



City of Kalispell

Office of the Mayor

201 First Avenue East
Kalispell, MT 59903
(406) 758-7703

August 17, 2015

Secretary Anthony Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

It has come to my attention that there has been an 11th hour letter submitted to the Department of Transportation requesting that the City of Kalispell's US DOT TIGER grant application be denied. After five years of extensive community-wide planning and three years of TIGER grant submissions with no opposition from the community, this is an unfortunate development. This opposition is troubling as the company in question acknowledges previous support for the project and states that the removal of rail service may ultimately be best for Kalispell. We definitely agree that this project is what is best for the City of Kalispell as it will transform this area with long lasting improvements, creating economic opportunities, and sparking community revitalization.

We are happy to address the claims of the letter with specific information regarding the efforts expended in the negotiations and would welcome the opportunity to do so. We remain committed to resolving any concerns related to this project in a timely manner. This is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the continuing widespread community support for this project, for which we have previously submitted 73 letters of support from stakeholders in the community. These stakeholders understand the transformative impact the TIGER grant will have on our community for generations to come.

As a demonstration of our continuing support for this project, please accept the following signatures, representing the diverse community groups that have supported the Glacier Rail Park Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail project for years.

If I can be of any additional assistance, please let me know. I can be reached at (406) 253-7467.

Thank you,

Mark Johnson
Mayor
City of Kalispell