



MONTANA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

April 24, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing today in support of the Big Sky, Montana "Big Sky Better Together Community Development Plan" submitted for consideration to the TIGER6-FY14 Planning Grant Process.

Big Sky, Montana is an unincorporated community located in the Gallatin Canyon, 50 miles to the south of Bozeman, Montana. It boasts a nationally recognized destination ski resort and is home to a year-round population of a little over 2,300 individuals. During peak season, that figure rises to over 7,800 persons.

Like so many other destination resort communities, Big Sky faces challenges in providing permanent, affordable workforce housing for its employees. In a recent study, it was discovered that over 70% of the employees in Big Sky commuted from Bozeman due to lack of affordable housing in the Big Sky area. Some employees commuted from distances as far away as 80-90 miles one-way.

Due to growth projections for the next ten years, the time has come for comprehensive multi-model transportation studies, upgrades to pedestrian mobility and safety and the laying of groundwork for development of affordable workforce housing. With a TIGER Planning Grant, Big Sky will be able to kick start Phase I master planning to create a multi-model Transportation Development Plan, expand its pedestrian/bicycle trail system and lay the groundwork for an affordable workforce housing initiative.

Thank you for your time in considering this TIGER Grant Request.

Sincerely,



Meg O'Leary, Director
Department of Commerce

MEG O'LEARY, DIRECTOR

STEVE BULLOCK, GOVERNOR