



August 17, 2015

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

RE: Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail

Dear Secretary Foxx,

This letter is an affirmation of our continued support for the Kalispell Trail-FCEDA Rail Park/TIGER VI Grant Application. Attached is our original letter of support for the application.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding our support for this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jane A. Karas".

Jane A. Karas, Ph.D.
President



May 27, 2015

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

RE: Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail

Dear Mr. Foxx,

The Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail project would be of great value to our area and it is my pleasure to offer support for it on behalf of Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC). The City of Kalispell and the Flathead County Economic Development Authority are requesting \$10 million from the US DOT TIGER 2015 Discretionary grant.

The proposed project has significant economic development benefits and is the result of significant community input and thoughtful, collaborative planning.

- The manufacturing sector is undergoing a resurgence in the region and FVCC has made a major commitment to educating the workforce for those businesses. Efficient and accessible rail transportation is vital to the strength of the regional manufacturing economy and therefore essential to enabling good jobs for FVCC graduates. Glacier Rail Park would improve railroad access for the region's small businesses, agricultural producers, manufacturers and consumers to efficiently ship and receive goods.
- The current rail spur disrupts the heart of Kalispell. Removing the spur and relocating the two businesses served by the spur to the Glacier Rail Park would greatly enhance redevelopment of the core of the Kalispell. Pedestrian and bike routes through the center of town along the old rail line would improve quality of life for residents and provide additional amenities for the many visitors to the area.

This project is the result of five years of planning and collaboration between the City of Kalispell, Flathead County, the residents of the Core Area and local businesses. Project benefits include job creation, improved infrastructure, and increased quality of life. FVCC views this project as a solid investment in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jane A. Karas".

Jane A. Karas, Ph.D.
President