



Update on Grant Funding Received by the City of Billings April 2024

Public Works Water Main and Stormwater Replacement



The City of Billings Public Works Department manages an annual water main replacement program in an effort to avoid breaks such as the one pictured (Fairway Drive, January 10, 2024). The City applied for \$1.4 million in funding assistance for two water main and one stormwater replacement projects in 2024 and 2025.

House Bill 355, passed by the Montana State Legislature in 2023, makes available to the City slightly more than \$1.4 million to help pay for critical infrastructure repair and maintenance projects. Projects recommended by the HB 355 included those for drinking water, sewer, and fire suppression connected with water services, in addition to other municipal projects. Two water main and one stormwater replacement projects were selected due to the size of the projects and the City's ability to provide at least 25% local match to the state funding. The City submitted three project applications to the Montana Department of Commerce as required by the law for funding support. The water main projects have received preliminary approval and the stormwater is awaiting a funding decision.

More About This Project

The water main and stormwater replacement projects selected:

- Broadwater Avenue, from 11th to 16th Streets West and North 17th and North 18th Streets north of 6th Avenue North. The 60+ year-old cast iron pipes in these areas have a combined history of 32 recorded breaks. The replacement piping will be 8 to 12 inch PVC. The project is scheduled to begin later this spring. Total project cost is about \$4.3 million, with state funding picking up nearly \$470,000 of the project.
- Cedar Park subdivision, which has newer piping installed in 1979. The problem is that installation of the cast iron piping was not corrosion-proofed, and the mains were too small to meet current fire suppression standards for hydrants. There have also been 17 water main breaks recorded in the Cedar Park System. The replacement system will include both 8 inch and 12 inch PVC that provides for required flows to fire hydrants and provides reliable drinking water to residents. The project is slated to take place later this year at a cost of nearly \$4.8 million. The state contribution would be about \$470,000 toward the project.
- Wicks Lane/Bitterroot stormwater replacement Phase 2. The project boundaries are from Moose Hollow Lane to the Yellowstone River Outfall located 100 feet east of River View Drive. The project is slated to begin in summer 2025 at a cost of \$3,652,000, of which the state share would be about \$470,000. The current stormwater drain is more than 50 years old and is undersized for the 216 acres of watershed served. The project includes installation of a water quality treatment device.

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

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