

NEWS RELEASE

MONTANA'S GARDINER GATEWAY PROJECT

Contact: Mike Inman, Park County, Montana, 406-222-4102
Bill Berg, Greater Gardiner Community Council, 406-848-1033
Daniel Bierschwale, Gardiner Chamber of Commerce, 406-848-7971
Al Nash, Yellowstone National Park, 307-344-2015

Gardiner Gateway Project Improvements to get underway

Gardiner, Montana - July 23, 2013 – Work to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety at the north entrance to Yellowstone National Park and the community of Gardiner, Montana, will soon get underway thanks to federal transportation funds allocated through the Federal Lands Access Program as part of the new Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act.

The Gardiner Gateway Project will receive \$10.3 million from the Federal Lands Access Program, which helps fund state and local transportation repair and improvement projects. The grant proposal which was submitted by Park County, Montana and the National Park Service (NPS) was recently approved by the Montana Program Decisions Committee. With local matching funds from the NPS and Park County, total project funding is nearly \$12 million.

While Gardiner, Montana is a community of fewer than 600 year-round residents, over 1.3 million people travel through town during the summer months in connection with a visit to Yellowstone National Park.

“For over 130 years, visitors have traveled through Gardiner to enter the world’s first national park” noted Dan Wenk, Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park. “We welcome working with our partners to enhance the experience of visiting our public lands”.

“Receiving this funding will help enhance access to our public lands, it will also create jobs and improve our local economy” said Marty Malone, Park County Commissioner.

Engineering and design work is already underway. Construction on infrastructure improvements intended to improve vehicle and pedestrian safety, reduce traffic congestion, enhance parking, and provide for greater pedestrian accessibility is likely to begin in 2014. The project schedule will be developed to minimize construction impacts during the peak summer visitor season.

The Federal Highway Administration Western Federal Lands Division will administer the project in cooperation with the Gardiner Gateway Project partners. Regular updates regarding upcoming project events and implementation will be posted on the project website.

Funding for additional community enhancements is actively being pursued by project partners.

For future updates, visit GardinerGatewayProject.org.