

January 6, 2022

**ITEM 198-2004-R0122**

**Request for Authorization to Plan and Design a Master Plan for Repair and Expansion Projects at the Museum of the Rockies; Montana State University**

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**THAT**

Consistent with the provisions of MCA 20-25-302(6) and BOR Policy 1003.7, the Board of Regents authorizes the Museum of the Rockies at Montana State University to expend up to \$1.6 million to program, plan and design a master plan for expanding and repairing facilities.

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**EXPLANATION**

1. The Museum of the Rockies (MOR), a division of Montana State University (MSU), is requesting authorization to begin master planning for future expansion and associated repairs, and to then begin design for projects identified in the master plan.
  2. In 1970 and 1974, three structures were created to house the museum on the campus of Montana State University. In 1989, a renovation and expansion incorporated these structures into one cohesive building. Since then, multiple drainage issues on the roof, along with updated seismic code requirements, have now created a need to upgrade, repair and expand facilities to meet growing demand.
  3. Visitation rates have more than quadrupled from 50,000 visitors when MOR first opened to nearly 230,000 visitors today. As such, MOR will pursue a master plan to identify future projects for the facility including capital construction and major repair projects.
  4. This work will be paid using non-state private funds and physical plant funds.
  5. MSU and MOR will request construction authority once master planning and design work are completed.
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**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment #1: Physical Plant 1003.7