

February 28, 2007

The project team has been busy refining the environmental document and continuing to work with the previous consultant to obtain all the necessary data and design files that were previously prepared.

A revised version of Chapter 1 - Purpose and Need is currently being reviewed by City staff. We will be working with the City, Montana Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration to review and revise the Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement to ensure that the document contains thorough analysis and is understandable to the public. We currently anticipate a complete internal draft this summer, and a public review draft soon after.

Darryl James and myself made a presentation on the proposed project to the University of Montana Student Senate on February 7th. The Senate had previously passed a resolution in opposition of the Preferred Alternative, but had received some erroneous information regarding the proposed project. We were able to present a summary of the analysis completed to date and what is being considered currently as the Preliminary Preferred Alternative (the same presentation we used for the October Public Meeting). The Senate had only a few questions but welcomed our offer to return to the Senate when the document is in the public review phase.

Our efforts over the next few months will be focused on refining the Preliminary Preferred Alternative to ensure that it contains all the necessary elements to meet the Purpose and Need for the proposed project, while minimizing impacts to the surrounding environment. We are currently working with the City, Montana Department of Transportation, and Federal Highway Administration to develop a few design options and construction phasing options that may provide future opportunities for refinement of the Preferred Alternative if conditions change considerably from those currently forecast. We will provide more detail as those concepts take more shape in the coming weeks.

Please let me know if you have anyone who would like to be added to this list and do not hesitate to call if you have additional questions!

Thanks!

Jennifer

Jennifer Peterson

HKM Engineering
7 West 6th Avenue
P.O. Box 1009
Helena, MT 59601
406.442.0370 (p)
406.442.0377 (f)

Building Community Through Better Engineering