

REMOVAL OF ROUTE FROM URBAN SYSTEM

Background: The South Central Arterials project includes roads that are both “on” and “off” the Federal-Aid Urban System, a State designated system that allows expenditure of Federal transportation dollars on the roadway. 13th Street and 26th Streets are on the Urban System, and 24th Avenue South is not. On March 28, upon the request from the Great Falls MPO, the Montana Transportation Commission agreed to add 24th Avenue South to the Urban System but also required it to be balanced by the removal of a like distance from the local Urban System.

At its April 11, 2013 meeting, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) identified a portion of Giant Springs Road and a portion of Sun River Road for removal from the Urban System. Although the Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC) concurred, the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) did not. MDT was concerned that the segments had no logical termini, which is an important consideration for them. According to MDT, a logical terminus is either the junction with another major roadway *or* at the entrance to an important destination or traffic generator.

Working with the MPO staff, the MDT Urban Planning Section has identified a section of the Urban System that would be an acceptable segment for removal. Therefore, this item is again before TAC for consideration.

Urban System Segment Recommended for Removal: The MPO and MDT Planning staff agree that the segment of Giant Springs Road from the entrance to the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center is a logical segment for removal, and leaves the Giant Springs Road Urban segment ending at an important destination. The total length is approximately .52 miles, which is acceptable to MDT.

Impact: Removal of this segment would remove it from eligibility to receive Federal transportation funds for improvement projects. Such projects typically include roadway reconstruction, intersection improvements or pavement preservation projects. However, removal will allow for more flexible road standards than would have otherwise been possible.

The removed segment would revert to County maintenance responsibilities.

Recommendation: Staff recommends TAC agree to remove the recommended segment.

Suggested Motion: **“I move TAC remove from the Urban System a segment of Giant Springs Road, from the entrance to the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center to the current end of the route - and recommend PCC take the same action.**

Attachment: Giant Springs Rd. Segment Recommended for Removal from Urban System (map)