

## Churchill, Montana: Building a Community Sidewalk

The Churchill community has a long history in the Gallatin Valley. Located west of Belgrade, the community is surrounded by agricultural fields and founded on Dutch heritage. The community is also built around a state highway (Churchill Road). Two churches and a school directly front the highway, as well as numerous homes. A retirement home is two blocks away, and over 200 homes lie in neighborhoods on either side of the highway. An existing sidewalk runs north along Churchill Road between one of the churches and the firehall, but a critical piece heading east from this existing sidewalk to the second church and school is missing. The Amsterdam/Churchill Community [Planning Group \(ACCPG\)](#), a volunteer non-profit organization, has been working for a year to find funding to help construct this portion of the sidewalk in a central part of the community.

The 1,680-foot sidewalk will be located immediately in front of Manhattan Christian School along Churchill Road and connect to an existing sidewalk built in the 1970's. It will provide a way for residents to go to school, attend church, and move about the community without walking oin the state highway.

This is the first phase in the plan to help create a safer community for students and residents living in the Churchill community. The ACCPG hopes to provide sidewalks or trail connections along all of the major roads in the community over the next several years. This phase is the most critical, however, as it will greatly improve the walking and biking opportunities for students, retirees, and residents as it connects neighborhoods to the public buildings in the center of town.

### Cost

The total project cost of the sidewalk will be approximately \$121,000. Depending on whether or not the community is awarded specific grants from the State of Montana, the residents will need to fund from \$7,571 up to \$22,000. The community is seeking donations (direct funding, labor, or materials) from individuals as well as organizations to help meet the matching requirements.

The [Amsterdam/Churchill Community Planning Group-ACCPG](#) is excited to apply to the Zoot grant program and looks forward to partnering with [the Zoot Grant Committee](#) to help us make our community a safer place. Please contact Walt Sales at 406-570-2128 or Tim Van\_Dam at 406-581-3626 with any questions.



Churchill community, looking southwest



Churchill Road, looking east