



# KALISPELL POLICE DEPARTMENT

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*'Striving to Exceed Expectations'*

June 22, 2016

Tom Jentz  
Environmental Certifying Officer  
KalisPELL Planning Director  
201 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East  
KalisPELL, MT 59901

Dear Mr. Jentz:

The KalisPELL Police Department strongly supports the local proposal for the TIGER Discretionary Grant Program to create an industrial rail park.

As part of this project, rail tracks, travelling through downtown KalisPELL would be removed and replaced with a multi-use pedestrian path. Other than an occasional supply train, the rail gets very little traffic and is a very difficult area to police. The area adjacent to the rail is overrun by weeds, and other unmanaged vegetation. Because of the limited traffic and overgrown vegetation, this area attracts transients who set up makeshift camps in the area, creating an appearance of an unsafe environment and leaving behind mounds of trash.

In this rail track area litter is abundant, graffiti is common place and people congregate to consume illegal substances. The rail track abuts the back side of commercial businesses and storage units where we experience a high frequency of break-ins, theft and vandalism. This overrun area provides cover for criminals approaching and leaving the area.

One of the businesses served by the rail is an agricultural supply retailer which also maintains several agricultural silos. These silos provide bulk sales service to local farmers and as a result large trucks transport product to and from this location in the heart of KalisPELL. The location is on the edge of a residential neighborhood adjacent to a major retail mall. It is also along a major arterial leading to the city's largest high school. Transported products include grain and fertilizer. These trucks add to congestion, at times closing lanes of traffic during harvest, and carry potentially hazardous materials.

Another very positive impact of this project would be the added crossroads. Additional crossroads would have a major impact on improving traffic flow through the downtown area as it would disperse traffic that is currently bottlenecked to just a handful of rail crossings.

The removal of the rail tracks from the heart of KalisPELL, creation of a multi-use pedestrian trail and construction of a rail park would positively affect crime rates, safety and blight in the KalisPELL area.

This project has the full support of the KalisPELL Police Department!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger Nasset".

Roger Nasset  
Chief of Police

ROGER NASSET, CHIEF OF POLICE