

## **2019 STP-URBAN PROJECT SELECTION – WATSON COULEE ROAD**

### **Background**

As the current STP-Urban funded project wraps up (Fox Farm Rd. reconstruction), the Great Falls MPO needs to select new projects to move forward into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to continue to improve the transportation network and expend funds in a timely manner. Recent projects completed with STP-Urban funds include Fox Farm Road reconstruction; Smelter Avenue (Division Rd. to 3<sup>rd</sup> St NW); Bootlegger Trail; and, Smelter Avenue (Black Eagle).

At its January meeting, TAC recommended adding reconstruction of 9<sup>th</sup> St. NW from Central Avenue West to the Northwest Bypass as the next Urban funded project. TAC also discussed additional projects, as there were ample remaining funds projected over the life of the TIP for additional Urban improvements.

### **Selection Process and Need**

In January, TAC recommended addition of the 9<sup>th</sup> St. NW reconstruction project to the TIP. The estimated cost was approximately \$3.5 million. Because this falls well short of the projected \$7.4 million available by the year 2023, TAC suggested looking at an additional project.

Reviewing needs, the City of Great Falls recommends adding another long-standing reconstruction project to the list, and developing both this new project and the 9<sup>th</sup> St. NW project simultaneously to save time, money, and because they are similar types of work in relative proximity to one another.

The recommended project is the **reconstruction of Watson Coulee Rd.** from Vaughn Rd. on the south to the NW Bypass on the north. This road lacks adequate drainage; carries heavy truck traffic and therefore has a deteriorating surface; and, lacks adequate pedestrian and ADA facilities. In addition, the intersection of Vaughn Rd., Watson Coulee Rd. and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW would benefit from re-configuration for safety reasons.

Projects selected by the MPO to move into the TIP should also be included in the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The table titled "Table 14: Illustrative Projects" from the 2018 LRTP lists this project as one of a number of suggested projects (listed in no order of priority.) Although on the Illustrative list, this project is nominated by the City of Great Falls due to need, ease of implementation, and similarity to and proximity to the 9<sup>th</sup> St NW project.

**Table 14: Illustrative Projects**

ID	Name	Description	Potential Funding Source	YOE	Estimated Cost
I1	40th Avenue S – Upper River Rd to 13th St	Overlay with new asphalt	LOCAL	Beyond 2038	\$2,926,000
I2	Franklin Avenue – Lower River Rd to 13th St	Overlay with new asphalt	LOCAL	Beyond 2038	\$1,688,000
I3	Wilson Butte Road – Eden Rd to LRTP boundary	Overlay with new asphalt	LOCAL	Beyond 2038	\$2,251,000
I4	Upper River Road – 19th Ave S to 40th Ave S	Overlay with new asphalt	LOCAL	Beyond 2038	\$4,615,000
I5	33rd Avenue S / 13th Street S Intersection	Modify intersection	MACI/STPU	Beyond 2038	\$163,000
I6	36th Avenue NE Traffic Calming	Traffic calming on route	LOCAL	Beyond 2038	\$113,000
I7	25th Avenue NE / 8th Street NE Intersection	Four-way stop control	LOCAL	Beyond 2038	\$28,000
I8	11th Ave S Traffic Calming	Traffic calming on route	LOCAL	Beyond 2038	\$84,000
I9	11th Avenue S / 32nd Street S Intersection	Monitor intersection for 4-way stop control	LOCAL	Beyond 2038	\$11,000
I10	Speed Studies	Periodic speed studies	LOCAL	Beyond 2038	\$39,000
I11	Signal Warrant Analysis	Periodically check for signal warrants	LOCAL	Beyond 2038	\$214,000
I12	38th Street N – 10th Ave N to River Dr N	Reconstruct to collector	STPU	Beyond 2038	\$3,827,000
I13	Flood Road – Park Garden Rd to Dick Rd	Reconstruct to collector	LOCAL	Beyond 2038	\$22,510,000
I14	6th Street NW – Smelter Ave to 36th Ave NE	Reconstruct to collector	LOCAL	Beyond 2038	\$9,679,000
I15	Watson Coulee Road – NW Bypass to Vaughn Rd	Reconstruct to collector	STPU	Beyond 2038	\$3,039,000
I16	River Drive – 3rd Ave S to 1st Ave N	Reconstruct to minor arterial and other improvements	STPU	Beyond 2038	\$12,831,000
I17	Park Drive – 8th Ave N to 2nd Ave N	Reconstruct to collector	STPU	Beyond 2038	\$6,753,000
I18	Central Avenue W – 20th St NW to 29th St NW	Reconstruct to collector	STPU	Beyond 2038	\$7,879,000
I19	21st Avenue S	Construct to two-lane collector	LOCAL	Beyond 2038	\$2,251,000
I20	67th Street N – Giant Springs Rd to 18th Ave N	Reconstruct to match Giant Springs Rd	LOCAL	Beyond 2038	\$8,892,000

A planning-level cost estimate prepared by the City of Great Falls Engineering Division is attached to this report. This cost estimate of around \$2.050 million would be used as the estimate for addition to the TIP. Comparing it to the available balance, there would be sufficient funds to construct this project. The first phase (Preliminary Engineering) could be programmed immediately with the current-year available balance of approximately \$2.7 million. The estimated Urban balance by the year 2023, without the new projects, is projected to be around \$7.4 million. The two recommended Urban Projects (9<sup>th</sup> St NW and Watson Coulee Rd.) have a **combined cost estimate of \$5,612,000**, which is well below the estimated 2023 Urban balance.

**Summary and Recommendation**

Watson Coulee Rd. is a good candidate for STP-Urban funding. The need exists, and it can be combined with the nearby 9<sup>th</sup> St. NW reconstruction project for **convenience, efficiency, and cost savings**. This project has been in the Long Range Transportation Plan since at least the 1990s, and upgrade is long overdue.

The City of Great Falls and MPO staff recommend TAC approval. If TAC approves the selection of this project, notice of a public meeting to consider a TIP Amendment will be made on the MPO’s website, and the Great Falls Planning Advisory Board will take action upon the project at that noticed meeting. Final action will be by the PCC.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION: “I move TAC approve the reconstruction of Watson Coulee Rd. from Vaughn Rd. to the Northwest Bypass to urban collector standards, to be funded with STP-Urban funds and combined with the 9<sup>th</sup> St NW reconstruction project, and recommend PCC amend the TIP accordingly.”**

Attachment: City of Great Falls cost estimate

**Watson Coulee Road Reconstruction Cost Estimate  
NW Bypass to Vaughn Road**

Prepared by the City Engineers Office

Item #	Description of Pay Items	Est. Qty	Unit	Engineer's Estimate			
				Unit Price	Total		
101	Mobilization 5% Max	1	LS	\$67,000.00	\$67,000.00		
102	Traffic Control	1	LS	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00		
103	SUE Survey	1	LS	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00		
104	Clearing and Grubbing	1	LS	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00		
105	Unclassified Excavation	4,900	CY	\$17.00	\$83,300.00		
106	Base Course 1 1/2" Minus 16" Depth	2,800	CY	\$40.00	\$112,000.00		
107	Sub Base Course 12" Depth	2,100	CY	\$40.00	\$84,000.00		
108	Geotextile	6,300	SY	\$3.00	\$18,900.00		
109	4" A.C. Pavement	6,000	SY	\$50.00	\$300,000.00		
110	Concrete Curb & Gutter Integral	2,500	LF	\$40.00	\$100,000.00		
111	4" Concrete Sidewalk	12,500	SF	\$10.33	\$129,125.00		
112	6" Reinforced Concrete Sidewalk	2,380	SF	\$13.00	\$30,940.00		
113	6" Reinforced Concrete Alley Apron	9	EA	\$3,500.00	\$31,500.00		
114	6" Reinforced Concrete Driveway	5	EA	\$8,000.00	\$40,000.00		
115	6" Reinforced Concrete Valley Gutter	2	EA	\$9,000.00	\$18,000.00		
116	Truncated domes	15	EA	\$300.00	\$4,500.00		
117	Type I Curb Inlet w/ Concrete Apron	8	EA	\$3,500.00	\$28,000.00		
118	12" SDR 35 PVC Storm Drain Pipe	400	LF	\$65.00	\$26,000.00		
119	Street Signs R&R	10	EA	\$500.00	\$5,000.00		
120	Adjust Manhole	8	EA	\$500.00	\$4,000.00		
121	Adjust Water Valve Box	12	EA	\$350.00	\$4,200.00		
122	Adjust Fire Hydrant	4	EA	\$1,200.00	\$4,800.00		
123	Street Monuments	3	EA	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00		
124	Sod	12,500	SF	\$3.00	\$37,500.00		
125	Irrigation Move and Reset	1	LS	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00		
126	Utility Relocation	1	LS	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00		
127	Miscellaneous Work	150,000	UNIT	\$1.00	\$150,000.00		
<b>Sub-Total Base Bid Amount, Items 101-130</b>					<b>\$1,331,765.00</b>		
				Engineering	10.0%	\$133,176.50	
				Contingency	10.4%	\$138,503.56	
<b>Total Base Bid Amount, Items 101-130</b>					<b>\$1,603,445.06</b>		
				ICAP	10.4%	\$166,758.29	
<b>Total Project Estimate</b>					<b>\$1,770,203.35</b>		
				Inflation	3.0%	\$276,316.86	
<b>Total Project Estimate w/ Inflation</b>					<b>\$2,046,520.21</b>		
				Year 1	Inflation	3.0%	\$48,103.35
					<b>\$1,818,306.70</b>		
				Year 2	Inflation	3.0%	\$54,549.20
					<b>\$1,872,855.90</b>		
				Year 3	Inflation	3.0%	\$56,185.68
					<b>\$1,929,041.58</b>		
				Year 4	Inflation	3.0%	\$57,871.25
					<b>\$1,986,912.82</b>		
				Year 5	Inflation	3.0%	\$59,607.38