



May 28, 2015

**2015**

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**PROGRAMS**

Business Expansion  
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Kalispell Chamber  
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Leadership Flathead

Manufacturers Alliance

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

**Subject: RE: Glacier Rail Park-Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail Project**

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the Northwest Montana Business Expansion and Retention (BEAR) Team, I would like to express our support of the Glacier Rail Park- Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail project. The BEAR team consists of 23 economic, community, and workforce development professionals who serve the four-county area of Northwest Montana.

This \$10M request in TIGER funding will help build the new Glacier Rail Park, move rail-service for Kalispell's last rail-served businesses to the rail park and convert the old rail line through Kalispell into a 2-mile bike and pedestrian trail creating a safe. This project will provide and alternative transportation corridor that connects citizens of this economically disadvantaged section of the community to work and education opportunities while allowing for redevelopment of 44 acres of vacant, blighted, brownfields properties creating new vitality in the center of the community.

The northwest region of Montana is historically a center for wood products industry, agriculture, mining and aluminum production but as our economy evolves the importance of maintaining a connection to national and international markets continues to be vital to the stretch of the region's economy. Construction of Glacier Rail Park will increase connections for all rural Montana businesses to domestic and international ports, allowing Montana's small businesses, agricultural producers, manufacturers and consumers to efficiently ship and receive goods.

Further, the agreement to remove the tracks from the center of Kalispell as well as the relocation of heavy industry from Kalispell's Core Area to Glacier Rail Park will encourage revitalization of this area, stimulating new investment and job creation. The Kalispell community views the Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail project as the catalyst for developing the heart of Kalispell into a thriving community for the future.

With Warm Regards,

  
Joe Unterreiner, Northwest Montana  
Business Expansion and Retention Team



May 29, 2015

RE: Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Development Area

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

Dear Secretary Foxx,

On behalf of the Conrad Mansion Museum, I am pleased to write a letter in support of the Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail.

The Museum is located just two blocks from the proposed bike and pedestrian trail. Such proximity means improved accessibility for community members and out of area visitors who take advantage of the trail. Those who are economically disadvantaged, the elderly or disabled can visit the Mansion, enjoy the beautiful landscaped grounds or attend community events such as the annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Ice Cream Social without reliance on motor transportation.

Charles E. Conrad built his Mansion in 1895. As a Kalispell founder, Conrad worked closely with James J. Hill, Great Northern Railroad magnate, to bring the railroad to the town. To enhance the significance of this historic area, the Mansion will pledge support to help with the development of language for historical plaques along the trail to share this community's heritage with trail users.

In conclusion, I whole-heartedly support the Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Development Area. Programs that transform vacant or blighted property in downtown areas into vibrant pedestrian and bike trails create new vitality in the center of the community and can foster a renewed interest in local history keeping it alive for future generations. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Sauter,  
Executive Director

P.O. Box 1041, KALISPELL, MT 59903 ■ PHONE: 406-755-2166

The Conrad Mansion was built in 1895 as the home of C.E. Conrad, Montana pioneer, Missouri River trader, freighter, and founder of the city of Kalispell. Restored to its original elegance, it is placed on the National Historic Register and open to visitors from May to October.

PO Box 771 • 35 4th Street West  
Kalispell, Montana 59903



t: 406.756.8993 • f: 406.756.8991  
citizens@flatheadcitizens.org

[www.flatheadcitizens.org](http://www.flatheadcitizens.org)

June 2, 2015

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

Re: US DOT TIGER 2015 Grant in support of "Glacier Rail Park and Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail" Project.

Dear Mr. Foxx,

I want to take this opportunity on behalf of Citizens for a Better Flathead to express our strong support for the TIGER Grant request for \$10 million to fund railroad track at and access road to the new rail park, as well as construction of the 2-mile non-motorized trail and 4 complete streets connections in Kalispell's Core Area.

Since 1992, Citizens for a Better Flathead has worked with residents and elected officials to promote the sound planning and policy solutions that are needed to keep the Flathead a special place. We represent over 1500 supporters in the Flathead. We have participated and supported the efforts of the City of Kalispell to develop a redevelopment plan for the Kalispell core area and rail corridor.

We want to commend the city for conducting an engaging public process that has received strong grassroots support from residents and businesses. We believe this plan is of vital importance to the community for creating jobs that will help revitalize Kalispell and in turn attract reinvestment in the downtown core, helping to recharge and grow our local economy.

We support the proposed conversion of the old rail line through Kalispell into a 2-mile long bike and pedestrian trail, creating a safe alternative transportation corridor that connects citizens of this economically disadvantaged section of the community to work and education opportunities. This conversion will allow for redevelopment of 44 acres of vacant, blighted, brownfields properties, creating new vitality in the center of Kalispell.

The Glacier Rail Park is an excellent opportunity to reclaim a spent gravel pit in an area that makes sense for industrial rail use with proposed buffering from residences. Furthermore, this project addresses environmental justice issues which will remove and remediate any negative environmental impacts from the old industrial core of town away from low income residential neighborhoods that have been affected for the last 100 years.

Sincerely,

  
Mayre Flowers  
Executive Director



# Community Action Partnership of Northwest Montana

*Helping People. Improving Lives. Strengthening Communities.*

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of Community Action Partnership of Northwest Montana (CAPNM), I am submitting this letter of support for the above mentioned project that the City of Kalispell and the Flathead County Economic Development Authority are requesting National Infrastructure Investments (TIGER) grant funding of \$10 million for. The City of Kalispell, Flathead County Economic Development Authority and BNSF Railway will provide local non-federal match of over \$11 million as leverage for the Transportation Department's investment in this project.

The project is scheduled to do the following; build the new Glacier Rail park at the reclaimed gravel pit east of Kalispell; move current underused rail service to the proposed rail park to provide a more appropriate location for industrial development; convert the current rail line through Kalispell into a 2 mile bike and pedestrian trail creating a safe, alternative transportation corridor that will connect residents of this downtown area to work and education opportunities; allow for redevelopment of 44 acres of vacant, blighted, brownfields properties to create new vitality in the center of the community.

CAPNM is a non-profit social services agency situated in downtown Kalispell very near the current rail service. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy to alleviate poverty, improve lives and strengthen our communities. Job creation is key to alleviating poverty. CAPNM sees this project as creating jobs in addition to creating opportunities for both businesses and individuals for housing, business and retail options in this new corridor.

I urge your careful consideration and approval of this grant application as the investment in infrastructure will enhance the economic vitality of the community and surrounding area.

Sincerely,

Tracy C. Diaz  
Executive Director

## Main Office

114 Main Street  
P. O. Box 8300  
Kalispell, MT 59904  
Phone: 406-752-6565  
Fax: 406-752-6582

## Outreach Offices

333 Farm to Market Rd.  
Suite B  
Libby, MT 59923  
Phone: 406-293-2712  
Fax: 406-293-2979

110 Main Street  
Suite 6  
Polson, MT 59860  
Phone: 406-883-3470  
Fax: 406-883-3481

*Serving Flathead,  
Lake, Lincoln and  
Sanders Counties  
since 1976 as  
Northwest Montana  
Human Resources, Inc.*

HRDC District 10



www.capnm.net



May 30, 2015

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

RE: Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail  
US DOT TIGER 2015 Discretionary Grant Program

Dear Mr. Foxx,

I am writing to express the Flathead Community Foundation's fervent endorsement of the Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail Project; namely, to build the new Glacier Rail Park at the reclaimed gravel pit east of Kalispell; move rail-service for Kalispell's last rail-served businesses to the rail park; and convert the old rail line through Kalispell into a 2-mile bike and pedestrian trail. The results of this visionary and critically important project will be the creation of a safe, alternative transportation corridor that connects citizens of an economically disadvantaged section of the community to vital work and education opportunities; and provision for the redevelopment of 44 acres of vacant, blighted, brownfields properties. It will instill new vitality in the center of our community.

An investment of \$10 million in TIGER funds will enable the building of railroad track at and access road to the new rail park, followed by construction of a 2-mile trail and 4 complete street connections that will be built in Kalispell's Core Area. Local, non-federal match to the project is being contributed by the City of Kalispell, Flathead County Economic Development Authority and BNSF Railway for a total of \$11,175,375.

We strongly encourage your approval of this grant application. This project creates value of economic development goals in building diversity and strength for our community. Successful completion will enable Kalispell to rebuild and revitalize at its core, and to support itself in philanthropic causes that ensure the health and well-being of every one who lives here. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

*Lucy E. Smith*

Lucy Smith  
Executive Director  
Flathead Community Foundation  
345 First Ave East  
Kalispell, MT 59901



FLATHEAD  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION



66 4th Avenue W.N.  
P.O. Box 1916  
Kalispell, MT 59903-1916

Phone (406) 755-7656  
Fax (406) 756-7787  
www.flatheadindustries.org

Creating Opportunities for People with Disabilities  
A Non-Profit Corporation

June 1, 2015

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Flathead Industries is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation, governed by a volunteer board of directors, which provides a variety of services to persons with disabilities in search of employment. In addition, we provide a wide array of residential services to these folks, in both group home settings, as well as in their own apartments. Our mission statement reads – **“Creating Opportunities for People with Disabilities”**.

Our programs offer a unique combination of options for the more medically, behaviorally, and chronologically challenged adults with developmental disabilities. Flathead Industries offers a combination of life skill building, exercise opportunities, community integration possibilities, pre-vocational skills training, along with daily work options. Our pre-vocational training leads to a greater ability to work independently on real work jobs.

We provide assistance for individuals to determine if a particular job or place of employment is right for them, and supports are put in place to assist individuals maintain employment in the community.

We maintain contracts with Developmental Disabilities Program the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program and the Veteran’s Administration. We represent many qualified, capable people with a wide variety of disabilities looking for employment. We represent people who may work in jobs they can no longer perform because of a disability caused by an injury or illness. They may be under-employed, never-employed or need a change of jobs based on changing capabilities. At our center we can help individuals refocus their career goals.

At any given time Flathead Industries serves about 150 clients the vast majority of whom do not drive and live on very low incomes. Replacing the existing railroad tracks that are immediately adjacent to our facilities with a multi-use, bike and pedestrian trail will greatly improve our client’s ability to access our services. Additionally, the trail will create a safe, non-vehicular transportation route for our clients, and all community members, to jobs, restaurants, grocery stores, banking and parks in the center of the city.

Flathead Industries strongly supports the "Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail" project and ask for your favorable consideration of the TIGER 2015 funding request being made to the US Department of Transportation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vickie L. Poynter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and "P".

Vickie L. Poynter,  
CEO  
Flathead Industries



**FLATHEAD  
LAND TRUST**  
Conserving Our Legacy of Land and Water

P.O. Box 1913 | Kalispell, MT 59903  
P: 406.752.8293 | F: 406.257.3523  
[www.flatheadlandtrust.org](http://www.flatheadlandtrust.org)

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June 2, 2015

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

Re: Letter of Support for City of Kalispell US DOT TIGER grant proposal

Dear Mr. Foxx,

I would like to offer strong support from the Flathead Land Trust to the city of Kalispell for their proposed project "Glacier Rail Park and Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail".

The Flathead Land Trust is a nonprofit, private organization that is dedicated to conserving our incredible natural heritage, recreational opportunities, and quality of life in northwest Montana. We provide a conservation alternative for private landowners who want to continue to own and manage their properties with the assurance that open space, fish and wildlife habitat, and other important conservation values will be maintained forever. We partner with landowners, agencies, other nonprofit organizations, and the community to implement effective land conservation strategies.

As a local organization, we are invested in the Kalispell community and surrounding Flathead Valley and pride ourselves on protecting values that sustain and improve our quality of life. This project will benefit green space and trails for both transportation and bike and pedestrian uses especially for the citizens of this economically disadvantaged section of the community. It will allow for redevelopment of blighted, vacant acreage which will build new vitality in the center of the city. The project will also increase land values along the community trail and promote a community pride that is beneficial to additional economic development and recreational values. As an organization that works to protect green and open space, as well as enhancing recreational opportunities such as trails, we are wholeheartedly in support of this project.

Thank you and please don't hesitate to contact me at 406.752.8293 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Paul Travis  
Executive Director



May 29, 2015

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

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

Dear Mr. Foxx,

The Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail project would be of great value to our area and it is my pleasure to offer support for it on behalf of Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC). The City of Kalispell and the Flathead County Economic Development Authority are requesting \$10 million from the US DOT TIGER 2015 Discretionary grant.

The proposed project has significant economic development benefits and is the result of significant community input and thoughtful, collaborative planning.

- The manufacturing sector is undergoing a resurgence in the region and FVCC has made a major commitment to educating the workforce for those businesses. Efficient and accessible rail transportation is vital to the strength of the regional manufacturing economy and therefore essential to enabling good jobs for FVCC graduates. Glacier Rail Park would improve railroad access for the region's small businesses, agricultural producers, manufacturers and consumers to efficiently ship and receive goods.
- The current rail spur disrupts the heart of Kalispell. Removing the spur and relocating the two businesses served by the spur to the Glacier Rail Park would greatly enhance redevelopment of the core of the Kalispell. Pedestrian and bike routes through the center of town along the old rail line would improve quality of life for residents and provide additional amenities for the many visitors to the area.

This project is the result of five years of planning and collaboration between the City of Kalispell, Flathead County, the residents of the Core Area and local businesses. Project benefits include job creation, improved infrastructure, and increased quality of life. FVCC views this project as a solid investment in the future.

Sincerely,



Jane A. Karas, Ph.D.  
President

**JOHN MORSE**  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY-TREASURER  
BUSINESS MANAGER  
Spokane -- (509) 927-8288  
Fax -- (509) 927-8350

*International Association*  
of BRIDGE, STRUCTURAL, ORNAMENTAL &  
REINFORCING IRONWORKERS . . . affiliated with A.F.L.-C.I.O.  
LOCAL UNION NO. 14

16610 EAST EUCLID AVENUE • SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99216-1808



**GREG GALES**  
PRESIDENT - BUSINESS AGENT  
Kennewick -- (509) 374-0460  
Fax -- (509) 374-0461

**MILES McCARVEL**  
BUSINESS AGENT - ORGANIZER  
Missoula -- (406) 829-9051  
Fax -- (406) 829-9113

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 Montana Iron Workers Local 14, I am sending this letter in support of the City of Kalispell and Flathead County Economic Development Authority's \$10 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grant request for the Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Redevelopment and Trail project.

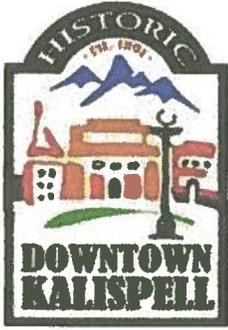
Local 14 serves Western Montana, Northern Idaho and Eastern Washington; providing a highly skilled, safe, productive and dedicated workforce that our communities have depended upon to build their economic framework and infrastructure since 1900.

The proposed \$21 million investment in rail, road, utility infrastructure and the multi-use trail to develop Glacier Rail Park and revitalize the Kalispell downtown and Core areas will directly result in job creation and economic growth for this area. This project will allow more freight movement in the region and allow the community and surrounding areas to invest in the development of their own resources.

As we have seen, an evolving local economy means that maintaining Kalispell's connection to national and international markets is vital to the strength of this region's economy. Better transportation of goods and increased community mobility means better jobs and a strong economy and so we are asking for your support of this project.

Sincerely,

Miles McCarvel  
Business Agent  
Iron Workers Local 14



## Kalispell Business Improvement District

P. O. Box 1997  
Kalispell, Mt. 59903  
(406) 253-6923

May 29, 2015

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

Re: Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail

Dear Mr. Foxx,

The Kalispell Business Improvement District supports the economic growth and vitality of downtown Kalispell, advocating for a downtown district that is the social, commercial, professional and cultural heart of Kalispell. Our goal of promoting and improving the unique character of the downtown area is challenged by a rail line that divides our downtown district. It is our pleasure to support the City of Kalispell and the Flathead County Economic Development Authority's application for Tiger Grant funding to develop the Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail.

The requested grant funds will accelerate the development of the Core area of Kalispell by leveraging County and City funds, private investment, and federal funds to consolidate and increase rail traffic use at the new rail park and thereby allowing for the removal of the current railroad corridor through town. This project will increase property values in the downtown by revitalization and reinvestment in vacant properties within the Core area. The increased property values will mean higher property taxes on revitalized properties which will reduce the overall tax burden for other downtown properties by spreading the cost of services more effectively and allowing for more efficient provision of services including fire, police, water and sewer.

We enthusiastically support the investment in railroad and utility infrastructures at the proposed rail served industrial park, and believe that our goals of safety and a strong economy will not be reached until we see the completion of the entire project. Finally and importantly, the construction of the multi-use trail through Kalispell will increase access to the businesses downtown both for workers and customers.

Thank you for your time and consideration for funding this vital transportation infrastructure project. The transportation investments we make today will benefit generations to come.

Sincerely,



Jon Fetveit  
Chair



2015

May 29, 2015

**BOARD OFFICERS**

- Brian Pelc  
*Chairman*
- Lisa Brown  
*Vice Chairman*
- Mike Mower  
*Secretary/Treasurer*
- Reed Gunlikson  
*Past Chairman*
- Joe Unterreiner  
*President/CEO*

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

**Subject: Support for Glacier Rail Park and Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail Project**

Dear Secretary Foxx:

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Joe Carbonari
- Jim Drager
- Mark Gronley
- Bob Herron
- Mark Johnson
- Kristen Jones
- Jason Manger
- David Mitchell
- Bob Nystuen
- Chris Ohler
- Jim Oliverson
- Jim Peterson
- Jerry Sorensen
- Laura Taylor
- Kary Tonjum
- Holly Wagner
- David Waldenberg
- Ricker Weaver

On behalf of the 650 businesses and organizations that comprise the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce Convention and Visitor Bureau, I would like to express our support for the TIGER Grant application by the City of Kalispell and the Flathead Economic Development Authority.

The creation of the Glacier Rail Park is the first step in an ambitious project to improve access for rail served businesses, convert the old rail line through Kalispell into a 2-mile bike and pedestrian trail creating a safe, alternative transportation corridor that connects citizens of this economically disadvantaged section of the community to work and education opportunities; and, allow for redevelopment of 44 acres of vacant, blighted, brownfields properties creating new vitality in the center of the community.

The University of Montana, Bureau of Business and Economic Research, has said that the four-county area of Northwest Montana was the hardest hit part of the state during the economic downturn starting in 2008. This project will go a long way to accelerating job creation, downtown revitalization, business retention, business expansion, and new rail business. I invite your most serious consideration of this worthy investment of federal TIGER Grant dollars.

**EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS**

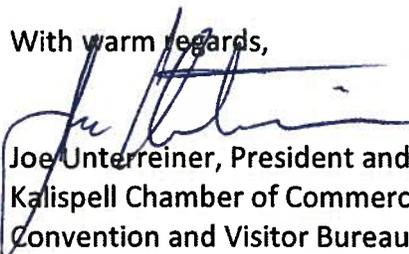
- Mark Flatau
- Mike Pence
- Maria Phelps
- Doug Russell

The 650 businesses and organizations that comprise the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce Convention and Visitor Bureau employ over 60 percent of the workforce in Flathead County, Montana.

**PROGRAMS**

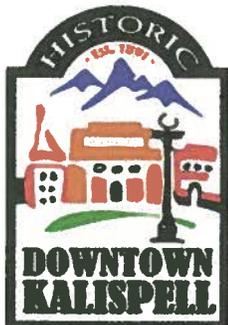
- Business Expansion and Retention
- Flathead Regional Business Center
- Kalispell Convention & Visitor Bureau
- Kalispell Chamber Foundation
- Leadership Flathead
- Manufacturers Alliance

With warm regards,



Joe Unterreiner, President and CEO  
 Kalispell Chamber of Commerce  
 Convention and Visitor Bureau

# Kalispell Downtown Association



May 29, 2015

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

Re: Tiger Grant application

Mr. Foxx,

On behalf of the Kalispell Downtown Association Board of Directors, I am writing this letter in support of the Tiger grant application submitted by the City of Kalispell and Flathead County Economic Development Authority for the Glacier Rail Park and Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail project. For many years, boards, councils, citizens and business leaders in our community have talked about the relocation of the railroad tracks that divide and hinder economic development in an area of Kalispell that is ripe for redevelopment. This project will finally help make this a reality.

The Glacier Rail Park would facilitate the removal of the track currently in the downtown area which will improve pedestrian, vehicular and bicycle infrastructure in an area of great need. Transportation improvements will provide our residents and visitors with safe and convenient access to business in downtown Kalispell, help stimulate new investment and provide for a more pedestrian friendly downtown.

The requested \$10 Million from Tiger funds leveraged with over \$11 Million from BNSF Railway, City of Kalispell and the Flathead County Economic Development Authority will facilitate the development of a rail park to create jobs, stimulate private investment on revitalization efforts and benefit existing businesses in Downtown Kalispell by building new complete street connections which will relieve traffic congestion on Highway 93 which is Main Street Kalispell. The improved traffic flow will reduce vehicle idle times, make it easier to drive downtown and create a safer environment for pedestrians. Of further importance, the construction of a multi-use trail will be transformative for this community. This catalyst project will generate much needed revitalization of an area which is connected to our downtown core. We are excited about the various ways that the bike/pedestrian trail will greatly increase access for residents and visitors alike to the downtown without relying on vehicles.

Kalispell Downtown Association strongly endorses this project and we urge you to approve the requested grant application which will assist our community with this much needed transportation infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Bob Hunt  
President



**KALISPELL REGIONAL  
HEALTHCARE**

May 3, 2015

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

**RE: The Glacier Rail Park/KalisPELL Core Area Development and Trail Project TIGER VII Grant Application**

Dear Mr. Foxx,

As Vice President of KalisPELL Regional Healthcare, 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.

As the primary healthcare facility for the Flathead Valley and the only hospital in KalisPELL, located in north of the Core Area, we see the division of the city by the rail line as severing the city in half, leaving KalisPELL with only six level railroad crossings within city limit where there might otherwise be 10-16 crossings. This hindrance creates traffic bottlenecks at the existing intersections often adding to the valuable time the city and county emergency medical services, located south of the Core Area; take to effectively navigate traffic to reach the hospital.

The community is in agreement that the removal of the tracks from the center of KalisPELL and relocating heavy industry form the Core Area to Glacier Rail Park will spur revitalization of the area, stimulating new investment and job creation. Residents of KalisPELL view the KalisPELL Core Area Development and KalisPELL Trail as key components to developing the heart of KalisPELL into a cohesive and thriving community for the future and strongly support it.

Sincerely,

Jim Oliverson, Vice President  
KalisPELL Regional Healthcare



118 E. Seventh St; Suite 2A Anaconda, MT 59711  
Ph: 406.563.5259 www.medamembers.org  
[info@medamembers.org](mailto:info@medamembers.org)

May 31, 2015

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

RE: Glacier Rail Park and Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail

This letter is written on behalf of the Board of Directors for Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) to express support for the City of Kalispell's US DOT TIGER 2015 grant application. The City of Kalispell is applying for funds for its project titled "Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail."

This project is multi-faceted and once implemented would have a beneficial ripple effect not only to the region, but across the entire state of Montana and beyond, including:

- Building the new Glacier Rail Park at the reclaimed gravel pit east of Kalispell
- Move rail-service for Kalispell's last rail-served businesses to the rail park
- Convert the old rail line through Kalispell into a 2-mile bike and pedestrian trail creating which would
- Create a safe, alternative transportation corridor that connects citizens of this economically disadvantaged section of the community to work and education opportunities
- Allow for redevelopment of 44 acres of vacant, blighted, brownfields properties
- Create new vitality in the center of the community

Specifically, this TIGER grant request is for \$10 million to fund railroad track at and access road to the new rail park and then construct the 2-mile trail and complete streets connections to be built in Kalispell's Core Area. To demonstrate support for this project, local, non-federal match is being contributed by the City of Kalispell, Flathead County Economic Development Authority and BNSF Railway for a total of \$11,175,375.

While of tremendous impact to the Kalispell region of Montana, this project would impact the entire state through improved rail access and new and strengthened economic opportunities. On behalf of the MEDA Board of Directors, who represent nearly 250 members in support of Montana's economic development, thank you for your consideration.

For the MEDA Board,

Gloria O'Rourke, Office of Secretary

JOIN US AT <http://www.medamembers.org>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: JASON RITTAL, PRESIDENT, TERRY \* PAUL TUSS, VICE PRESIDENT, HAVRE \*  
\* RICK EDWARDS, TREASURER, BUTTE \* TRACY MCINTYRE, PAST PRESIDENT, EUREKA \* GLORIA O'ROURKE, SECRETARY \*  
\* JIM ATCHISON, COLSTRIP \* JIM SMITHAM, BUTTE \* JAMES GRUNKE, MISSOULA \* BRETT DONEY, GREAT FALLS \*  
\* LESLIE MESSER, SIDNEY \* ANNE BOOTHE, MALTA \* SEAN BECKER, HELENA \* CHRIS CERQUONE, MISSOULA \* SARAH CONVERSE, GREAT FALLS \*  
\* PROSPERA, BOZEMAN \* BRIAN OBERT, HELENA \* STEVE ARVESCHOUG, BILLINGS \* LUKE WALAWANDER, JOLIET \* LINDA KINDRICK, HELENA \*  
\* KELLIE DANIELSON, KALISPELL \* KATHIE BAILEY, LEWISTOWN \* KEN RICHARDSON, MISSOULA \* TIM GUARDIPEE, GREAT FALLS \*



FLATHEAD VALLEY / GLACIER PARK REGION

May 26, 2015

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

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

Dear Secretary Foxx,

We are writing in support of the Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail project for which the City of Kalispell and the Flathead County Economic Development Authority are requesting TIGER 2015 Discretionary Grant funding. The proposed \$21 million investment in rail, road, utility infrastructure, multi-use trail and complete road connections to develop the Rail Park and revitalize the Kalispell Core Area will leverage the area's access to the BNSF rail line and the Great Northern Corridor. This project will result in job creation, economic growth and more freight movement in the region as well as allow the community to invest in the development of its own resources. A \$10 million investment of TIGER 2015 funds in this existing project will leverage more than \$11 million in private, county and city funds.

This project supports the mission of economic development by enhancing the region's economic base and fostering job creation in the Flathead Valley in two ways. It creates shovel-ready sites that can be promoted to expanding businesses requiring rail – encouraging them to locate in the region. Additionally, under-utilized brownfields in the Core Area can be promoted to attract new businesses or accommodate expanding local businesses. The county has long been supported by

44 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. West, Kalispell, MT 59901  
406-257-7711  
[www.DoBusinessInMontana.com](http://www.DoBusinessInMontana.com)

the traditional industries of agriculture, wood products and manufacturing. As those industries change and the economy evolves it is important to invest in the infrastructure that connects industry to national and international markets. Flathead County is 120 miles from the nearest Interstate highway, but the BNSF line runs directly through the county and is part of the Great Northern Corridor. This line is currently an underutilized resource, but the Glacier Rail Park and the proposed transload facility will allow many more businesses access to that line and the markets on the West Coast, in Canada and in the Great Lakes Region.

The project also improves the local transportation system, making a significant investment that will benefit the community for decades.

- It would remove a significant barrier to north-south pedestrian and vehicle traffic in Kalispell. Presently there are only 6 crossings along this almost 2 mile corridor through the heart of our downtown.
- It would serve to connect the east side of Kalispell with the west side of Kalispell via a safe pedestrian route.
- It would be instrumental in allowing redevelopment to occur in downtown Kalispell.
- It would connect the unincorporated community of Evergreen on the east side of Kalispell with Kalispell proper.
- Finally, it would connect Woodland Park, the largest park in Kalispell, and the Willow Glen Trail (3 miles on the east side) with the Somers to Kila Trail system which we have developed. This 22 miles long facility is a showpiece that connects the communities of Somers, Kalispell and Kila.

This project results from five years of planning and collaboration between the City of Kalispell, Flathead County, residents and local businesses. Taken as a whole, the project is transformative. It is a model for high level, meaningful public involvement; appropriate federal investment answering the “but-for” question; local and regional collaboration that reaches across political jurisdictions; creation of public-private partnerships; creating safer conditions for residents and furthering economic growth at every level from the individual putting food on the table to the expansion of international trade. This community has worked at every step to find solutions to the current challenges on the ground and create innovations that will make our region viable and livable for our grandchildren.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Weaver", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rick Weaver  
Chair



Northwest Montana Historical Society, Inc.  
*Bringing Life to History & History to Our Lives*  
124 Second Ave E • Kalispell, MT 59901 • 406-756-8381

May 29, 2015

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

Dear Secretary Fox,

I write in strong support of Kalispell, Montana's project, titled "Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail".

The project, described in detail elsewhere, is supported by local, non-federal matching funds contributed by the City of Kalispell, Flathead County Economic Development Authority and BNSF Railway for a total of \$11,175,375.

Our organization, the Northwest Montana Historical Society, operates the Museum at Central School barely a block from the planned project. Along with the entire community, county and state, we stand to benefit by proximity alone, and are prepared to support it in every way possible.

Specifically, we will assist the City in the creation of historical plaques to be placed along the trail, providing historic photographs and text from our collection of 145,000 artifacts, photographs, records and documents, that will assure the historical accuracy of the local story presented on the trail.

This project stands to make a profoundly positive contribution to the culture, education, health and recreation, economic well-being, and attractiveness of the entire area. It is a modest investment that will have a major impact on the quality of life in the Flathead Valley.

Thank you for your serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Gil Jordan  
Executive Director

# NORTH VALLEY HOSPITAL



PLANETREE-patient centered care in a healing environment

May 26, 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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

As CEO of North Valley Hospital in Whitefish, MT, I am writing in support of the Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail project for which the City of Kalispell and the Flathead County Economic Development Authority are requesting TIGER 2015 Discretionary Grant funding of \$10 million.

Local, non-federal match for the project totaling \$11,175,375 is being contributed by the City of Kalispell, Flathead County Economic Development Authority and BNSF Railway. The funds will be used for railroad track and access road to a new rail park, and will provide for the construction of a 2-mile trail and four complete street connections to be built in Kalispell's Core Area.

The project will:

- Build the new Glacier Rail Park at the reclaimed gravel pit east of Kalispell;
- Move rail-service for the Kalispell's last rail-served businesses to the rail park;
- Convert the old rail line through Kalispell into a 2-mile bike and pedestrian trail creating a safe, alternative transportation corridor connecting citizens of this economically disadvantaged section of the community to work and school; and
- Allow for redevelopment of 44 acres of vacant, blighted, brownfields properties creating new vitality in the center of the community.

Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail project will leverage private investment in community redevelopment and diversify the local economy and tax base. The immediate and long-term benefits to the community will provide local jobs, improve infrastructure and improve the quality of life for community residents.

Thank you for your consideration of this grant request.

Sincerely,

  
Jason A. Spring, FACHE  
Chief Executive Officer

JAS/clc

**Northwest Montana Association of  
Realtors®, Inc.**



110 Cooperative Way  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
www.nmar.com

Office (406) 752-4313  
Fax (406) 752-7834  
nmar@nmar.com

May 27, 2015

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

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

Dear Secretary Fox,

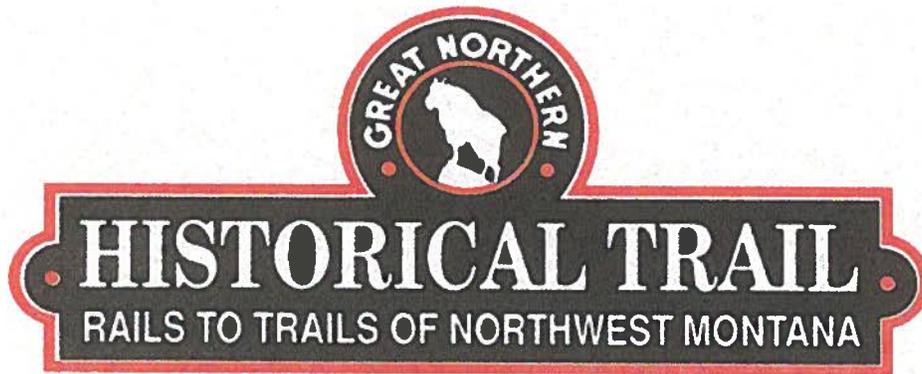
On behalf of the Northwest Montana Association of Realtors (NMAR), I am sending this letter in support of the Kalispell Rail Park application, for which the City of Kalispell and the Flathead County Economic Development Authority is requesting US DOT TIGER 2015 grant funding.

Representing over 680 Realtors in Northwest Montana, we understand that the proposed \$10M investment in rail, road and utility infrastructure to develop the Kalispell Rail Park will result in more jobs for our area, which in turn, generates real estate transactions and a rise in property values. Revitalization of the defunct gravel pit (which is a public eyesore) into an industrial park that can offer the sweetheart deal of providing rail service to its landowners, while at the same time relieving the City of Kalispell of the burdensome rail line that splits the community in half, is a winning situation for all involved. If Tiger funds are combined with the local, non-federal matching funds from the City of Kalispell, Flathead County Economic Development Authority and the BNSF Railway, the new rail park is assured success. Realtors have long been proponents of relocating the existing users of the train out of the downtown area of Kalispell and into the Rail Park in order to promote new and exciting developments downtown while providing an appropriate location for industrial purposes.

NMAR strongly urges approval of this grant application of TIGER grant funding for the Glacier Rail Park, the Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail as these projects will enhance the vitality of the immediate community and surrounding valley. NMAR believes that this investment will result in a thriving, viable community where people will desire to live, raise their children, work, play and retire. Your kind consideration of this application is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tia R. Robbin, JD, RCE  
Executive Officer and General Legal Counsel



**P.O. Box 1103; Kalispell, Montana 59903-1103**

May 28, 2015

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

RE: Letter of Support –Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail Project

Dear Secretary Foxx,

Rails to Trails of Northwest Montana, Inc. wholeheartedly supports the City of Kalispell's TIGER VII grant application request of \$10 million for development of the Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail project.

We understand that as Glacier Rail Park is developed and new and existing rail businesses locate there, the need to maintain the existing rail line through the heart of the tradition downtown of Kalispell will be greatly diminished. Our 501(c)(3) organization has been working for over 20 years developing pedestrian and bicycle transportation routes along existing and abandoned railroad routes in northwest Montana. The rail lines through Kalispell currently sever the city in half and limit cross town pedestrian traffic. Our organization supports the City of Kalispell throughout the rail banking process for the Kalispell Trail and we believe that developing a trail system along this corridor would provide a host of benefits and opportunities for the community.

- It would remove a significant barrier to north-south pedestrian and vehicle traffic in Kalispell. Presently there are only 6 crossings along this almost 2 mile corridor through the heart of our downtown.
- It would serve to connect the east side of Kalispell with the west side of Kalispell via a safe pedestrian route.
- It would be instrumental in allowing redevelopment to occur in downtown Kalispell.
- It would connect the unincorporated community of Evergreen on the east side of Kalispell with Kalispell proper.
- Finally, it would connect Woodland Park, the largest park in Kalispell, and the Willow Glen Trail (3 miles on the east side) with the Somers to Kila Trail system which we have developed. This 22 miles long facility is a showpiece that connects the communities of Somers, Kalispell and Kila.

As we continue to develop and support alternative pedestrian access routes in the greater Flathead County, we see the need for this project and support your efforts to proceed. We look forward to working with you on this very valuable community project. In closing, if you have any questions or need any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Mark Crowley  
Director



# Youth Homes of the Flathead

Group Homes  
Shelter Care  
Family Care

May 26, 2015

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

MISSOULA  
POLSON  
KALISPELL  
HAMILTON  
HELENA

RE: Glacier Rail Park and Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail

Dear Mr. fox,

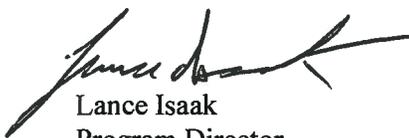
On behalf of the Flathead Youth Home, I am sending this letter in support of the Glacier Rail Park and Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail application, for which the City of Kalispell and the Flathead County Economic Development Authority are applying to the US DOT TIGER 2015 Discretionary grant program.

Flathead Youth Home (FYH) is licensed by the state of Montana to provide a temporary home for up to 8 youth between in crisis. In a typical year, we serve about a 90 youth which are dealing with abuse, neglect, mental health, chemical dependency and delinquency issues. FYH is located on the northeast side of Kalispell, and the Rail Park location is just two blocks away. As a former gravel pit site, the location was an attractive nuisance for neighborhood children and youth and a potential hazard. As the new rail park, this area will attract community improvements and jobs instead.

The new rail park development will improve the neighborhood vitality by cleaning up an already industrial area and providing community connectivity for individuals not using cars. The importance of a trail to youth who don't drive because of age or prohibitive expense is immeasurable as they still need access to all the services and amenities of the community including school, work, job training opportunities, the library, etc. while learning independence and gaining self reliance.

I encourage the US DOT to support this investment in rail, trail, road and utility infrastructure to develop the Kalispell core area. A \$10M investment of TIGER funds in this existing project will leverage funds from private, city, and county resources to bring this property to its fullest potential for the whole community.

Respectfully,



Lance Isaak  
Program Director  
Flathead Youth Home

825 E. Oregon St.  
KALISPELL, MT 59901  
(406) 755-4622  
(406) 755-4623 Fax  
Tax ID #81-0331313

[www.youthhomes.com](http://www.youthhomes.com)

