

W I T N E S S E T H:

WHEREAS, the County desires to determine the need and/or feasibility of replacing, upgrading, or reconstructing the North Avenue bridge west of Missoula over the Bitterroot River, known locally as the Maclay Bridge (State Bridge ID L32101000+01001), hereinafter called the Bridge; and,

WHEREAS, MDT has determined the Bridge is Functionally Obsolete and eligible for Federal Aid Funding; and,

WHEREAS, MDT has an environmental review known as Pre-NEPA/MEPA study process that includes early communication with interested parties to help identify needs, constraints, and opportunities within a subarea and to help determine if improvements are feasible – given available resources and local support; and,

WHEREAS, the County believes that community involvement is needed to determine the future status for the Bridge;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is understood and agreed as follows:

1. MDT will fund a Pre-NEPA/MEPA Planning Study to determine needs and objectives for the subarea and ascertain community concerns regarding the Bridge.
2. The Pre-NEPA/MEPA Planning Study will evaluate the need for Bridge improvements and consider options for the Bridge at the current location and look at alternate locations nearby.
3. MDT will hire a consultant and manage the contract to ensure compliance with Pre-NEPA/MEPA Planning Study processes and federal funding requirements.
4. The County, considering community input, will lead the effort to develop and guide the study.
5. MDT will provide technical expertise as needed to develop the Pre-NEPA/MEPA Planning Study.
6. The County will assign staff and participate in all Pre-NEPA/MEPA Planning Study activities and work with the consultant to facilitate all community informational meetings.
7. The Pre-NEPA/MEPA Planning Study may identify next steps to be taken, if any, along with the respective roles of the County and the State in pursuing those next steps.
8. If the Planning Study identifies feasible next steps, MDT will provide expertise to the



County in relation to any possible future development of a project-level environmental document.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Director of the Montana Department of Transportation or his authorized representative has signed on behalf of the State of Montana, and the County Commission of Missoula County, on behalf of the County, has signed and affixed hereto the seal of the County.

STATE OF MONTANA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

By  10/7, 2011  
Administrator - Rail, Transit and Planning Division

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

By   
MDT Legal Staff

COUNTY OF MISSOULA

(SEAL & ATTEST)

By  Sept 29, 2011  
Chairman, Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

  
CLERK & RECORDER

