



The Custer County Miles City (CCMC) Flood Protection project is a cooperative effort between the City of Miles City and surrounding Custer County to reduce flood risk and the burden of ever increasing flood insurance costs with the completion of a new levee structure.



## CURRENT CONDITION:

- Almost 80% of residences and businesses in Miles City are located within the natural floodplain or floodway at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Tongue Rivers.
- In addition to the obvious flood risk and the potential for large scale property and critical infrastructure damage, citizens of Miles City pay substantial flood insurance premiums, representing approximately 23 percent of ALL flood insurance policies in Montana, a total of almost \$600,000 in 2021. It is anticipated this amount will only increase moving forward if mitigation of the flood risk is not addressed.
- Miles City is the business, educational, and medical hub of eastern Montana. A flood event in Miles City would be catastrophic not just to the town, but to the entire region.

## ACTIONS TAKEN OR ONGOING:

- USACE resumed work on the Section 205 in the summer of 2020. In October 2021, USACE met with the CCMC Steering Committee, additional City staff and the public to outline current Section 205 outcomes and analyses. Levee alignments along the Tongue River were reviewed and further refined. Assuming an alignment that is very near the current alignment, estimated cost for the new levee is estimated between \$36 and \$64 million (depending on use of low or high riprap). These costs exceed Section 205 project and federal contribution limits. They also do not include the Yellowstone River levee needs or the cost for land/property acquisition anticipated. This may require the project to be moved to the USACE General Investigation (GI) program which has no project cost limits, but may take longer to approve/construct the recommended levee structure.

The City of Miles City has created a YouTube Channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTpgBUj\\_mF8K8PKdecHilLQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTpgBUj_mF8K8PKdecHilLQ). If you missed Flood Awareness Day in May or the USACE Section 205 public meeting in October, videos of all presentations can be found there. In the future, the City will be utilizing this channel to provide videos and information about the CCMC Flood Protection Project and also information from other City departments. Subscribe and click on “receive notifications” to make sure you’re kept up to date on City projects and issues.

## WHAT’S NEXT?

Following the USACE presentation of initial outcomes and confirmation that the project is outside the Section 205 program parameters in October, the community is considering moving the project to the General Investigation (GI) program. USACE is continuing with completion of initial life safety benefits analysis and refining hydrology and Miles City is moving forward with initial planning on the Yellowstone River portion of the project and also with work on internal drainage (slough). Updated USACE estimates and analysis results will be delivered in January 2022. Legislative outcomes regarding any changes to the federal contribution limits for the Section 205 program should also be determined by then, allowing the community to have all the information needed to make decisions about moving the project into the GI program. Project information will continue to be accessible at the project website, [www.ccmcfloodprotection.com](http://www.ccmcfloodprotection.com) or by contacting Samantha Malenovsky, Miles City Floodplain Administrator, at 406-234-3493.