



May 28, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC, 20590

RE: Glacier Rail Park / Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail TIGER Grant Application

Dear Mr. Foxx,

On Behalf of Goodale & Barbieri Company and the Kalispell Center Mall, I am sending this letter in support of the Glacier Rail Park / Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail application, for which the City of Kalispell and the Flathead County Economic Development Authority are requesting Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant funding.

A key component of this plan is the relocation of the two rail users in Downtown Kalispell to the rail park in order to facilitate the removal of track currently strangling the downtown area and hampering new and appropriate development while providing an appropriate location for industrial development.

The development of a multi-use trail in place of the railroad tracks will be a huge value to Downtown Kalispell as well as the Kalispell Center Mall. This trail will allow for walkability and safe pedestrian access in and around the downtown area. We believe the redevelopment of Kalispell's Core Area would greatly increase the vitality of our community as well as strengthen economic growth, and encourage businesses to invest in their own growth.

Kalispell Center Mall worked closely with the City of Kalispell in the Core Area Plan process and is interested in incorporating the multi-use trail into our anticipated expansion where the tracks are now prohibiting our growth. We have worked successfully in the past with two Brownfields projects allowing the development of US Bank and Starbucks, and have utilized the Revolving Loan Fund Program to fund the cleanup for Starbucks. There has been an enormous amount of development to the North of Kalispell, and in order for Downtown Kalispell to compete, Downtown Kalispell needs to be released of its industrial blight and move forward. Moving forward would allow private investment which has been a burden in the past due to the constricted access, rail tracks, and industrial uses.

Private industry cannot bear the burden of moving the rail tracks plus the reinvestment in commercial projects. Receiving the TIGER grant would create long term jobs, boost construction, and connect the city via much needed expanded pedestrian and vehicular access.



Spokane Washington has seen billions of dollars of investment and development in the past 43 years after the rail and blight had been removed from downtown. We would like to see a version of this for our community.

We fully support this project and continue to support the City of Kalispell and their efforts to strengthen our downtown and Core Area.

Sincerely yours,

Eric Peterson
Manager / Marketing Director



HOUSING
SOLUTIONS

"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain"

June 3, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TIGER VII Grant Application for the Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail Project

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing this letter to show our support for the Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail project application submitted by the City of Kalispell and Flathead County Economic Development Authority for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VII) grant funding.

In 2013 we completed construction and commenced operation of a 40-unit senior apartment property in the City of Kalispell Core Area. Being located downtown has been a great opportunity for our resident, allowing them to stay connected to the community and active. Relocating the rail users to a new park will allow the existing tracks to be converted into a much needed walking path that will connect the entire Core Area and benefit the senior citizens who reside at Depot Place.

This investment in rail, road and utility infrastructure to develop Glacier Rail Park and the Kalispell Core Area and Trail will result in job creation and the highest use of public and private resources. We strongly urge approval of this grant application as the investment in infrastructure will enhance the economic vitality of the community. The development will encourage businesses to invest in their own growth resulting in job creation, diversity in the economy and a broader tax base.

Kindest Regards,


Alex Burkhalter



Operations Office:
720 3rd Street West
P.O. Box 2615
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
Phone: 406-892-3293
Fax: 406-892-3295

May 26, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

On behalf of the Mission Mountain Railroad and Watco Companies, we are writing to express our support for the Flathead County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA) and the City of Kalispell's TIGER VII submission to develop the Kalispell Rail Park in the City of Kalispell, MT. The benefits of this project are immediate to the City of Kalispell and the Customers who will use the park. Creating rail service to the industrial park will allow for the removal of track from the Kalispell core area which will eliminate six downtown rail crossings. If TIGER VII funding is successfully awarded, the Mission Mountain Railroad would serve the newly constructed rail park and bring all traffic to our class I connection, BNSF.

With the development of the Kalispell Rail Park, Cenex Harvest States (CHS) intends to relocate to the rail park. Flathead County Economic Development Authority continues to work diligently with other rail served Customers to identify a mutually agreeable and beneficial plan to insure the company's access to rail service without disruption to their current business activities.

This \$21 million project will leverage the \$10 million of federal funds with \$11 million of industry, city and county investment. Private investment from CHS, BNSF and Watco combined with this project will result in job creation, economic growth, improved safety and more efficient and increased freight movement in the area. The Mission Mountain Railroad has committed to a total cash contribution of \$200,000 over five years to support the project as match for the TIGER 2015 Discretionary Grant funding.

Mission Mountain Railroad will continue to partner with FCEDA and the City of Kalispell through the development of the Glacier Rail Park and track removal in preparation for the creation of the Kalispell Trail. Mission Mountain supports this grant application as the necessary first step in increasing rail traffic, recruiting rail-served businesses and revitalizing the economy in Kalispell and in northwest Montana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Cedeno", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Pat Cedeno
Senior Vice President WTS Marketing and Sales
Watco Transportation Services