

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

NAME OF PROJECT:	Yellowstone River Pedestrian Bridge
PROPOSED ACTION:	Installation of a new pedestrian bridge over the Yellowstone River
LOCATION:	Park County/Livingston , Montana

Key Letter:

N: No Impact; **B:** Potentially Beneficial; **A:** Potentially Adverse; **P:** Approval/Permits Required; **M:** Mitigation Required

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Key	1	Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (e.g., soil slump, steep slopes, subsidence, seismic activity)
N		<p><i>Response and source of information:</i></p> <p>Soils in the area tend to be clay loam with shallow bedrock and sandy loam with shallow cobbles, which are conducive to drilled shaft foundations. No topographic or geologic constraints are present. (Stahly Engineering personnel, June 2021)</p>
Key	2	Hazardous Facilities (e.g., power lines, hazardous waste sites, acceptable distance from explosive and flammable hazards including chemical/petrochemical storage tanks, underground fuel storage tanks, and related facilities such as natural gas storage facilities & propane storage tanks)
N		<p><i>Response and source of information:</i></p> <p>No impact. (Stahly Engineering personnel, June 2021)</p>
Key	3	Effects of Project on Surrounding Air Quality or Any Kind of Effects of Existing Air Quality on Project (e.g., dust, odors, emissions)
N		<p><i>Response and source of information:</i></p> <p>No impact. (Stahly Engineering personnel, June 2021)</p>
Key	4	Groundwater Resources & Aquifers (e.g., quantity, quality, distribution, depth to groundwater, sole source aquifers)
N		<p><i>Response and source of information:</i></p> <p>No impact. (Stahly Engineering personnel, June 2021)</p>

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Key	5
P	Surface Water/Water Quality, Quantity & Distribution (e.g., streams, lakes, storm runoff, irrigation systems, canals)
	<i>Response and source of information:</i>
	Permits will be acquired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Montana FWP and the local floodplain administrator. The bridge will be designed to pass the 100-year storm event with freeboard meeting Park County requirements. (Stahly Engineering, September 2021)
Key	6
P,A	Floodplains & Floodplain Management (Identify any floodplains within one mile of the boundary of the project.)
	<i>Response and source of information:</i>
	The project is located within a FEMA Zone AE special flood hazard area with base flood elevations. If the bridge installation changes the base flood elevation, a Conditional Letter of Map Revision will be obtained from FEMA for project approval. A Letter of Map Revision will be obtained from FEMA upon completion of the project. (Stahly Engineering, September 2021)
Key	7
N,P	Wetlands Protection (Identify any wetlands within one mile of the boundary of the project.)
	<i>Response and source of information:</i>
	Wetlands in the project area are not anticipated to be impacted by the project, due to location and elevation of the proposed structure. If wetlands are impacted, they will be delineated and included in the environmental permit application. (Stahly Engineering, September 2021)
Key	8
N	Agricultural Lands, Production, & Farmland Protection (e.g., grazing, forestry, cropland, prime or unique agricultural lands) (Identify any prime or important farm ground or forest lands within one mile of the boundary of the project.)
	<i>Response and source of information:</i>
	No impact. (Stahly Engineering personnel, June 2021)
Key	9
P	Vegetation & Wildlife Species & Habitats, including Fish and Sage Grouse (e.g., terrestrial, avian and aquatic life and habitats)
	<i>Response and source of information:</i>
	Montana NRCS website has been consulted and has identified 23 species of concern in the project vicinity, as well as one special status species (bald eagle). As specified by Montana FWP, the project will be designed so as not to impinge on the channel and its ability to pass high flows. A SPA 124 permit will be obtained from Montana FWP. In addition, information obtained from the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program website, this area is not currently in a mapped Sage Grouse Habitat. (Stahly Engineering, September 2021)

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Key	10	Unique, Endangered, Fragile, or Limited Environmental Resources, Including Endangered Species (e.g., plants, fish, sage grouse or wildlife)
		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
N		23 species of concern were found in a record search, by Township and Range, on the Montana Natural Heritage Program website. (Stahly Engineering, September 2021)
Key	11	Unique Natural Features (e.g., geologic features)
		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
B		Increased convenience and ability to experience the Yellowstone River and its ecological attributes. (Park County personnel, June 2021)
Key	12	Access to, and Quality of, Recreational & Wilderness Activities, Public Lands and Waterways, and Public Open Space
		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
B		The project would provide connectivity of existing recreational trails, and well as improved access to State of Montana and Bureau of Land Management lands. (Stahly Engineering, June 2021)
HUMAN ENVIRONMENT		
Key	1	Visual Quality – Coherence, Diversity, Compatibility of Use and Scale, Aesthetics
		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
B		The proposed project aims to blend the aesthetics of the new structure into the existing landscape, meeting the needs and visual representation of the community. The structure will provide pedestrian connectivity to existing trails and recreation areas. (Stahly Engineering, June 2021)
Key	2	Nuisances (e.g., glare, fumes)
		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
N		Lighting is not anticipated for the proposed project; therefore, no nuisances are expected. (Stahly Engineering, June 2021)
Key	3	Noise -- suitable separation between noise sensitive activities (such as residential areas) and major noise sources (aircraft, highways & railroads)
		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
N		No impact. (Stahly Engineering personnel, June 2021)

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Key	4	Historic Properties, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources
N,A,P		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
		Because the new structure will be positioned where a vehicular bridge was located, there may be historic impacts. A cultural resource report will be completed prior to construction, and if historic or archaeological impacts are identified, the Section 106 process will be followed, as required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. (Stahly Engineering, September 2021)
Key	5	Changes in Demographic (population) Characteristics (e.g., quantity, distribution, density)
N		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
		No impact. (Stahly Engineering personnel, June 2021)
Key	6	General Housing Conditions - Quality, Quantity, Affordability
N		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
		No impact. (Stahly Engineering personnel, June 2021)
Key	7	Displacement or Relocation of Businesses or Residents
N		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
		No impact. (Stahly Engineering personnel, June 2021)
Key	8	Public Health and Safety
B		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
		The installation of a pedestrian bridge, connecting existing trail systems, will encourage healthier, more active transportation throughout the corridor. Appropriate railing will be installed on the bridge for user safety. (Stahly Engineering, Park County personnel, September 2021)
Key	9	Lead Based Paint and/or Asbestos
N		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
		The new structure will not contain lead-based paint or asbestos. (Stahly Engineering, June 2021)
Key	10	Local Employment & Income Patterns - Quantity and Distribution of Employment, Economic Impact
B		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
		In addition to temporary jobs created during construction of the bridge, increased tourism could require local businesses to increase staffing. (Stahly Engineering, September 2021)

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Key	11	Local & State Tax Base & Revenues
		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
B		Increased tourism could increase staffing needs at local businesses, increasing local revenue. In addition, gas tax attributed to tourism could increase the fiscal benefit to Park County and the City of Livingston. (Stahly Engineering, June 2021)
Key	12	Educational Facilities - Schools, Colleges, Universities
		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
B		Installation of the bridge will provide extended access for school students and educators to the existing recreational/outdoor space for exercise or educational activities. (Stahly Engineering, June 2021)
Key	13	Commercial and Industrial Facilities - Production & Activity, Growth or Decline.
		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
N		No impact. (Stahly Engineering personnel, June 2021)
Key	14	Health Care – Medical Services
		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
B		The new bridge will provide easier pedestrian/bicycle access to Livingston HealthCare from downtown Livingston. In addition, the bridge will allow for installation of a water main extension over the Yellowstone River, providing a water main loop. The existing water main currently ends at the hospital, and a break in the main would leave the hospital without water. (Stahly Engineering, June 2021)
Key	15	Social Services – Governmental Services (e.g., demand on)
		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
N		No impact. (Stahly Engineering personnel, June 2021)

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Key	16	Social Structures & Mores (Standards of Social Conduct/Social Conventions)
N		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
		No impact. (Stahly Engineering personnel, June 2021)
Key	17	Land Use Compatibility (e.g., growth, land use change, development activity, adjacent land uses and potential conflicts)
B		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
		Installation of the bridge will provide connectivity of existing recreational areas, trails and land access. (Stahly Engineering, June 2021)
Key	18	Energy Resources - Consumption and Conservation
N		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
		No impact. (Stahly Engineering personnel, June 2021)
Key	19	Solid Waste Management
N		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
		No impact. (Stahly Engineering personnel, June 2021)
Key	20	Wastewater Treatment - Sewage System
N		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
		No impact. (Stahly Engineering personnel, June 2021)
Key	21	Storm Water – Surface Drainage
N		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
		No impact. (Stahly Engineering personnel, June 2021)
Key	22	Community Water Supply
B		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
		The new bridge will be designed to carry a future water main over the Yellowstone River, providing redundancy in a water main that currently terminates at Livingston HealthCare. (Stahly Engineering, June 2021)
Key	23	Public Safety – Police
B		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
		The new bridge will benefit public safety by providing an additional, emergency only route across the Yellowstone River. (Stahly Engineering personnel, June 2021)

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Key	24	Fire Protection – Hazards
		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
B		The new bridge will benefit fire protection by providing an additional, emergency only route across the Yellowstone River. (Stahly Engineering personnel, June 2021)
Key	25	Emergency Medical Services
		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
B		The new bridge will benefit emergency medical services by providing an additional, emergency only route across the Yellowstone River. (Stahly Engineering personnel, June 2021)
Key	26	Parks, Playgrounds, & Open Space
		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
B		The new bridge will provide connectivity between existing recreational amenities on either side of the Yellowstone River. Increased access from downtown Livingston to State and BLM lands on the east side of the Yellowstone River. (Stahly Engineering, June 2021)
Key	27	Cultural Facilities, Cultural Uniqueness & Diversity
		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
N		No impact. (Stahly Engineering personnel, June 2021)
Key	28	Transportation Networks and Traffic Flow Conflicts (e.g., rail; auto including local traffic; airport runway clear zones - avoidance of incompatible land use in airport runway clear zones)
		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
B		The new bridge will help to alleviate existing pedestrian/traffic conflicts by allowing pedestrians an alternate route across the Yellowstone River. It will also reduce traffic on Myers Lane and parked vehicles on the east side of the river. (Park County personnel, June 2021)
Key	29	Consistency with Local Ordinances, Resolutions, or Plans (e.g., conformance with local comprehensive plans, zoning, or capital improvement plans)
		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
B		The new pedestrian bridge follows goals set forth in the existing Park County Active Transportation Plan, the Livingston Parks & Trails Master Plan, the Park County Growth Policy, and the City of Livingston Growth Policy. (Stahly Engineering, Park County personnel, , June 2021)
Key	30	Is There a Regulatory Action on Private Property Rights as a Result of this Project? (consider options that reduce, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights.)
		<i>Response and source of information:</i>
N		No Impact (Stahly Engineering, June 2021)

Environmental Review Form

On a separate piece of paper, please answer the following as they apply to your proposed project:

1. **Alternatives:** Describe reasonable alternatives to the project.
2. **Mitigation:** Identify any enforceable measures necessary to reduce any impacts to an insignificant level.
3. **Is an EA or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) required?** Describe whether or not an EA or EIS is required and explain in detail why or why not.
4. **Public Involvement:** Describe the process followed to involve the public in the proposed project and its potential environmental impacts. Identify the public meetings -- where and when - the project was considered and discussed, and when the applicant approved the final environmental assessment.
5. **Person(s) Responsible for Preparing:** Identify the person(s) responsible for preparation of this checklist.
6. **Other Agencies:** List any state, local, or federal agencies that have over-lapping or additional jurisdiction or environmental review responsibility for the proposed action and the permits, licenses, and other authorizations required; and list any agencies or groups that were contacted or contributed information to this Environmental Assessment (EA).

(I) Authorized Representative *, Title

Date

Park County

Commissioner

Date:

* If an authorized representative (1) completes the checklist and this form, a chief elected official (2) must also sign authorizing acceptance of the review process. Explanation or statement of how/why that representative was authorized should also be included.

1. Alternatives

The Preliminary Engineering Report provides an Alternative Screening Process which considers all reasonable and economical bridge alternatives. Options considered were:

- Single span steel tied arch truss bridge
- Single span steel cable stayed bridge
- Single span prefabricated steel bridge
- Multiple span prefabricated steel bridge
- Multiple span prestressed concrete beam bridge

Project costs and operation and maintenance costs will be evaluated, and a present worth analysis calculated. In conjunction with the environmental considerations, a structure option will be selected from the options listed above.

2. Mitigation

Best management practices (BMP's) will be implemented to prevent dust and sedimentation during construction, and water will be used for dust abatement as directed by the construction inspector. A Montana DEQ – Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) Permit will be obtained prior to construction. Furthermore, erosion and sediment control plans will be included as part of the contract specifications. Sediment control fencing and/or straw wattles will be placed on the downhill edge of all disturbances.

All alternatives considered have minimal impacts to wetlands (0.0 to 0.05 acres total) due to the elevation and footprint of the structure crossing. None of the options are expected to require wetland mitigation (triggered when wetland impacts are greater than 0.10 acres).

3. Is an EA or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) required?

The Montana Environmental Policy Act requires that an environmental review be performed whenever a state agency takes an action; whenever that action is not exempt or excluded from MEPA; and whenever the action may impact the human environment. As the new bridge will be constructed where there currently is no structure, it is likely that an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be required.

4. Public Involvement

The first public meeting will be held on September 20, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of obtaining public comments regarding the project. The meeting was advertised in the Livingston Enterprise on September 7 and September 14, 2021. The meeting will be attended by personnel from Park County and Stahly Engineering & Associates. A record of attendance will be taken. One additional public meeting may be held to present cost estimates of the proposed bridge options.

In addition, the draft Environmental Checklist has been advertised in the Livingston Enterprise on September 7 and September 14, 2021, with written comments to be received by Kristen Galbraith, Director of Grants, until October 31, 2021.

5. **Person(s) Responsible for Preparing**

Kathy Thompson, PE, Project Manager, Stahly Engineering & Associates.

Park County has chosen to assign the responsibility of the Environmental Review Checklist to the project engineer, Kathy Thompson, PE, of Stahly Engineering & Associates.

6. **Other Agencies**

The Preliminary Engineering Report has been completed through an agreement between Park County, the City of Livingston, and Livingston HealthCare. There are no additional agencies that have over-lapping jurisdiction or environmental review responsibility for the proposed project.

Permits required for the project include:

- SPA 124 – Montana Stream Protection Act administered by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.
- 404 Permit – Federal Clean Water Act administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Section 10 Permit – Federal Rivers and Harbors Act administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- 318 Authorization – Short-Term Water Quality Standard for Turbidity administered by the Department of Environmental Quality.
- Floodplain Development Permit – Park County Floodplain Administrator