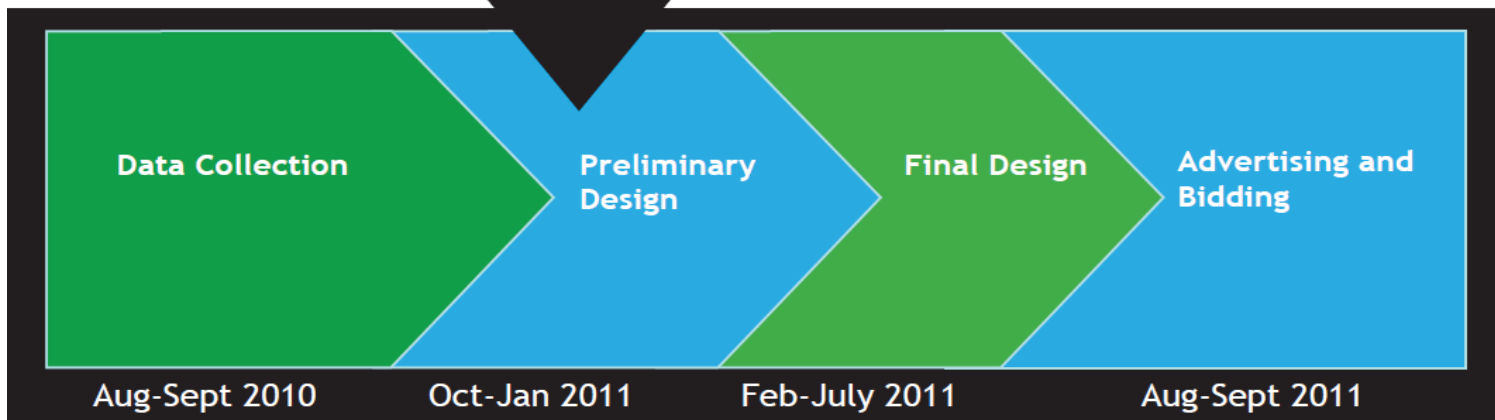


Whitefish

US Highway 93/2nd Street Improvement Project

Project Schedule

We are here



The TIGER grant requires funds to be obligated by September 2011, so the project design will move along quickly. A critical piece to success is an informed and involved public. Please plan to attend the public meetings and feel free to contact one of the team leaders with ideas, questions, or concerns. The second meeting will be held in January, stay tuned at our project website for more information.

A comprehensive project work plan can be found on the project website:
www.wmgmgroup.com/Whitefish_2nd_Street.html

What is TIGER?

TIGER grant funding is allocated by the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. TIGER was an effort by the Federal government to jump start the economy and make lasting transportation infrastructure investments that foster long-term, economic growth. The 2nd Street project was one of 50 selected out of 1,400 applications, and one of only two awarded in the State of Montana.

TIGER funding is subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This requires an environmental document, in this case a Categorical Exclusion, which assesses all project benefits and impacts. The document must be approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) before the project can begin construction.

Find out more about TIGER Grants at www.dot.gov/recovery/

What is Next?

The next step is to complete the Environmental Document and Preliminary Design. This involves assessing the project impacts and identifying necessary mitigation measures. A detailed traffic analysis will be prepared to determine the specific needs for new signal controls, timings and coordination.



Whitefish

US Highway 93/2nd Street Improvement Project

Project Introduction

The City of Whitefish has completed the first three phases of the Whitefish Downtown Infrastructure Improvements Project, including the Whitefish Parking Lot, Third Street (from Spokane Avenue to Baker Avenue) and the reconstruction of the 200 Block of Central Avenue. Construction of the final three phases is underway. This includes the reconstruction of East 1st Street (from Baker Avenue to the alley east of Central Avenue), reconstruction of the 100 Block of Central Avenue in the spring of 2011 and the reconstruction of the 000 Block of Central Avenue in the fall of 2011.

The US Highway 93/2nd Street Improvements Project provides the last critical link in rebuilding Whitefish's downtown infrastructure. This project will reconstruct U.S. Highway 93 (2nd Street) in downtown Whitefish, from Spokane Avenue to Lupfer/Baker Avenue. Project elements include:

- Reconstruction of the roadway and adjacent sidewalks
- Replacement of underground utilities, including sanitary sewer, municipal water and storm drainage
- New streetlights
- New highway signage
- Left turn lanes at Spokane and Baker avenues and intersections
- New traffic signals at Spokane, Central, and Baker avenues

The project will improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety on US Highway 93 in, around, and through downtown Whitefish. Construction bidding is expected in the fall of 2011.

The project is funded through a TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Discretionary Grant that has been awarded to the City of Whitefish by the US Department of Transportation (USDOT). This grant program is administered under Title XII of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).



In this Issue

- Project Information
- Contact the Team
- Project Schedule
- What is TIGER?
- What is Next?

Contact the Team

Jeremy Keene P.E.
 WGM Group, Project Design Consultant
 406-728-4611
jkeene@wmgmgroup.com

Stephen Herzog
 CTA, Contract Administration Consultant
 406-257-8172 x 1510
stephenh@ctagroup.com

Karin Hilding
 City of Whitefish, Senior Project Engineer
 406-863-2450
khilding@cityofwhitefish.org

Dan Smith
 Federal Highway Administration, Recovery Coordinator
 406-441-3918
dan.smith@dot.gov

Project Website: www.wmgmgroup.com/Whitefish_2nd_Street.html

Conceptual Design

The initial concept for the project is shown below. The goal is to provide a balanced approach to moving traffic on US Highway 93, while maintaining a safe and comfortable pedestrian environment in the downtown. This includes curb bulb-outs at 2nd Street and Central Avenue to shorten crossing distances and increase pedestrian visibility. This requires restricting left turns from 2nd Street to allow good traffic flow. Left turn lanes will be added at Spokane and Baker Avenues to facilitate downtown circulation. Additional project elements, such as landscaping and street furniture, will be added as the design progresses.

We want your input! A comment form is enclosed. Please let us know what you like and what you do not like so we can consider your thoughts in the final design.

