



Press Release
For Immediate Release
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Mullan BUILD Team to Host Biweekly Public Meetings

Consultants, City, County sharing updates to ready project for spring 2021 construction

Missoula, Montana [October 9, 2020] -- Inevitable growth in the Mullan neighborhood area, west of Reserve Street, prompted the need for well-planned development. Missoula County and the City of Missoula are responding to these needs through the Mullan BUILD project. With the completion of the 30 percent design, the project team is now focused keeping the public informed while completing final design of the five project elements deemed top priorities to move to construction in 2021.

Mary Jane Boulevard South, Mary Jane Boulevard North, Flynn Lane Trail, George Elmer Drive South and England Boulevard were ranked as the highest priorities and are planned to start construction next spring using \$13 million in federal BUILD Grant funds and more than \$10 million in local funding and dedication of right-of-way.

The Mullan Area Master Plan has led outreach efforts with neighbors, and the Mullan BUILD team, consisting of local government representatives and design consultants, has incorporated these recommendations from the master planning effort into the final designs.

To maintain neighborhood conversations, the Mullan BUILD project team will hold biweekly meetings to provide a general status update, dive into a specific topic, and answer questions from the public.

"We know neighbors are eager to talk about the Mullan BUILD project and learn more about the design work we've been doing," Missoula County Public Works Director Shane Stack said. "We're moving at an accelerated pace to ready this project for construction next spring in alignment with our federal funding requirements. Before we know it, spring will be here. These biweekly meetings are designed to provide a standing time to engage with the public to ensure we can address their feedback before Kiewit Construction's shovels hit the dirt."

Each meeting will be held Friday from 9 to 10 a.m. via Microsoft Teams. The first meeting will be held on Friday, Oct. 16. This will focus on the project background and history. Subsequent meetings will be held as follows:

- **Oct. 30:** Mullan Area Master Plan Implementation
- **Nov. 13:** Intersection Improvements
- **Dec. 4:** Design Aesthetics
- **Dec. 18:** Construction details

Residents are invited to attend any or all sessions. Registration links will be provided on the project webpage at www.mullanbuild.com.

Many neighborhood infrastructure improvements are essential, but limited funding has required a unique approach to fulfilling those needs. Missoula County's original 2019 grant request asked for \$23 million to create a network of complete streets. When \$13 million was awarded, the team needed to rank which projects would be constructed first, and what remaining projects would be delivered once additional funding is secured. Now with the full 30 percent design, the project team has a more accurate picture as to which projects are ready for construction and can start making the most impact once underway.

Aside from City Council and Commissioner hearings, residents and businesses can share their feedback with the Mullan BUILD team's consideration by contacting public involvement lead, Katie Klietz, either through the project webpage (www.mullanbuild.com) or via email at Katie@BigSkyPublicRelations.com. Residents will be asked for preferences regarding the look and feel of future infrastructure, including roadway styles, intersections and landscaping.

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