

## RESOLUTION NO. 2561

### **A RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL FOR THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO A UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A “REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY” (RAISE) GRANT TO FUND A FIVE LANE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR WEST RESERVE DRIVE**

*WHEREAS*, West Reserve Drive is an historic east/west highway route that passes through rural Flathead County carrying vehicular traffic through the center of the City of Kalispell, the county seat and trade center of Northwest Montana; and

*WHEREAS*, over time, traffic counts, the population and density of the City of Kalispell and its environs have grown dramatically with the increase in the National Park tourist traffic and trade traffic resulting in significant excessive congestion and traffic impediments in and around the City; and

*WHEREAS*, a five lane improvement option for West Reserve Drive, including multi—modal improvements was considered in the West Reserve Drive Corridor Study conducted by the Montana Department of Transportation [MDOT] that was completed in the Fall of 2021; and

*WHEREAS*, MDOT, Flathead County, the City of Kalispell, and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) used a collaborative process to develop the study, with focused outreach efforts to engage the public, key stakeholders, and resource agencies; and

*WHEREAS*, the U.S Department of Transportation set aside \$1.5 billion in discretionary grants through the new Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity” (RAISE) transportation grant program to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a "significant local or regional impact"; and

*WHEREAS*, the City of Kalispell, in cooperation with MDOT, is making application for funds through the RAISE grant program to upgrade the West Reserve Drive Corridor; and

*WHEREAS*, the project proposed by MDOT would widen West Reserve Drive from 3 to 5 lanes, including Stillwater Bridge; and improve Whitefish Stage Road to urban standards; and

*WHEREAS*, the proposed project will have significant local and regional impact as it will improve the current traffic congestion points along West Reserve Drive, reduce the frequency and severity of crashes for all users, accommodate existing and future travel demands and better accommodate all modes of transportation; and

*WHEREAS*, the City of Kalispell application for the RAISE grant provides additional opportunity for partnerships with the State, Flathead County, and the City of Kalispell; and

*WHEREAS*, as the project meets all criteria of the RAISE grant program, application for such funding should have the support of Flathead County.

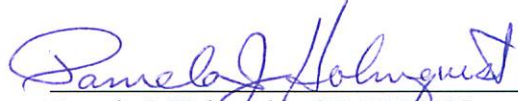
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLATHEAD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1.** Flathead County fully supports the application of the City of Kalispell for a RAISE funding grant for improvements to West Reserve Drive.

DATED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.




BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Flathead County, Montana

  
Pamela J. Holmquist, CHAIRMAN

  
Brad W. Abell, MEMBER

  
Randy L. Brodehl, MEMBER

ATTEST:

  
Dori Magar, Clerk of the Board