

Jon Tester United States Senator for Montana

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Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

These projects will invest in Montana's infrastructure. Transportation projects put hardworking folks back on the job building roads, bridges, and railroad and transmission lines. Good infrastructure lays the foundation for broad-based economic growth and prosperity that's shared by all who put in their fair share of hard work. Economic development projects will expand and improve services to communities across the state.

Information about each project was provided by the requesting entity. Amounts requested are not guaranteed; funds secured are likely to differ from the requested amount. Senator Tester's appropriation requests to the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee for Fiscal Year 2011 are listed below.

[United States Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies](#)

Accessibility Improvements for Disabled Individuals

Opportunity Resources Inc.

Missoula, MT

\$500,000

Opportunity Resources provides services for people with disabilities by accepting individuals from State facilities with special needs and providing care and employment opportunities. Funds will be used to remodel bathrooms, kitchen, lunchroom, and work site area; equipping with modern lifts, accessible stalls and sinks, appliances, tables, chairs and lockers; build new office space, a new bathroom and a counseling room; resurface the parking lot; and improve lighting efficiency. These improvements will allow Opportunity Resources to continue serving over 400 individuals a day.

Agri-Tech Park Infrastructure

Great Falls Development Authority

Great Falls, MT

\$500,000

This request will allow Great Falls Development Authority and its public and private partners to continue working toward securing a rail-based heavy industrial site for Great Falls. Once completed, this project will allow Great Falls to take advantage of pent up market opportunities by supplying "shovel ready" rail-based heavy industrial sites for potential expansion and attractions. The funds will be used to extend existing water, sewer, storm, rail, and roads into the park. This proposed project would include design, cost estimates and engineering as well as a portion of the construction costs required to make utility, road and rail extensions.

Bench Boulevard

Montana Department of Transportation

Billings, MT

\$15,000,000

Bench Boulevard runs parallel to Main Street, which has one of the highest daily traffic volumes of any street or highway in Montana, with stop and go traffic congestion during rush hour. Bench Boulevard currently connects to Main Street at

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Schedule

August 30, 2012

7:45 a.m.
Press Interview

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Lake Elmo Drive and therefore only contributes to the traffic congestion on Main Street. This project will allow users to bypass Main Street at peak traffic times and provide an alternate route into and out of the Billings Height area. Bench Boulevard will be connected to 6th Ave North with a grade separated structure on Main Street. Traffic from Bench Boulevard will not have to intersect with all traffic on Main Street. It will be possible for all traffic on these streets to remain separate and greatly relieve the congestion on Main Street that cripples its flow creating stop and go conditions.

Clubhouse Renovations

Boys and Girls Club of Carbon County

Red Lodge, MT

\$350,000

Funds will be used for renovations and expansion to absorb growing membership and create a comprehensive facility that provides a safe environment and the breadth of programs that young people need. Open during "critical hours" after school/during the summer, the Club captures idle time when dangerous habits are cultivated, and offers solid educational, life-enhancing opportunities to youth ages 5-18. Every day, caring staff provide a nutritious snack followed by programs in five areas: Character & Leadership Development; Education & Career Development; Health & Life Skills; Sports, Fitness & Recreation; and Arts & Culture.

Cregg Lane / Wyoming Street Connector & Silver Park Project

City of Missoula

Missoula, MT

\$7,000,000

This project will fund a critical east/west connector street south of the Clark Fork River, connecting two major north/south arterials, Orange and Russell Streets through a low income neighborhood and build a 14.5 acre park to serve the area. These funds will be spent to finalize engineering for the trestle and construct the trestle, streets, utilities and Silver Park.

Downtown Connector Construction

City of Billings

Billings, MT

\$750,000

Funds will complete a critical bicycle/pedestrian trail link that connects an existing 12.5 mile trail extending from the Billings Heights neighborhood, south along the Yellowstone River to Mystic Park, with the on street pedestrian and bike facilities in downtown Billings. The Downtown Connector will further the City's objective to link existing trail segments creating an interconnected network linking neighborhoods with destinations.

East Billings Urban Renewal District

Big Sky Economic Development Authority

Billings, MT

\$500,000

The Redevelopment Project in the East Billings Urban Renewal District is needed to capitalize on the momentum and success of the revitalization of Billings' downtown. Although the East Downtown Tax Increment Finance District (TIFD) has been created, the burden of upgrading substandard infrastructure systems continues to be a deterrent to private investment into the area. This project will improve infrastructure and assembly of land parcels in the East Billings Urban Renewal District to spur private investment and stimulate area growth.

Emma Park Neighborhood Center

Human Resources Council, District XII

Butte, MT

\$500,000

Funds will be used for new construction of a center that will support improvement of housing conditions and ultimately help revitalize the neighborhood—a severely blighted and high poverty section of Butte. The center will include a housing and financial counseling office that will help low-income residents in the neighborhood become and remain homeowners, a carpentry shop on site that will allow for classes on home rehabilitation, and a tool library that will support citizen-initiated home

rehabilitation work. Other services will include Low Income Energy Assistance, Youth Employment and Training, health services, after school programs and training on the use of renewable energy technologies in home renovations.

Forest Service Road Safety Improvements

Missoula County

Missoula, MT

\$2,000,000

Forest Service Road #698 was not constructed to accepted design standards. As traffic increased on the road it has become apparent that the safety of this road required significant improvement. Funding will expedite the completion of the road improvements and will be used to complete widening and straightening of the road, resurfacing the driving lanes with gravel, and installation of the soil stabilization and guardrails. Guardrails require special installations due to slope stability and dangerously sharp drop-offs.

Garfield Community Center Renovations

Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch

Billings, MT

\$500,000

Funds will be used for renovations at the Garfield Community Center, with specialized learning rooms, a computer-training lab, a vocational training kitchen, gymnasium improvements, counseling office, and a walk-in healthcare office. These renovations will bring the building up to acceptable standards. A renovated building allow the Ranch to better partner with Montana State University, Billings School District 2, In Care, The Healing Tree, state social service agencies and other non-profit providers (all of which serve the Native American population) to develop services for the special needs youth and family populations in Montana.

I-15 Custer Avenue Interchange

Montana Department of Transportation

Helena, MT

\$15,000,000

This project will accelerate and complete the development and construction of the Custer Avenue Interchange and the MRL Overpass Structures - a recommended improvement in the Helena I-15 Corridor Environmental Impact Statement. The interchange will be a full movement interchange with the Interstate highway located under a four-lane cross-over structure. The structure will include bicycle and pedestrian features.

I-90 Belgrade East Interchange

Montana Department of Transportation

Helena, MT

\$15,000,000

The proposed I-90 east Belgrade Interchange will be located on Interstate 90 east of the City of Belgrade, south of Gallatin Field Airport, in central Gallatin County, Montana. The interchange will be approximately 1.15 miles east of the existing Belgrade Interchange (Crossroad Jackrabbit Lane N-85/U-606). The project includes construction of a connector road to the Frontage Road (U-605/S-205), intersecting at Gallatin Field road (U-610) to the North, and a connector road to the existing Alaska Road to the South in partnership with the local government.

Mill Creek Highway Rebuilding

Anaconda-Deer Lodge County

Anaconda, MT

\$10,000,000

Highway 274 is a treacherous 26 mile winding road which connects the ranching and tourist economy of the Big Hole River Valley on the south end of the county to the more populous northern half. This highway is the main connection road into the vast public land system in Anaconda-Deer Lodge County. Funds will be used for rebuilding the road bed, widening the existing highway, removing dangerous curves and switch backs, and moving the road out of wet areas.

Montana Agro-Energy Industrial Park

Bear Paw Development

Havre, MT

\$357,200

This funding request will fully complete Phase 1 of the necessary infrastructure development for the Montana Agro-Energy Industrial Park, which is being designed to properly accommodate the emerging value-added agriculture and alternative energy sectors of Montana's economy. These funds will complete infrastructure construction of a master project which includes internal roads, water supply, wastewater treatment, utilities (natural gas, telephone, electricity) and fire protection needs.

Mountain Line Transfer Center Rehabilitation

Missoula Urban Transportation District

Missoula, MT

\$240,000

The Mountain Line Transfer Center in downtown Missoula is now 10 years old and needs repairs to the exterior concrete work and furnishings. In addition, improvements to the interior of the building would allow a more efficient use of office space. The funds would be spent to accomplish this renovation. This project contributes to the livability of Missoula by enhancing a safe, reliable, and economical transportation option that also helps reduce congestion and improve air quality.

North Central Montana Transit

North Central Montana Transit

Harlem, MT

\$869,000

Extreme geographical distance and recent economic decline create both systemic and personal barriers to development in rural north central Montana. Public transportation has been identified by community members as a key strategy for empowering individuals and communities in response to high poverty in the Hi-Line region. Funds will increase availability, access, and efficiency of fixed-route public transit service for rural residents in north central Montana who otherwise lack transportation to necessary education, employment, health care, government and commercial services by purchasing two 32-35 passenger buses. Funds will also be used for bus facility improvements.

Parking Facility in Historic Uptown Butte

Butte-Silver Bow Government

Butte, MT

\$4,000,000

The current parking inventory in the Central Business District is severely inadequate to serve the current business traffic and will not support additional economic growth in the District. Butte-Silver Bow is home to the largest Historic Landmark District in the Country and revitalization and promotion of this District is a priority of the community. This project will build a parking facility that would help retain existing businesses and ensure the success of revitalization efforts. The parking garage is designed and is ready for construction documents to be drafted.

Railroad Grade Separation Undercrossing

City of Livingston

Livingston, MT

\$5,933,000

This project will create a new separated grade railroad crossing at a new junction of Highway 10 and Star Road (extended) to decrease public safety response time, increase traffic safety to a rapidly growing residential area, and prevent the existing primary crossing (at grade) at 5th and Park Street from reaching failure level by 2020.

Railroad Street Project

City of Cut Bank

Cut Bank, MT

\$1,609,282

Funds will be used for repaving and reconstructing Railroad Street. Work will include repaving of the street via new asphalt, creating connections to Highway 2 and Central Avenue, creating sidewalks and curbs, and major storm drain improvements. Railroad Street is located one block north of Central Avenue and runs parallel. Central Avenue is where most commercial businesses are located as well as the City and County offices. Railroad Street is home to the Industrial businesses. Both roads run through

the center of town, and are main arteries with Central Avenue being part of Highway 2. This project will correct all damage that has been done to Railroad Street due to the high level of traffic. With the growth of the industrial park, as well as the local businesses both on Central Avenue and on Railroad Street, the road has literally begun to crumble.

Renovation and Expansion

Intermountain

Helena, MT

\$500,000

Intermountain treats almost 500 children a year who are suffering from moderate to severe emotional distress in buildings that are 40 years old and obsolete in terms of structural regulations and suitability for care models. Funds will be used as part of a larger renovation and expansion project to remodel four eight-bed cottages.

Shelby Intermodal Hub

City of Shelby

Shelby, MT

\$3,400,000

The project will construct railroad tracks to allow the Port of Northern Montana in Shelby to load and unload full shuttle (longer) trains and container freight trains, which are used to transport packaged goods and perishable items. To access Montana's top trading markets in the Pacific Rim, Montanans must move goods to western sea ports. Currently, that is being done by truck or shipper owned/maintained rail siding or switching arrangement. The Shelby Intermodal Hub will lower transportation costs, improve shipping efficiency, speed up deliveries, and reduce loss and damage claims.

Southern Jefferson County Business Incubator

Jefferson Local Development Corporation

Whitehall, MT

\$250,000

This business incubator will increase the likelihood of growth of some firms in Jefferson County in order to diversify the local economy and make it less reliant on the boom-bust cycles of a natural resource based economy. The county is currently experiencing a bust cycle due to the closing of the second largest mine in the county in 2008, eliminating over 200 jobs and one of the county's top taxpayers. Funds will be spent on a feasibility study, program development and construction of a facility. The incubator building will consist of four units each with office and warehouse space. It will provide much needed turnkey space for local and regional businesses to start and expand, creating jobs for local residents and increasing the county's tax base.

Sweet Grass Community Events Center

Sweet Grass County

Big Timber, MT

\$200,000

Funds would be used for hiring a contractor to haul and grade 7,700 cubic yards of fill for the building site. In addition, contractors would be hired to form and pour concrete for the footings and foundations, reconstruction of the steel building, with electricians and plumbers then hired to complete the project.

Transit Bus Replacements

Great Falls Transit District

Great Falls, MT

\$1,152,000

The Great Falls Transit District operates fixed route service with 20 buses. A majority of the fleet is made up of 1991 Gillig buses, which reached their useful life in 2003. Funds will be used to purchase four new buses that will replace models from 1991 which use more fuel and have high operating costs. If these buses fail, there are not enough funds available to fix them, and routes would have to be cut.

Tribal TANF Building Renovations

Chippewa Cree Tribe

Box Elder, MT

\$200,000

The TANF Program building is in dire need of renovations to bring it up to standards

for ADA compliance. There are also structural deficiencies and other safety measures that must be corrected including water leakage, and repairs to stairs, doorways and walkways. Improvements will make the building accessible to all members of the community and ensure there are no injuries attributed to structural deficiencies.

Two Medicine River Bridge US-2

Montana Department of Transportation

Helena, MT

\$10,000,000

Funds received will be used to reconstruct this structure to a modern design many years before the typical funding mechanisms will allow. This structure's footings are moving and they are being carefully monitored. This bridge is a critical link in the National Highway System and its replacement is needed to avoid a 300-mile detour of US 2 traffic.

US 93 Corridor

Montana Department of Transportation

Helena, MT

\$15,000,000

The US 93 corridor carries a significant amount of intrastate, interstate, and international travel. It is the highest volume, non-interstate highway in Montana. Funding will help complete projects along the entire US 93 Corridor in Montana between Idaho and the international border with Canada. In addition, the proposed projects will serve many of the most rapidly growing counties in the state with the highest levels of unemployment.

West College Street Improvements

City of Bozeman

Bozeman, MT

\$3,400,000

This project consists of reconstructing West College Street from the intersection with Main Street east to the intersection with 11th Avenue with two travel lanes in each direction, bike lanes on each side, curb and gutter, piped irrigation canal, boulevard, sidewalk, and a raised median will be required. This street is the only direct route to Montana State University for east-bound traffic on US 191, and provides the major access to the Advanced Technology Park. West College, from Main Street to South 19th Avenue, carries over 14,000 cars per day and has exceeded the volume of traffic it was built to carry.

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