Montana Department of Transportation
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Memorandum

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To: Ryan Dahlke, P.E.
Consultant Design Engineer

From: Bryan Miller, P.E. BLM
Consultant Plans Engineer

Date: June 28, 2019

Subject: STPB 8113(8)
Higgins Ave. BR Rehab - Missoula
UPN 8807000
Work Type 231 - Major Bridge Rehabilitation without added capacity

Public Interest Finding – Suspended Pavement System

Project Background

This project is located on Higgins Avenue in downtown Missoula, MT. The project is a major bridge rehabilitation that includes replacing the existing deck and repairing structural components to extend services life. The project also includes roadway approach work to match the new bridge typical section. The 3rd Street intersection which is located at the southern bridge end, will be reconfigured to improve traffic movements and increase safety for pedestrians.

The City of Missoula has identified the Higgins Avenue Bridge as a priority location for improving multimodal transportation. The existing sidewalks on the bridge are narrow, with substandard railing. As part of the project, improved accommodations for bicycles and pedestrians will be provided. The City is contributing local funding for the improved bicycle and pedestrian accommodations and other amenities that match the downtown streetscape.

Justification

The proposed work at the 3rd Street Intersection includes additional trees along the new boulevards. City of Missoula design standards require suspended pavement systems to allow for and control tree root growth below the paved roadway and sidewalk. The suspended pavement system supports the pavement while providing space below for soil and roots. There are two suppliers that provide a suspended pavement system that meet City design standards:

1. Silva Cell, DeepRoot Green Infrastructure LLC, 101 Montgomery Street, Suite 2850, San Francisco, CA 94104
2. Stratacell or Rootspace, GreenBlue Urban, 4405 Anderson Road, Knoxville, TN 37918

City funding will be used to help cover the project cost associated with using suspended pavement systems for 2 new trees near the 3rd Street intersection.

Conclusion

The project includes a Funding and Maintenance Agreement between the City and MDT. The City will maintain the new trees and surrounding sidewalks. The project plans will specify the

Silva Cell or Stratacell suspended pavement system or an approved equal. Alternate products may be proposed but are contingent upon City approval

The use of this proprietary item is unique to this project.

Approved Ryan Dahlke Date 7-3-2019
Ryan Dahlke, Consultant Design Engineer

copies:

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