

Engineering and Grant Services
East Helena Public Schools

A proposal to:
East Helena Public Schools
February 10, 2025

Stahly Engineering & Associates Professional Services Proposal



An Employee-Owned Company

851 Bridger Drive,
Suite 1
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 522-8594

2223 Montana Avenue,
Suite 201
Billings MT 59101
(406) 601-4055

3530 Centennial Drive
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 442-8594

219 2nd Ave S
Ste 302
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 604-4644

1002 12th Street
Cody, WY 82414
(307) 509-5541

Engineering Excellence for More Than 50 Years



Introduction

The East Helena Public Schools's commitment to student and community safety is at the heart of this proposal. Stahly Engineering & Associates (Stahly) is pleased to present this professional services proposal to the East Helena Public Schools. We share your commitment to creating a safe and efficient environment for students, staff, and families.

This proposal provides a "menu" of services that can be provided separately or together, depending on the available resources and/or the needs and priorities of the East Helena Public Schools. The Scope of Work is divided into three activities:

1. Our initial traffic study will focus on Prickly Pear Elementary School campus, assessing any traffic related issues on campus and providing actionable recommendations to enhance traffic flow and pedestrian safety.
2. The City of East Helena has asked the East Helena Public Schools to consider approving the extension of Thurman Drive to Highland Meadows subdivision through the East Helena Public Schools's property. We propose studying the impacts this could have on the traffic flow on the Prickly Pear Elementary campus. Part of the study would be to assess whether this would be in the best interest of the school district. Extending this roadway without studying the traffic impacts could adversely affect the safety of pedestrians and the traveling public.
3. The planned improvements to Valley Drive and the pathway along Lewis Street will influence both vehicle and pedestrian traffic patterns on the Valley Drive corridor. With this in mind, any future traffic studies should be completed as the improvements have been made and new traffic patterns have been established. How traffic enters and exits Valley Drive has an enormous impact on how the traffic flows on each campus. Congestion at Valley Drive/Montana Ave will cause congestion on most of the East Helena School campuses. Parents will also find alternative routes to avoid using Valley Drive which can create congestion and conflicts on other routes. Partnering with the City of East Helena to resolve these traffic issues would be in the best interest of the entire community. Stahly recommends completing a traffic study of the Radley Elementary Campus, including evaluating the intersection with King Street and Montana Ave and the intersections on East Clinton Street with Thurman Drive and N Helena Ave as the next step in the process to resolve traffic issues on school campuses.

Stahly also has the means to prepare a proposal to help the East Helena Public Schools procure funding for this work. We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with you on this important initiative and to support the safety and well-being of the East Helena Public Schools.

SCOPE OF WORK

I. PRICKLY PEAR ELEMENTARY TRAFFIC STUDY

Stahly proposes completing a traffic study initially focusing on the Prickly Pear Elementary School campus. This initial traffic study will focus on the PPE campus only. The study will include assessing traffic and pedestrian patterns, parent drop-off/pick-up locations, areas of congestion, and conflicts between buses, pedestrians, and vehicles etc. Stahly will provide a comprehensive report based on the information gathered.

Stahly recommends the following tasks be completed for the Prickly Pear traffic study:

1. **Discussions with the District**
 - a. Transportation Department
 - b. School District Staff

The Traffic Study will include:

2. **Vehicular Traffic volumes during pre- and post-school hours**
 - a. Entering/exiting volumes on campus

- b. Background traffic volumes on Valley Drive/Montana Ave (from MDT)
- c. Current drop-off and pick-up locations

3. Pedestrian and bike volumes

- a. Crosswalk compliance
 - 1. Yield by traffic, use by pedestrians
 - 2. Areas of pedestrian and bicycle crossing activity,

4. Comprehensive list of existing traffic markings, signs, and crosswalk locations

5. Crash history

- a. All reported crashes along study area frontage for the previous 5 years
- b. Incident reports and anecdotal information from Law Enforcement and school officials.

6. Site survey summary of existing traffic patterns

- a. Existing circulation patterns of all users
- b. Observed congestion and conflict points on the school campus
- c. Circulation patterns, bus schedules, and staff parking.

Stahly proposes hiring a sub consultant, WSP, to help with the traffic counts and analysis.

3. Updated Traffic and Site Plan

Upon completing the above-mentioned traffic studies, Stahly will develop a revised Traffic and Site Plan for the school campus, including recommended improvements to optimize traffic flow and enhance pedestrian safety. The updated Traffic Plan will be presented to the school board for review and potential implementation.

The recommendations will include:

- 1. Recommendations for improvements that can be made quickly
- 2. Recommendations for improvements that will need further design and funding options for implementation.

II. Analysis of the City's Proposed Extension of Thurman Drive

Stahly will evaluate the city's proposed extension of Thurman Drive, focusing on its potential benefits and any detriments to the East Helena Public Schools if the district consents to the project.

A. The Traffic Study will include:

- 1. Estimating the increase in vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian volumes
- 2. Identify how the circulation patterns could change with the extension of Thurman Drive
- 3. Identify future areas for increased parking
- 4. Identify access points for future parking and tennis courts
- 5. Identify future pedestrian facility and crossing needs

B. Evaluation of the collected data

- 1. Evaluate how the extension could be integrated into the school campus to avoid creating circulation problems.
- 2. Type of pedestrian facilities that would be warranted
- 3. How the increase in traffic will affect the current and proposed facilities

4. Determine if the extension will enhance the traffic flow
 5. Determine if the extension will provide opportunities for additional parking
- C. By assessing these factors, we aim to clearly understand how the project could support the district's operational needs and long-term goals. We will complete a report including but not limited to:
1. How will the project support the district's operational needs
 2. Recommendations for the design of the road extension to avoid circulation problems and traffic congestion.
 3. Recommendations for additional pedestrian facilities related to the extension
 4. An estimate of the increase in traffic volumes and their impact on current facilities.
 5. Determine the impacts the road extension would have on the campus.

III. FUTURE TRAFFIC IMPACT STUDIES FOR OTHER CAMPUSES

Stahly can expand this study as needed when proposed improvements are implemented and at the direction of the School Board. Stahly recommends that the district focus the next traffic study on Radley Elementary Campus, including evaluating the intersections on King Street and Montana Ave and the intersections on East Clinton Street with Thurman Drive and N Helena Ave, respectively. The study will include recommendations to improve the traffic flow for this school campus. Vehicular and pedestrian habits and patterns will change due to the proposed improvements on Valley Drive, the reconstruction and trail projects, and the Lewis Street trail project. Stahly recommends completing a traffic study of the Radley Elementary Campus upon completion of the projects.

Any further traffic studies should be completed upon completing any changes made by the school district from the above recommended studies. Stahly is prepared to negotiate future proposals for traffic studies at the school's discretion. This approach ensures flexibility to address specific campus needs while providing a broader view of traffic flow and safety across the district. Our goal is to deliver actionable insights and solutions that align with the district's overarching goals and enhance the experience for students, staff, and the community.

Stahly recommends that the district meets with the City of East Helena and the Highland Meadows subdivision to discuss any interest in sharing the cost of these studies since they will benefit everyone involved.

EXPENSES

Project expenses, which include mileage, printing, survey supplies, etc., are billed at the actual expense.

FEEES FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

I. CONDUCT TRAFFIC STUDIES FOR PRICKLY PEAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	\$39,000
II. ANALYSIS OF THE CITY'S PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THURMAN DRIVE	\$47,000
III. CONDUCT TRAFFIC STUDIES for Radley Elementary	\$58,000

Including King Street and Montana Ave and the intersections on East Clinton Street with Thurman Drive and N Helena Ave,



Traffic studies at other campuses will be similarly priced depending on the type of study but must be negotiated at the time of implementation.

Please do not hesitate to contact Kaia Tharp at (307) 250-6722 or Clint Smith at (406) 442-8594 if you have any questions or concerns or require further information. We are available to discuss the Scope of Work as needed. Stahly will draft a task order based on the approved portions of the scope of work and send it to EHPS for approval. We look forward to working together to improve the safety on your campuses.

Sincerely,
STAHLY ENGINEERING & ASSOCIATES



Kaia Tharp, P.E.
Stahly Engineering and Associates
Transportation Department Manager
(307) 250-6722