



**MINUTES
CITY OF LAUREL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MONDAY, JULY 21, 2025**

The Public Works Committee meeting was called to order at 6:00pm on Monday, July 21, 2025, by Vice Chair Jodi Mackay.

Members Present: Jodi Mackay - Vice Chair, Irv Wilke, Jessica Banks, Shawn Mullaney

Others Present: Matt Wheeler- Public Works Director, Kurt Markegard-CAO, Travis Jones-KLJ, Justin Shovar-CHS, Ryan Welsh-KLJ

Public Input: None

General Items:

1. Approval of Minutes from June 16, 2025. Irv made a motion to approve the minutes of June 16, 2025. Motion was seconded by Jessica. Motion carried 4-0 to approve the minutes.
2. Emergency Call Out Report- Report attached
All call out issues were related to power outages and getting things back on line once power was restored. Overall, Matt reports that it was a pretty quiet month.
3. KLJ Report- Report attached
Ryan of KLJ reported on items:
Water tower will be inspected in September. If repairs are required, a temporary tank maybe used to hold around 5,000 – 10,000 gallons. This may not reach fire requirements, but keeping pumps rolling at the water treatment plant will help mitigate risks.
A task order was sent to the Mayor on 6/27/25 for the W 7th Street project (between 1st and 2nd Ave). It should come before council in an upcoming cycle. Matt reports that it should work with his existing budget. The project would be for Spring of 26.

New Business:

Old Business:

Other Items:

4. Discussion with CHS Refinery regarding southside stormwater

Travis Jones with KLJ on behalf of CHS reported on issue and project:

Currently, storm water from the southside of Laurel goes into a culvert under the interstate and onto CHS property before being dispersed. Issues have been that the culvert is too small and water backs up, flooding the area around the culvert including homes / basements. The culvert also can become plugged. The stormwater enters CHS property and mingles with water from the refinery and it all has to be treated by CHS. In planning, it was determined that the water cannot be moved to the southeast due to conflicts with railroad property. The KLJ conceptual plan has water diverted to the west with a storm water pipe that could handle a 100 year flood. Per the diagram, storm drains at Woodland would carry water west to Yellowstone and eventually to a detention area before being dispersed. Irv asked about the quality of storm water and whether or not it should be released without being treated. Travis agreed to add that concern to further planning and to address it in further proposals. Once this project is completed, the existing culverts

under the interstate would be abandoned. Matt reported that this project would not inhibit future efforts with storm water on the southside (i.e. the West Railroad Rd reconstruction and storm water plans). The next step would be to have this conceptual plan come before City Council for further discussion. Irv made a motion to move it forward with Shawn seconding. The committee passed this 4 – 0.

5. The Committee briefly discussed the recent fish die off at South Pond. It was determined that hot weather, followed by cloud cover and significantly cooler temps caused the die off. For the most part, only smaller fish that swim in the more shallow parts of the pond were killed. There are windmills installed by Game and Fish that provide some oxygen to the pond. Kurt confirmed that he saw the windmills turning so they are working, but they may not be big enough for the pond.

Announcements

Next Meeting will be Monday, August 18, 2025 at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm

Emergency Overtime Callout List

1-1-25

TO

7-1-25

Maintenance Shop 406-628-4773

City Dispatch 406-628-8737

Response Code	X In Column Not accepting Overtime /NA = Not Available /Y = Responding /B=Phone Busy											
Employee Name	Telephone											
Shop Callout												
Kevin Budge												
Jay Hatton												
Keith Guy												
Wade Spalinger												
Brandon Gonzales												
Aaron Fox												
Troy Clifton												
Joel Barnhardt												
Bridger Fornier												
Water and Sewer Callout		7-4	7-13									
Justin Baker		NA1	y3									
Kevin Hoffman		NA2	1									
Daniel Nauman		Y3	2									

Elm Lift Station 628-7773 Village Lift Station 628-5918 Dial 9 after tone to acknowledge alarm

Wastewater Treatment Plant-628-6474

Autodailer- 628-4866

Response Code	NO= In 1st Column Not accepting Overtime / NA = Not Available / Y = Responding											
Employee	Telephone											
Thomas Henry												
Cindy Caswell												
Corey Nicholson												
Norman Stamper												

Water Treatment Plant 628-4410

Response Code	NO= In 1st Column Not accepting Overtime / NA = Not Available / Y = Responding											
Employee	Telephone											
HP Nuernberger												
Dylan Ceaser												
Josh Sawyer												
Sam Waggoner												
Joe Waggoner												
TJ Worbel												
Daniel Waggoner												

Matt Wheeler Cell# 208-1885 E One Call Locate - 1-800-424-5555 (City Job # 25663)

Kurt Markegard Cell# 860-5785 Hm 208-2356 SCHESSLER 628-4221 HESTON 281-0811

Mayor 406 633 3809 Dwight Ace Electric 406 697 2037

Travis Ace Electric 406 850 0612

MDU 1-800-638-3278 / MDT 252-4138

Pace Construction 252-5559 (sewer backups)

SanitarySystemOverflows call DEQ withing 24 hours at406-444-3080

Call Out - Date and Incident Location

6-5 H2O BREAKS 8TH ALL NIGHT		
6-7 walmart lift		
6-7 walmart lift		
6-16 FLOODING		
6-17 H2O TURN ON		
6-23 water plant problems		
6-30 update		
7-13 village lift problems		



City of Laurel Project Status Update July 17th, 2025



Laurel Water Tank Funding Project

(KLJ # 2304-01608)

Reason for Project: Existing City water Tank needs to be recoated on the inside and can't happen until City has a backup storage supply. They also have needs for upgrades to their upper pressure zones. See previously approved Water System PER and City of Laurel CIP. This project looks at funding opportunities and provides grant writing services from multiple sources

Project Scope: To research funding alternatives, create packages for submittal, and assist City in finding monies for completing the future water tank and upper pressure zone improvements for the City of Laurel

Current Status:

- Task Order Signed by City on 12/13/23
- Met with EDA to discuss Funding on 1/9/24
- Letter of Support from CHS Received
- Letter of Support from Wood's Powergrip
- Submittal uploaded to EDA on 7.11.24.
- Multiple calls back/forth with EDA to clarify information including need for the project, priority for the city, provision of procurement documents, and verification of budget.
- EDA reviewed mid October and are waiting for notice of award - All grants must be awarded (or declined) and contracted/obligated by 12/31/2024.
- As of 12/13/24, EDA is still telling us they don't have an update.
- Notified of EDA denial of funding on 1/7/2025
- KLJ reviewing other opportunities for funding
- Meeting between City and KLJ reviewing denial and other funding sources on 1/16/2025
- As of January 2025 City has spent \$16,917.76 of the \$56,000 budget for funding applications.
- WWC has submitted this project for a BRIC grant
- KLJ has submitted an Application for consideration of Congressionally Directed Spending on behalf of the City on 3/26/25
- Public Disclosure Form completed and sent onto Senator Sheehy's office on 5/5/25.
Awaiting response.

5th to 7th Sewer Line Replacement

(KLJ # 2304-01231)

Reason for Project: Refurbishment of an 8" sewer line between 7th Avenue and 6th Avenue and a 10" sewer line between 6th Avenue and 5th Avenue in the alley way between 1st Street and Main Street in Laurel, Montana. The existing sewer line experienced several collapses last year.



City of Laurel Project Status Update July 17th, 2025



Project Scope: To replace approximately 363 lineal feet of 8" and 383 lineal feet of 10" and will include the update of 3 manholes and associated surface replacement.

Current Status:

- Work Order Signed by City in September 2023
- Survey scheduled for week of October 16th, 2023
- Base Drawing created and Working on preliminary design
- Preliminary Plans and EEOC sent to City on 12.14.23
- DEQ Approval received on 2.20.24
- Project began advertising on 3/14/24 and bid open will be 3.28.24
- Project awarded to Western Municipal Construction
- Construction started on June 10th 2024
- Sewer Line fully installed and accepted on 7/10/24
- Change Order Requested by City personal put together with cost estimate and submitted to City on 7/10/24
- City reviewed CO#1 cost and elected not to pursue
- Contractor achieved Substantial Completion on 8/1/24
- Contractor achieved Final Completion on 8/20/24
- Release of Retainage request submitted along with reconciliation Change Order
- Warranty walkthrough to occur in August of 2025
- Responded to a call from resident at 15 6th Ave. about storm water in their yard. Review and interview with property owner revealed that storm water is a historic issue at this location 10+ years of documented issues. A small amount of runoff is entering their yard from the alley way but majority is coming from the house and garage. City will install an asphalt berm adjacent to where the water appears to be running off the asphalt into their property.

Laurel Planning Services (KLJ #1804-00554)

Reason for Project: KLJ has been retained to provide City of Laurel planning services as needed.

Project Scope: Planning services may include; subdivision, zoning, development, floodplain hazard management, miscellaneous reviews and other related work. KLJ will prepare staff reports, recommendations, and attend meetings upon request.

Current Status:

- Zoning Regulations Update.
 - Draft regulations sent to City April 11th, 2023
 - Zoning Map approved by Commission on August 16th, 2023
 - Staff Recommendation to Zoning Commission to occur on December 20th, 2023
 - Back to Planning Board Meeting on 1/17/23
 - City to publish advertisement for Public Hearing
 - To be presented at Workshop on 5/7/24



City of Laurel Project Status Update *July 17th, 2025*



- Adoption occurred at Council on 5/14/24
 - 2nd Reading and Public Hearing on 5/28/24.
 - Regulations adopted by Council. Minor wording and numbering corrections needed.
 - Wording and numbering corrections made and submitted to Kurt 7/3/24
 - Waiting on final comments from Kurt
- Love's Annexation
 - Annexation Application received 3/25/24
 - Revised Package received by City on 5/2/24
 - City requested KLJ to review on 7/12/24
 - KLJ's review sent back to City on 7/18/24
 - Love's submitted design for review on 12.10.2024
 - Engineering review and comments sent back on 1.10.25
 - Love's addressing comments
 - Love's 2nd package received 2.10.25 (still awaiting updated reports)
 - Love's 2nd package reviewed and sent back on 2/21/25
 - Love's has been approved by the City on 3/20/25
 - Love's Water & Sewer Extensions were approved by DEQ on 4/10/25
- Cherry Hills 4th Filing
 - City has received notice that Cherry Hills 4th Filing is requesting a Pre-Application Meeting
 - Pre-Application meeting was held on April 16th at City Hall.

Other Notes and Information

Other potential projects have been identified during recent conversations between City staff and KLJ. City Public Works staff and KLJ task leaders meet monthly to discuss current and future projects. As these are tentative, the timing and extent of KLJ's services are TBD, unless noted otherwise.

Anticipated FY25 Projects

- Bulk Water Sales Station
 - Project task order to be started in early 2025
- West 7th Street Water and Valve Replacement
 - Updated Task Order and Budget sent to City on 6/27/2025



Memorandum

Date: July 21, 2025
To: City of Laurel Public Works Board
Copy to: Justin Shovar / CHS
From: Travis Jones, KLJ
RE: City & CHS Stormwater Outfall / Conceptual Plan

Remarks

The intent of this memorandum is to summarize the proposed stormwater concept presented by CHS and KLJ Engineering at the July 21, 2025 City of Laurel Public Works Board meeting; and to request City adoption of a resolution to support design of improvements to remedy flooding issues in Laurel's southside neighborhood. Laurel's southside neighborhood generally refers to the area bound by South 8th Avenue (west), BNSF rail spur (east), I-90 (south) and West Railroad Street (north).

- **Background**

- Stormwater runoff from the City's southside neighborhood is currently captured and conveyed through the CHS refinery in a 24-inch culvert that passes under I-90 at the south end of South 1st Avenue.
- An additional 24-inch culvert crosses I-90 near the south end of Yellowstone Avenue.
- Both culverts are undersized and at too high of an elevation to effectively drain the area.
- Overflow from the culverts runs east along I-90 to the BNSF underpass, but not without causing flooding.
- The culvert outfall route through CHS is a maintenance and operational problem for CHS due to CHS having to manage runoff from the City. It is also an operational problem for the City due to restricted access across the refinery.
- In 2021, the City of Laurel commissioned The Southside Master Stormwater Plan, which included recommendations for improvements as follows:
 - Develop a storm sewer system in the Southside Neighborhood
 - Develop a stormwater detention areas in Russell Park
 - Pursue development of a new stormwater discharge route and outfall to replace the two inadequate 24-inch culverts under I-90.
- To date, the City has adopted the Southside Master Stormwater Plan, developed the proposed stormwater detention area in Russell Park and completed an initial phase of developing a storm sewer system within the Southside Neighborhood.
- Flooding and drainage issues persist following the initial phases of these improvements, primarily as a result of the proposed stormwater outfall improvements not yet being complete.



- **Concept Overview**

- CHS and KLJ have developed a concept plan to improve the stormwater outfall under I-90 and bypass around the CHS refinery, summarized as follows:
 - Proposed culvert from Russell Park to a new outfall location.
 - Culvert size anticipated as 36" to 48". Final sizing to be confirmed during the design phase, to be refined with final design.
 - Proposed detention pond at the southeast side of the conceptual alignment to be finalized during the design with the location, size, and orientation subject to change.
 - The existing culverts under I-90 will be abandoned, which will eliminate the comingling of City and CHS stormwater.

- **Benefits to the City and CHS**

- Eliminates dependence on one another for maintenance of the I-90 culvert and downstream CHS stormwater system.
- Improved City access and control over downstream drainage facilities.
- Increases the stormwater capacity relative to the current conditions.
- Eliminates mixing of stormwater and potential regulatory impacts.
- With the proposed route, the City will have the opportunity to improve drainage along the alley at the south ends of both Woodland Avenue and Yellowstone Avenue.
- An additional detention pond will help City comply with future MS4 stormwater discharge permit requirements.

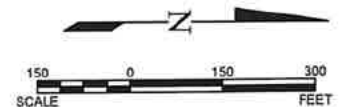
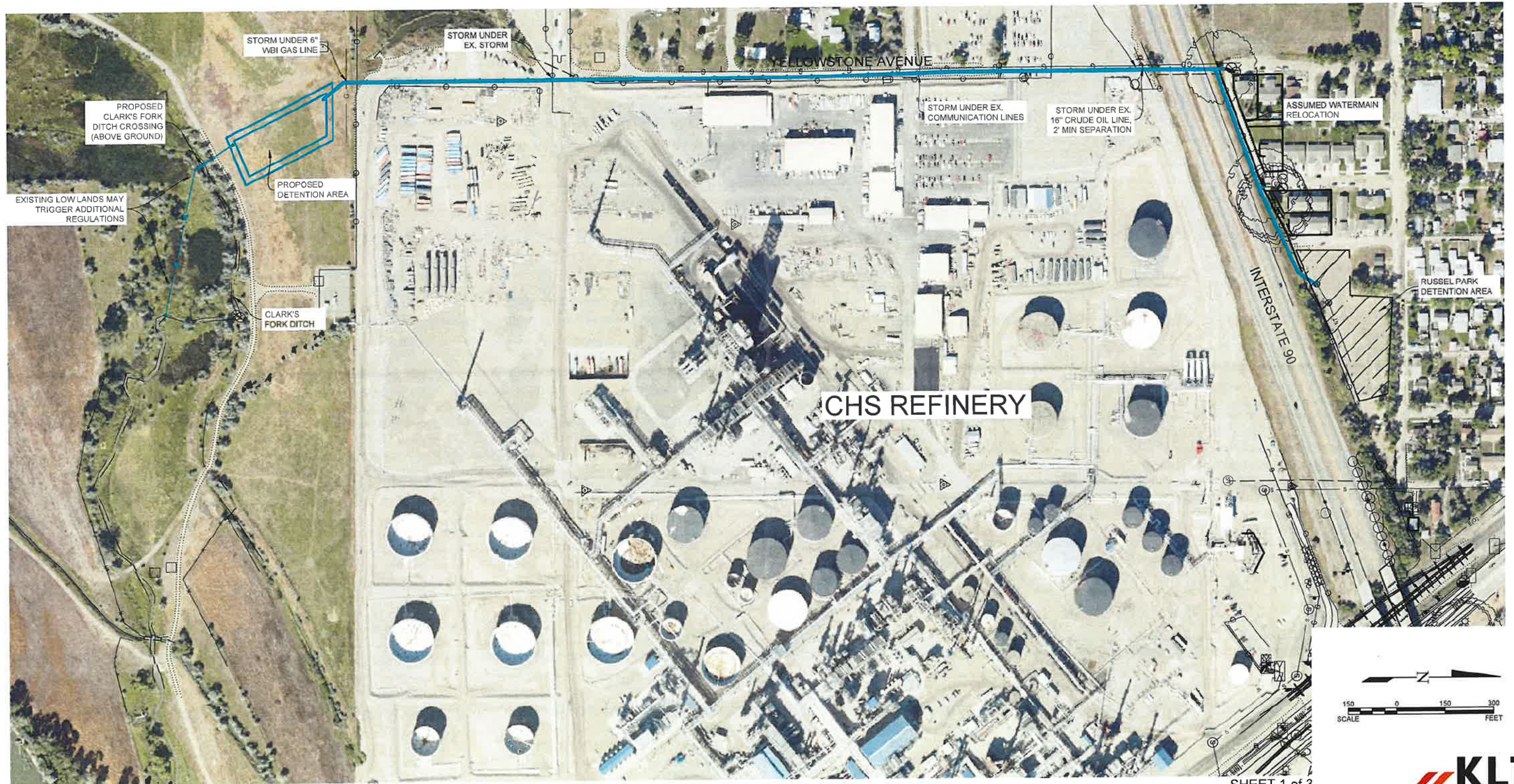
- **CHS Request**

- Concurrence on the proposed stormwater project with a recommendation to the City Council to support the project.
- Recommended Resolution: The Laurel Public Works Board recommends the City Council approve a resolution to support the commencement of the design phase of the proposed CHS/City stormwater project with the following conditions:
 - CHS will commission and pay for the engineering design efforts.
 - The design will consider and incorporate stormwater inlets at the south ends of Yellowstone Avenue and Woodland Avenue.
 - The City will coordinate with CHS to provide review and feedback of the engineering plans when requested by CHS.
 - The final design will include abandonment of the existing I-90 culverts.
 - Upon completion of the final design, the City and CHS will work together to develop a formal agreement addressing access, leading/responsible party, cost allocation/sharing, schedule, consultant/contractor procurement, and other relevant terms & conditions associated with the remaining permitting, construction, ownership, and maintenance of the proposed facilities.

Please direct any outstanding questions to Justin Shovar, CHS Project Management Specialist at Justin.Shovar@chsinc.com and Travis Jones, KLJ Project Manager at travis.jones@klijeng.com.

I-90 EMBANKMENT FLOODING REMEDIATION

LAUREL, MT
07-01-2025



SHEET 1 of 3

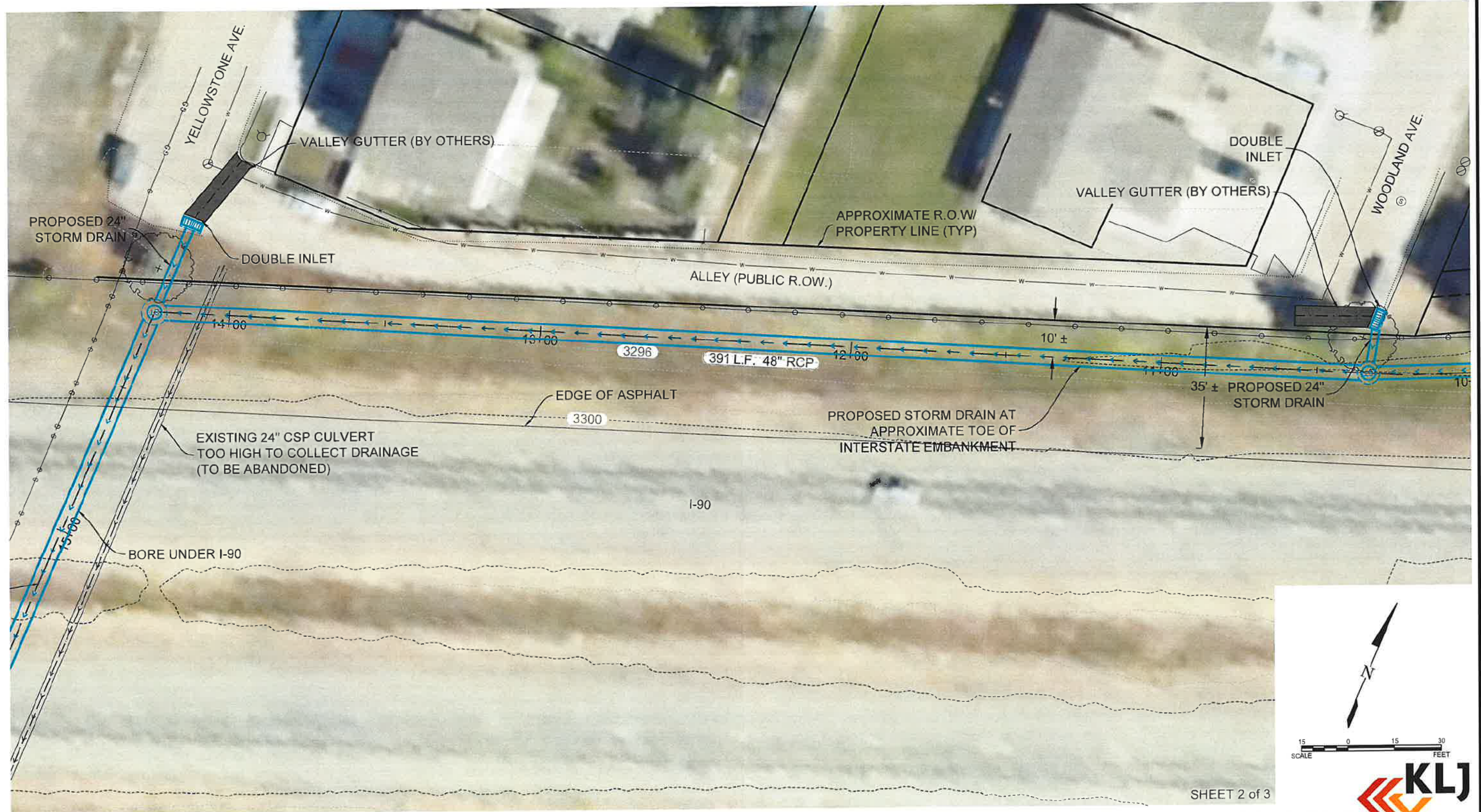
PRELIMINARY - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



I-90 EMBANKMENT FLOODING REMEDIATION

LAUREL, MT

07-01-2025



SHEET 2 of 3

PRELIMINARY - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



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I-90 EMBANKMENT FLOODING REMEDIATION

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