



# Update on Grant Funding Requested by the City of Billings January 2024

## 25th Street Pedestrian Bridge



**Proposed 25th Street Pedestrian Bridge spanning the railroad tracks and rail yard between Minnesota Avenue on the south and Montana Avenue on the north.**

*Image credit: Artist Rendering provided in the September 2001 25th Street Pedestrian/Bike Bridge Master Plan presented by High Plains Architects.*

Since at least 1997, efforts have been made to provide a pedestrian overpass at 25th Street downtown. The overpass would connect the neighborhoods on the south side of the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe rail yard with neighborhoods and services on the north side. The project would incorporate a 1901 Warren truss style bridge that is currently stored in a field in Joliet. The bridge is 18 feet wide, 111 feet long, and 20 feet high. It served as a horse and buggy bridge across Rock Creek until removed from service in 1988. The project was nearly built in 2014 as grant funding was secured, but bids came in much higher than anticipated. Another opportunity for grant funding arose in September 2023. The City submitted an application for a federal Neighborhood Access & Equity (NAE) grant in the amount of \$5.5 million. If awarded, 100% of the cost would be funded by the grant. The City anticipates an award notice in late February.

### More About This Project

The 25th Street Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge as currently planned will:

- connect Montana Avenue and Minnesota Avenue at 25th Street North and 25th Street South.
- utilize a 1901 truss-style rivetted steel bridge from Joliet.
- include elevators and stairs on each side of the span.
- allow pedestrians and bicyclists to connect on an elevated railroad crossing – the only separated, non-road grade pedestrian/bicycle crossing in the downtown core.
- provide a downtown attraction for residents and visitors, to include oversize vehicle parking on Minnesota Avenue.
- provide trees, plants, and artwork in small plazas on both sides of the bridge.
- the City should receive notice regarding the grant award decision in February.

#### To learn more about this project, contact:

Ted Wilson  
City of Billings Grants Administrator  
406-869-3997  
wilson@billingsmt.gov