

March 5-6, 2009

ITEM 142-2001-R0309

Authorization to Execute Easement/Right of Way Agreements with the City of Bozeman; Montana State University

THAT:

Consistent with Board of Regents' Policy 1003.6.IV, the Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes MSU to execute agreements with the City of Bozeman to construct a traffic roundabout at the intersection of 11th and College Streets, adjacent to the MSU-Bozeman campus.

EXPLANATION:

1. The 11th/College intersection is adjacent to the north side of the campus and is a major vehicle entry point to campus. In 2008, the City of Bozeman commissioned an "Intersection Improvements Study for College/11th". Traffic to and from MSU has increased congestion at this intersection such that it now warrants installation of traffic controls. The study recommended that a roundabout be considered.
2. MSU supports and prefers the installation of a roundabout instead of traditional signalization at this intersection. While either control solution would require some additional street easement, a roundabout would require slightly more area; however, the university prefers the greater efficiency of traffic flow, the less energy usage and lesser long-term maintenance cost for the community that could be achieved by employing the roundabout traffic control solution.
3. The following benefits will accrue to MSU, satisfying the Board of Regents policy's fair value requirement:
 - Constructing the roundabout will significantly improve traffic flow at the intersection, a main entry and exit point for daily campus commuters, and will improve pedestrian and bicycle safety.
 - The roundabout will improve traffic flow for events at the MSU fieldhouse and the stadium.
 - The roundabout will provide a unique and more formal point-of-entry to the campus. The city also offers the opportunity for MSU to improve and customize the center of the roundabout to reflect the transition from the surrounding community to Montana State University.

ATTACHMENT:

Preliminary ROW Plan, Robert Peccia & Assoc