

On behalf of the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), I would like to share an important update regarding the Higgins Avenue Bridge construction. MDT received only one response on Thursday, Dec. 12 which came in at \$37,708,483.03, significantly higher than MDT's estimate of \$16,697,189.06.

Early next week, MDT will finalize its recommendation to the Montana Transportation Commission. The Montana Transportation Commission will then meet on December 20 to make a final decision on whether or not to award the project.

Review of the project will likely extend into the coming weeks. As such, construction on the Higgins Avenue Bridge may be delayed. Construction was originally scheduled to begin in January 2020. If the Commission decides to reject the current bid, a new schedule will be required. All details will be shared back with the community as those determinations are made.

This delay has not put the project's future in jeopardy.

The Higgins Avenue Bridge continues to be structurally sound and a potential delay in the construction schedule poses no risk to the traveling public. MDT understands that this project is very important to our community and is dedicated to developing the best solution for all involved.

I'll be in touch soon once we have a plan in place and am happy to answer any questions or address any concerns in the interim.

We sincerely apologize in advance for any frustration this delay may cause.