



MEMORANDUM

TO: MRA Board

FROM: Tod Gass, Project Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tod Gass", is positioned to the right of the "FROM:" line.

DATE: December 12, 2022

SUBJECT: URD III / Ward 5 - South Reserve Ped Bridge – TIF Request

The South Reserve Pedestrian Bridge was completed as an MRA URD III project in the summer of 2017. The bridge provides a safe passage over Reserve Street for bike, ped, and other non-motorized users and also serves as a safe crossing alternative to the nearby Reserve/Brooks intersection. The bridge is heavily used with more than 180 daily trips by bike commuters and recreational pedestrians and cyclists. The S. Reserve Ped Bridge is the first of its kind, as we know it, with a weather sensing system that controls a heated deck surface to melt and remove snow from the bridge deck. Being the first of its kind, the City and MRA have worked-out some bugs in the operation of the heated deck. In 2020, MRA entered into an MOU with City Parks & Rec (Parks) to make adjustments to the weather sensors on the bridge and installed a Programmable Automation Controller which allows for remote monitoring and controlling of the bridge deck heating system.

Over the last two winters, the bridge steel super structure became energized through an electrical leak, and out of an abundance of caution, Parks has not operated the bridge deck heating system. The source of the electrical leakage was unknown until recently when Jackson Contractor Group (JCG), the bridge construction contractor, and Jacobson Electric identified the source of the leakage and presented a solution to Parks. The proposed remedy is to install Ground Fault Circuit Interruption (GFCI) protection to the deck heating electrical system.

GFCI is a requirement of the National Electric Code (NEC) for fixed outdoor electric and snow melting equipment. Through the complex chain of contractor/subcontractor/supplier design and shop-drawing submittals to the City, this requirement was omitted in shop-drawing reviews and was not enforced through electrical inspection. Since the installation of GFCI protection would have been included in the cost of the MRA construction contract as a code requirement, Staff believes it is appropriate to incur that expense now in order to meet to meet NEC and alleviate a potential public safety issue. JCG has submitted a proposal to Parks to install GFCI protection and Contactors For Heat Trace Circuits to provide full ground fault protection to the bridge deck heating system. Staff considers the installation of GFCI protection to be a remedy to a construction deficiency and not a TIF funding of on-going maintenance or a design enhancement. If the MRA Board approves the TIF request, the work will be a Parks managed project with MRA providing TIF funding through an MOU between MRA and Parks.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Board authorize MRA to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Missoula Parks & Recreation in an amount not-to-exceed \$47,611 for the installation of Ground Fault Protection Circuits and Contactors For Heat Tracing Circuits on the S. Reserve Ped Bridge and authorize the MRA Director to sign the MOU.