

March 5-7, 2008

ITEM 138-2004-R0308

**Authorization to Construct Ancillary Research Support Structures in Lewistown, Montana; Montana State University Bozeman**

**THAT:**

Consistent with the provisions of MCA-18-2-102(2)(c), the Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes MSU-Bozeman to construct Ancillary Research Support Structures on leased property at the Lewistown municipal airport to support grant-funded research being conducted by the Western Transportation Institute. This request is for a total of \$1,500,000.

**EXPLANATION:**

1. The Western Transportation Institute (WTI) conducts a variety of transportation and highway safety research projects. WTI has secured grants to fund "cold-region" research related to highway and transportation system safety and has leased a decommissioned section of the Lewistown municipal airport to conduct the research.
2. Initial structures are expected to include a snow making system and a support/storage building. These structures will either be removed in accordance with provisions of the lease at the end of the lease term or will revert to airport ownership.
3. This project will be funded with non-state, grant funding from the Federal Highway Safety Program.
4. This project requires the authorization of the Board of Regents and the consent of the Governor.

