

DATE: July 11, 2011

PRESS MEMO – TIGER UPDATE

TO: Editor
FROM: Billie Lee, Project Administrator
SUBJECT: Phase 1 of TIGER Project Construction Begins

The long awaited start of the Skyline Drive reconstruction project has arrived. The construction contractor, L.S. Jenson Construction & Ready Mix of Missoula, will begin to move equipment onto the site the week of July 18, with construction on Phase 1 beginning in earnest the following week and continuing through October.

Phase 1 includes roadway and utility improvements consisting of reconstruction of First Street East (between 14th Avenue and DeMers) to include pavements; relocation of existing water and sanitary sewer mains, extension of existing storm drains, and drainage improvements within the construction area. The project also includes installation of a temporary bridge over the Pablo Feeder Canal on Skyline Drive north of Caffrey Road to accommodate construction vehicles needing to access the construction site. The city of Polson is taking this opportunity to upgrade several water and sewer service lines in the project area and improvement of storm water drainage is expected to be a major outcome of the project.

The main construction “camp” will be just north of the Hospital at 12th Street and 1st Avenue. There will be several road closures and traffic re-routed from time-to time. A full map of the recommended routes will appear in next week’s paper, along with a schedule of some of the major activities. The TIGER management team will provide weekly updates via local papers, the radio and the website at <http://www.lakecounty-mt.org/tiger/>.

Phase 2 of the project, which is the total reconstruction of Skyline Drive from 1st Ave East to Caffrey Road, including a bike and pedestrian pathway, will be built in 2012 with construction expected to start in the spring. The Skyline Reconstruction Project has been funded through a \$12 million grant to Lake County from the U.S. Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration under the “Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery” discretionary grants program. Representatives to the Management Team include Lake County (Paddy Trusler, Project Manager); Lake County Community Development (Billie Lee, Project/Grant Administrator); City of Polson (Todd Crossett, City Manager); and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (Jami Hamel, Project Liaison).

For further information or questions regarding this announcement, call Billie Lee at 676-5901 x 103.