



For Immediate Release
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Park County Awarded \$107, 957 for Mission Creek Bridge Improvements

The Montana Department of Commerce (MDOC) administers the Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) Grant Program which provides project grants on a competitive basis for construction or upgrades to drinking water systems, wastewater treatment facilities, sanitary or storm sewer systems, solid waste disposal and separation systems and bridges. Funding for TSEP grants comes from the interest earned on the corpus of the treasure state endowment fund, which comes from a portion of the coal severance tax.

In May 2016, MDOC received 60 grant applications for 2019 Biennium TSEP infrastructure construction grants, requesting \$31,945,532 in funds for 18 wastewater projects, 25 water projects, one water and wastewater project, one solid waste project and 15 bridge projects. In accordance with the TSEP statute, staff reviewed and ranked applications for bridge projects separately from all other infrastructure projects. Of the fifteen bridge project applications, Park County ranked second of the five projects that were ultimately recommended for funding.

Park County applied for funding needs associated with Mission Creek Bridge which is located nine miles east/southeast of Livingston and crosses over Little Mission Creek. The existing steel and concrete bridge serves an estimated 80 vehicles per day and provides access to 118 rural addresses, including agricultural, ranching and recreational traffic. The Mission Creek Bridge has a sufficiency rating of 34 based on the Montana Department of Transportation's Bridge Inspection and Rating Manual. Deficiencies include flow constriction due to minimal span, scour has undermined both abutments and resulted in six inches of differential settlement along the south abutment and lack of bridge approach rail.

Governor Bullock reviewed the projects recommended by Commerce and submitted to the Legislature two lists of recommendations for projects, and, the amount of financial assistance for each project. The Governor recommended 29 projects be funded for a total project grant appropriation of \$16,754,473. The TSEP statute provides that the Legislature makes the final decisions on funding awards and make the necessary appropriations for these grants. In May 2017, Park County received notification that House Bill 11 was signed into law and will appropriate 2019 Biennium funds for infrastructure or bridge projects. Park County has been awarded \$107,957 to complete improvements on Mission Creek Bridge.

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