

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. While this is good news, the Commission also required it to be balanced by the removal of a like distance from the Urban System.

TAC and PCC agreed the addition of 24th Avenue South to the Urban System is important, as it functions as a key east-west link. State guidance recommends arterials be part of the Urban road network, and that there be “system continuity” – that is, that Urban roads not be “stub” routes that do not connect to other routes.

24th Avenue South is the only arterial that is not on the Urban System. However, there are some collector routes and stub routes on the system that may be good candidates for removal to allow for the addition of 24th Avenue South. The attached map and table provide some suggested routes for possible removal.

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

Recommendation: Staff recommends TAC discuss and select a preferred route for removal.

Suggested Action: to recommend removal of a route or routes from the Urban System that total approximately 5,200 ft, and recommend commitment of the same by PCC.

Attachments:

- 1) Road Segments Considered for Removal from Urban System (map)
- 2) Suggested Segments for Removal from Urban System (table)