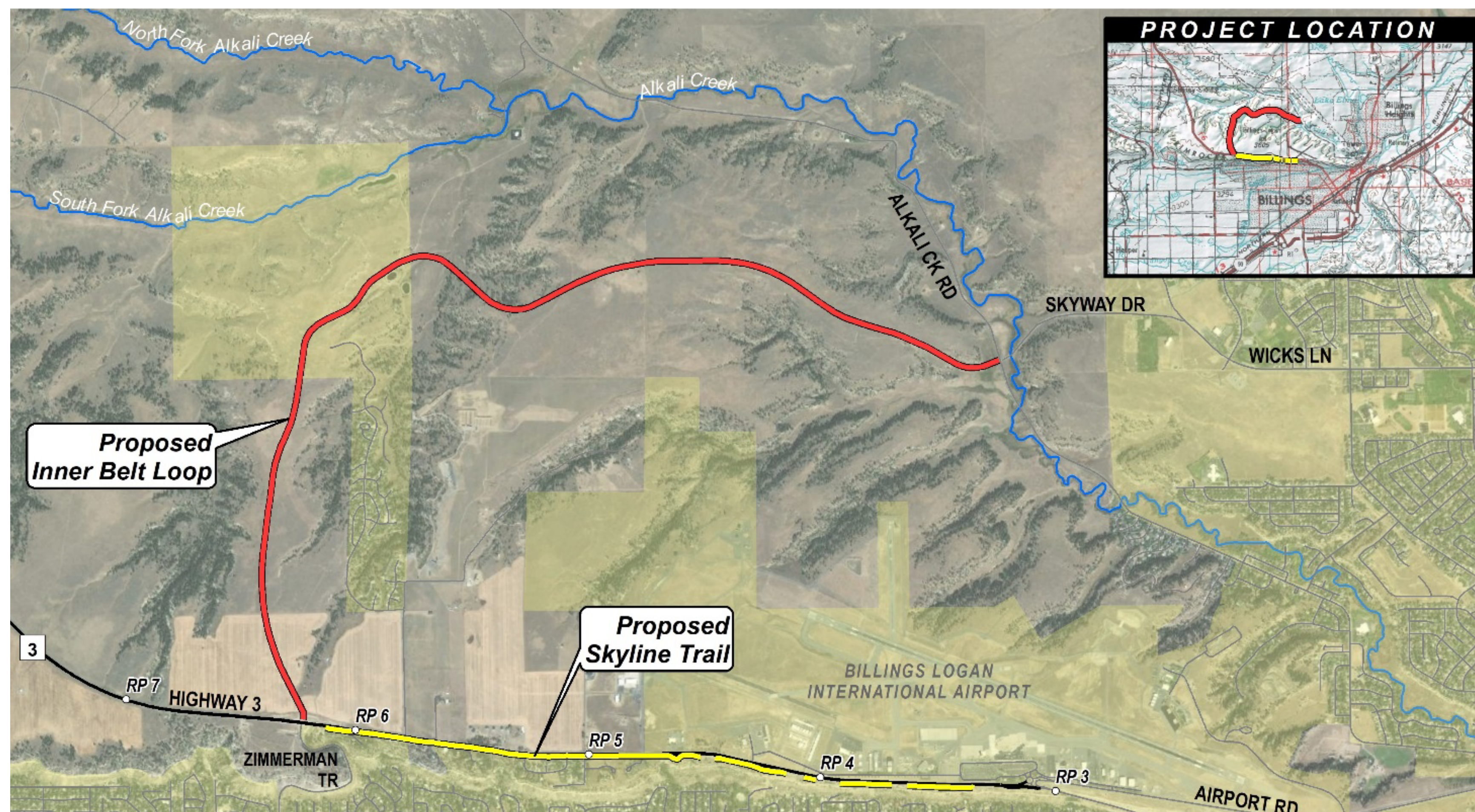




Update on Grant Funding Received by the City of Billings December 2023

Northwest Billings Connector/ Skyline Trail



This project was funded in part by a \$11.7 million 2020 Department of Transportation grant. Officially the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program, DOT awarded grant funds to the City of Billings in September 2020. Leveraged against \$7 million in local funding (arterial and gas tax funds), and more than \$80,000 from Billings TrailNet, the full project construction cost came in at about \$18.7 million. The federal funding provided the boost needed to reach the finish line. For the Skyline Trail, that finish line was celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Dec. 7. For the Northwest Connector/Inner Belt Loop, the finish line will be celebrated in 2024.

Why These Projects Matter

The Northwest Connector and Skyline Trails move Billings forward in important ways:

- Those traveling from the Heights to the West End have an alternative route that does not require traveling down Main to connect.
- The Northwest Connector route unlocks land that can now be developed for housing and commercial enterprises.
- The Northwest Connector Trail provides an important Marathon Trail connection to the future Stagecoach trail, as well as a Heights loop connection to the new Skyline trail and multi-use pathways on and around Wicks.
- The Skyline Trail connects Sword's Park to Zimmerman Park, and will eventually provide connection to the Yellowstone River and to the Billings West End when those segments of the Marathon Trail are completed.
- Residents and visitors alike will have access to the beautiful Billings skyline on the Rimrocks, and have the opportunity to bike/run/walk/roll along about 8 miles of new trail as a result of the Skyline and Connector projects.

To learn more about this grant-funded project, contact:

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