



April 25, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:


We are writing to express our support for the TIGER6-FY14 Planning Grant Application submitted by Gallatin County and the collaborating organizations including the Big Sky Transportation District (dba Skyline), Big Sky Community Corporation, Big Sky Water and Sewer District, and Big Sky Resort Association (dba Big Sky Chamber of Commerce). The goal of this community development effort is to create a multimodal transportation master plan that will enhance connectivity, pedestrian mobility and safety, and provide access to affordable workforce housing locations within the community of Big Sky.

Big Sky's growth projections indicate rapid transition from a remote seasonal resort community to a year round destination; and as such, it has developed the need for infrastructure to support full time residents and families who live and work in the community. Primary challenges are availability of workforce housing for permanent employees, and lengthy daily commutes – as much as 80 or 90 miles each way - from Bozeman and other locales endured by workers who cannot afford or find housing in Big Sky. Public transportation systems are important to this region not only to transport workers safely and efficiently, but to also protect the national forest lands and rivers that are a vital part of our southwest Montana environment.

Bozeman Deaconess Health Services currently has a new hospital project under construction in Big Sky to provide necessary healthcare services infrastructure for the residents and guests of the community. In order to sustain a quality workforce, it is vital to have transportation infrastructure as well as housing options available within close proximity to the medical center campus. Our organizational mission is 'to improve community health and quality of life'. An important component of fulfilling that mission is to support endeavors that focus on healthy living. The TIGER6-FY14 Planning Grant would provide necessary funding to enhance pedestrian mobility, provide safe and reliable transportation alternatives, and increase the livability and sustainability of Big Sky for its residents and families.

This project will deliver significant value, and has the strong support of Bozeman Deaconess Health Services. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Kevin Pitzer
President & CEO