



News Release

U.S. General Services Administration

October 14, 2010

GSA contact: Sally Mayberry 303-236-2583
sally.mayberry@gsa.gov

GSA Driving Growth And Innovation To Downtown Billings Landscape *Ensuring American Leadership in the New Energy Economy of the Future*

BILLINGS, MT – Together the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), Mortenson Construction, the United States District Court, and NBBJ will host a groundbreaking ceremony for the new, energy-efficient U.S. Federal Courthouse in downtown Billings. The ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. Friday, October 15, at 2601 2nd Avenue North, Billings.

On December 23, 2009, GSA awarded the \$59 million design-build contract to Mortenson Construction with NBBJ as lead designer, both located in King County, Washington. To date, Mortenson has successfully awarded \$5.96 million dollars to seven Montana sub-contractors, five of which are from Billings. Montana subcontractors include: Sanderson Stewart for Civil Engineering & Surveying; Rimrock Engineering for Geotechnical Services; Terracon, Inc. - Environmental Testing & Engineering; Allied Steel - Steel Supply; COP Construction - Off-Site Utilities; CMG Construction – Earthwork; TC Glass - Glass & Glazing Systems.

GSA intends to build a new U.S. Courthouse that will be a focus of pride for the community it serves. The project will be a functionally aesthetic, sustainable, cost-effective, state-of-the-art court facility. The building will consist of approximately 145,000 gross square feet of space, including three courtrooms, four judge's chambers, prisoner areas, office, and public spaces. The courthouse will be designed to accommodate a 30-year expansion plan. The project is expected to be complete by late 2012.

The new courthouse is designed to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). LEED is an internationally recognized green building certification system, providing third-party verification that a building was designed and built using strategies aimed at improving performance across all the metrics that matter most including energy savings, water efficiency, CO2 emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and use of renewable, recycled and recyclable materials. Through the careful design of the exterior façade, and the interior space layout, mechanical, lighting and electrical systems, the courthouse is projected to use at most 60% of the energy used by a typical building of the same size.

"GSA is proud to be working toward a new energy economy by investing in new, more energy-efficient public buildings," said GSA Rocky Mountain Regional Administrator Susan Damour. "Not only will this landmark building meet the pressing needs of the federal courts in the community, but it will support the long-term goals for downtown Billings"

Throughout the project, GSA worked with city and county officials, as well as other and local stakeholders, to help ensure that the project supported local development goals. GSA worked with its local partners to develop a framework plan for the neighborhood that would help inform how the courthouse should relate to its surroundings and other nearby civic buildings. Ideas from the framework plan regarding orientation of the building, treatment of surrounding streetscape, and other factors were used to help inform the design of the building. This will help to leverage long term improvement in that part of downtown.

"This project means a great deal to our city and the continued redevelopment of our downtown, which is an important element of our economic development strategy. We really appreciate how GSA has approached this project, viewing it from the perspective of how it can benefit the community. Big Sky Economic Development is proud to be a partner in making this Federal Courthouse project a reality," said Steve Arveschoug, Executive Director of Big Sky Economic Development Authority.

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GSA provides a centralized delivery system of products and services to the federal government, leveraging its enormous buying power to get the best value for taxpayers.

- Founded in 1949, GSA manages more than 11 percent of the government's total procurement dollars and \$30 billion in federal assets, including 8,600 government-owned or leased buildings and 213,000 vehicles.
- GSA helps preserve our past and define our future, as a steward of more than 480 historic properties, and as manager of USA.gov, the official portal to federal government information and services.
- GSA's mission to provide superior workplaces, expert technology solutions, acquisition services, purchasing and E-Gov travel solutions and management policies, at best value, allows federal agencies to focus on their core missions.