

**City of Missoula, Montana  
New Business Item**

**Item:** **Recommendation to Rename Higgins Avenue Bridge as Bear Tracks Bridge**

**Council Meeting**

**Date:** March 8, 2021

**Sponsor(s):** **Bryan von Lossberg**

**Prepared by:** Kirsten Hands

**Ward(s) Affected:**

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 2            | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 5 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 6 |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A    |

**Action Required:**

Submit letter to the Montana Transportation Commission supporting the renaming of the Higgins Avenue Bridge as Bear Tracks Bridge.

**Recommended Motion(s):**

I move the City Council:

Approve the City Council joining Missoula County and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Tribal Council in submitting a letter to the Montana Transportation Commission supporting the renaming of Higgins Avenue Bridge as Bear Tracks Bridge.

**Background and Alternatives Explored:**

Many pieces of infrastructure in Missoula County reflect the names of early Missoula community leaders, presidents, tree species, etc., but there is virtually no prominent reference to or recognition of the Indigenous people who have called this place home for millennia.

After extensive research and internal consultation with tribal elders and historians, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes proposed to us the name Bear Tracks Bridge.

In conferring the name Bear Tracks Bridge, we can show our respect not only for the Bear Tracks/Vanderburg family, but also the Salish people as a whole, the sacrifices they endured, and their enduring heritage and presence in our community today.

**Financial Implications:**

N/A

**Links to external websites:**

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)