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Shiloh Road Ribbon Cutting

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Senator * or Department*:   **BAUCUS**

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Record Type*:   Speeches & Remarks

MONTH/YEAR of Records*:   December-2010

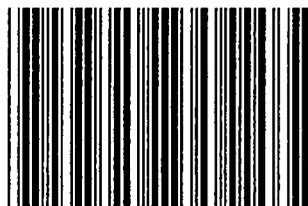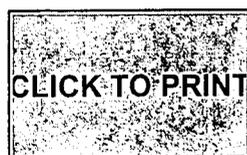(Example: JANUARY-2003)

(1) Subject*:   Transportation

(select subject from controlled vocabulary, if your office has one)

(2) Subject*   Remarks for Shiloh Road Ribbon Cutting Event

DOCUMENT DATE*:   12/03/2010

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BAUCUS

Remarks for Shiloh Road Ribbon Cutting Event

Date: December 3, 2010 @ 2 pm

Location: Faith Chapel @ Grand on Shiloh Road, Billings Westend

Number of Expected Attendees: 25 - 30

Podium: No (microphone will be available)

Order of Speakers: Senator Baucus, Senator Tester, Congressman Denny Rehberg (invited but not confirmed), and Mayor Tom Hanel

Objective of Statement: To celebrate project completion, take credit for fighting for funding, thank appropriate partners

Good afternoon everyone. This is a very exciting day and I appreciate the invitation to join you.

Shiloh Road has taken a long time and a lot of hard work to come together.

But here's the key thing. And I really want to emphasize this point:

Today's success is about what happens when people truly work together toward a common goal.

We're here to celebrate the winning combination of citizens and government at all levels – a true public and private partnership.

Ten years ago during a ribbon cutting for the SHILOH INTERCHANGE, I responded to a question about what was next by saying, "*Shiloh Road.*"

Five years ago, I stood with some of you at a presentation for a $10 million check for Shiloh Road – funding that came through the 2005 Highway Bill.

You had good representation from the start and some of these folks should be recognized and thanked.

My friend Yellowstone County Commissioner Bill Kennedy, who I admire for his tenacity in getting things done; and his fellow commissioners Jim Reno ("REE-KNOW") and John Ostlund ("OSST-LUND").

I want to thank the Governor for personally working with Jim Lynch to get this project moving.

Jim Lynch, Director of the MT Department of
Transportation – Jim, Stefan ("STE – FON")
Streeter and the MDOT staff worked with 103
landowners to acquire the needed Right-Of-Way
<u>WITHOUT ONCE RESORTING TO</u>
<u>CONDEMNATION.</u>

Former Billings' mayors Chuck Tooley ("TOO-
LEE") and Ron Tussing ("TOO-SING") as well as
current mayor, Tom Hanel ("HANN-EL").

Thank you to Billings City Council members, past
and present.

I'd like to thank City Administrator Tina Volek ("VOE-LECK") and her staff. Thanks Tina for all your efforts – including stopping traffic on Shiloh road in order to organize this event!

Congratulations to Sanderson Stewart and their design team, and the two prime contractors, Knife River and Riverside Sand and Gravel and their subcontractors, putting more than 50 businesses and their employees to work.

Thanks to everybody, at every level, working together, we now have a new and much-needed road in a part of town where we have seen continued growth.

This westend arterial means travel is safer.

Shiloh draws new economic opportunities, like Shiloh Crossing, and creates jobs.

Thanks to Darlene Tussing ("TOO-SING") and the city, westend residents and visitors can choose to walk. Or jog. Or ride a bike.

This is people moving through Billings. And it's Billings moving forward.

Finally, I want to thank my good friend and colleague Jon Tester, who serves on the Senate's Appropriations Committee. Jon uses his role to do what is right for Montana.

He and I worked closely together to secure

funding for this project over the last several

years.

Our ability to secure support for projects like

these in Washington is critical for Montana

communities.

And we will keep fighting for infrastructure and

transportation projects that create jobs for

Montana and make our state and even better

place to live work and raise a family.

Let me close by saying thank you again for having

me here.

I am very proud to have worked with you -- and to

have worked for you -- to help achieve this.

- Thank you, _____, for that introduction. And, thanks to all of you for having me here today with you.

- This is a very exciting day.

- <u>TEN YEARS AGO,</u> during a ribboncutting for the SHILOH INTERCHANGE, I responded to a question about what was next by saying, "*Shiloh Road.*"

- <u>FIVE YEARS AGO</u>, I proudly delivered a big, fat $10 million check to the Yellowstone County Commissioners for project money that I had secured in the 2005 Highway Bill.

- I remember those moments vividly.

- And I remember working with a road crew out on the intersection of Shiloh Road and Rimrock doing one of my workdays where I get the chance to work with real people.

- But here's the key thing. *And I really want to emphasize this point:*

    - This was true collaboration…citizens and government at all levels…public and private.

- It was local folks here in Billings who had the vision and provided the support.

- And you had good representation from:

  - Former mayors Chuck Tooley ("TOO-LEE") and Ron Tussing ("TOO-SING");

  - And your current mayor, Tom Hanel ("HANN-EL")

  - And Tina Volek ("VOE-LECK"), the City Administrator.   Thanks to Tina for all of her efforts – right down to organizing this event today;

  - And Ed Ulledalen (YOU'LL – A – DAYLEN"), the Deputy Mayor

- I want to thank the Yellowstone County Commissioners:

    o Jim Reno ("REE-KNOW")

    o John Ostlund ("OSST-LUND")

    o And, especially <u>my good friend Bill Kennedy</u> – we've been through a lot together.

- Another person is Jim Lynch of the Montana Department of Transportation.

- Jim and his staff managed to acquire the needed Right-Of-Way from one hundred and three landowners **<u>WITHOUT ONCE RESORTING TO CONDEMNATION TO SEIZE ANYBODY'S LAND.</u>**

- Sometimes, it entailed sitting down face-to-face with people to get things nailed down.

- And, it worked. You know why? Because that is how we do things here in Montana.

- I want to thank the Governor.

- And, finally, I want to thank my good friend and colleague Jon Tester, who serves on the Senate's Appropriations Committee.

- Jon uses his role to do what is right for Montana.

- He and I worked closely together to secure funding for this project over the last several years.

- Everybody, at every level, worked together toward a shared goal.

- We now have a new artery in the part of town where we're seeing great growth.

- It's safer.

- It creates economic opportunities, like at Shiloh Crossing.

- And it's faster.   You can now drive from Rimrock Road to Zoo Drive without even having to stop.

- Or you can walk. Or jog.   Or ride a bike.   By the way, I want to thank Darlene Tussing for her advocacy on behalf of bike and pedestrian paths.

- This is people moving through Billings. And it's Billings moving forward.

- There are many more people who also deserve recognition, but I'll stop here in the interest of time.

- Let me close by saying thank you again for having me here with you.

- I am very proud to have worked with you -- and to have worked for you -- to help achieve this.