

RESOLUTION NO. 2565

A RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL FOR THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO A UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A “MULTIMODAL PROJECT DISCRETIONARY GRANT OPPORTUNITY – RURAL” (MPDG) 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 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity – Rural (MPDG) 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; add 6’ landscape boulevards with 8’ shared use path on the north and 5’ sidewalk on the south; 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 MPDG grant provides additional opportunity for partnerships with the State, Flathead County, and the City of Kalispell; and

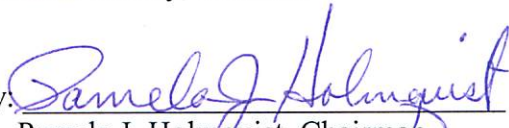
WHEREAS, as the project meets all criteria of the MPDG grant program, application for such funding should have the support of Flathead County.

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

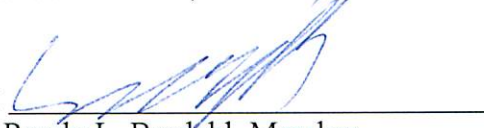
SECTION 1. Flathead County fully supports the application of the City of Kalispell for a MPDG funding grant for improvements to West Reserve Drive.

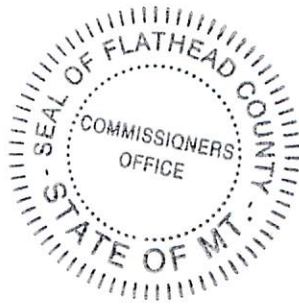
Dated this 12th day of May, 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Flathead County, Montana


By: 
Pamela J. Holmquist, Chairman

By: 
Brad W. Abell, Member

By: 
Randy L. Brodehl, Member



ATTEST:


Dori Magar, Clerk of the Board