



**U.S. Department  
of Transportation**

Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation

Under Secretary for Policy

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

July 21, 2015

The Honorable Rod M. Kuntz  
Council Member  
City of Kalispell  
201 First Avenue East  
Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear Council Member Kuntz:

Thank you for your letter supporting funding for the Glacier Rail Park/ Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail project submitted by the city of Kalispell and the Flathead County Economic Development Authority under the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant Program. Secretary Foxx has asked me to respond on his behalf.

Over the last 6 years, the TIGER program has allowed the Department to award more than \$4.1 billion to support critical road, rail, transit, port, and multimodal projects. The competitive nature of the program encourages innovation and collaboration, and the broad eligibility criteria allow the program to fund complex multimodal and multijurisdictional projects that are difficult to finance using traditional formula funds.

A Federal Register notice, published on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, announced the availability of funding for a seventh round of TIGER discretionary grants, and included the relevant project selection criteria and application requirements. The deadline for submitting final applications was June 5<sup>th</sup> and we plan to announce selected projects this fall.

TIGER has been authorized and funded only on a year-to-year basis through the annual appropriations process, creating uncertainty for the Department as well as communities who could benefit from the program. The Department has proposed to rectify this problem through its surface transportation reauthorization proposal, the GROW AMERICA Act. The Act would more than double the size of TIGER funding and provide multi-year authorization that would help meet the overwhelming demand for innovative infrastructure projects across the country. Congress is currently considering this legislation.

The Department welcomes the opportunity to fund innovative transportation projects through the TIGER Discretionary Grant Program, and I assure you that the application for this project will receive full and careful consideration. If I can provide further information or assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Peter M. Rogoff  
Under Secretary