



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Mullan BUILD Project Delayed Due to Rising Costs
Consultants, City, County postpone construction to 2022

MISSOULA, MONTANA [June 15, 2021] – Missoula County, in partnership with the City of Missoula, announce a Mullan BUILD project schedule change. Initial construction was slated to begin later this summer and now has been pushed to the spring of 2022 due to unforeseen funding challenges.

"We truly made every possible effort to advance this project forward in 2021," Missoula County Public Works Director Shane Stack said. "Unfortunately, with elements as unpredictable as the pandemic, our funding scenario wasn't what we thought it would be at this point. We aren't able to move forward on the original timeline."

Limited availability of materials and labor have led to significant cost inflation in current bid prices. Current project costs exceeded available funding, forcing the team to re-evaluate the project schedule. The additional time will allow the Mullan BUILD team to seek additional local funding, further analyze material costs and move forward with the official grant agreement for the BUILD funding.

"Extending the schedule should allow suppliers to catch up and will give subcontractors more time to plan their work next season," City of Missoula Public Works Director Jeremy Keene said. "We are working on additional funding options as well to help cover the cost of inflation."

Throughout this process, the Mullan BUILD team has been in communication with contractors, re-analyzed costs, tried to find flexibility in the schedule and made every effort to move forward with construction this year. The project plan, prioritized elements of the project and scenarios for future funding remain the same. The only change in the timeframe is initial construction moving from 2021 to 2022. With better prices in the spring, the team anticipates being able to complete the majority of the construction by the end of 2022.

Missoula County received a \$13 million federal BUILD grant to construct a new infrastructure network in the Mullan Road area. The federal grant, coupled with local funding from the City and County, will fund the first phase of the Mullan BUILD project. Project leads estimate that \$40 million of funding is required to complete the entire project. Because of the large funding gap, future project phases will be constructed as additional funding becomes available. Prioritized elements of work to go in the 2022 construction season include Mary Jane Boulevard, George Elmer South and England Boulevard. Other projects, such as utility extensions and minor intersection improvements related to development, will still proceed in 2021 separate of the BUILD project.

For more information

Please direct questions, feedback or media interviews to Becca MacLean at becca@bigskypublicrelations.com.
For more details on the Mullan BUILD project please visit the project webpage: <https://www.mullanbuild.com>.
This webpage will soon be updated to reflect the current schedule status of the project.

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