

United States Senate

June 1, 2015

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

RE: TIGER 2015 Grant Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing on behalf of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) 2015 grant application submitted by the City of Kalispell and Flathead County Economic Development Authority for the Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Redevelopment and Trail project.

If successful, funds will be used to improve roads within Glacier Rail Park and the connection of Glacier Rail Park to US Highway 2 East, complete street connections, and construct a multi-use pedestrian trail. It is expected that improvements within and connections outside of Glacier Rail Park will attract rail-dependent, manufacturing businesses to the Kalispell Core Area, as well as retain existing businesses.

The proposed \$21 million project is the result of an 18-month community planning project and has been a cooperative public/private effort. The City of Kalispell and the Flathead County Economic Development Authority have worked closely with BNSF Railway, Watco Companies, and Mission Mountain Railroad to engineer the rail and operation plan for the rail park. It is expected that BNSF Railway will make a financial contribution to the development of the rail park, and all three companies have provided extensive technical assistance to the project. The three private companies and the two public entities will provide a combined \$11 million match to the development of the rail park, construction of the trail, and redevelopment of the Kalispell Core Area.

The Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Redevelopment and Trail project is a best practice example of how it is possible for public and private entities to work together to build jobs and to transform a region through inclusive planning. Attracting new businesses by improving infrastructure is vital to expanding the economic vitality of the Kalispell Core Area.

I trust you will give this grant proposal fair and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Steve Daines
United States Senator