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United States Senate

April 24, 2014

Honorable Mr. Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I write in support of Gallatin County, the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce and their partners as they apply for a TIGER VI planning grant.

Big Sky is an unincorporated town in southwest Montana that boasts two world-class ski areas. Like many destination resort towns, Big Sky has a seasonal swings in population and high housing costs. These factors present challenges in providing workforce housing and transportation between affordable housing and jobs. Currently, nearly seventy percent of Big Sky's workers commute approximately fifty miles from Bozeman, Montana, placing a significant strain on the area's transportation system.

If funded, the Big Sky community will be able to create a community development plan to address these issues. Their proposal includes a transportation development plan so that residents, visitors, and commuters can easily and safely move about the entire area. They also plan to expand the local trail system mitigating safety concerns for pedestrians and bicyclists. Finally, Big Sky will provide access to land for affordable workforce housing by developing plans for a road and gateway bridge. This community development plan is an important step toward ensuring that as the area grows it is able to maintain a safe, efficient, and smart transportation system.

Thank you for your attention to this application. If I can provide any additional information, do not hesitate to contact me. Please inform my office of the eventual decision on this application.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester
United States Senator

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