



2017

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May 29, 2017

Mayor Mark Johnson and Members of City Council
City of Kalispell
201 First Avenue East
Kalispell, Montana 59901

Subject: Support for Glacier Rail Park Environmental Assessment

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Dear Mayor Johnson and Members of City Council:

The Kalispell Chamber is confident that the Environmental Assessment for the Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail Project has thoroughly evaluated the potential of environmental impacts of the Project on the human and natural environment and that the City should be allowed to move forward without any further delay.

Through zoning changes downtown, an update of the Growth Policy, and ongoing work on the Downtown Plan, the City of Kalispell has set the stage for the Kalispell Trail and the urban renewal of downtown Kalispell. These planning efforts make the City well-positioned for the commercial and residential development the community has long-sought for the core area of Kalispell.

Founded in 1904, the Kalispell Chamber consists of 725 members. These businesses and organizations employ over half of the workforce in Flathead County, Montana.

EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS

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With Warm Regards,

Joe Unterreiner, President and CEO
Kalispell Chamber of Commerce

PROGRAMS

Kalispell Convention & Visitor Bureau

Kalispell Chamber Foundation

Leadership Flathead

Manufacturers Alliance

Tourism Alliance

Hi Katharine,

Great seeing you yesterday - I really enjoyed our talk! I wanted to take a minute to weigh in on the Core & Rail Redevelopment. Here are my thoughts.

The Kalispell Core & Rail Redevelopment is a win for our community likely to be noted as an important turning point in local history. Much like the original introduction of the railroad, this new phase will bring much-needed industry and will revive the heart of our town. Outreach on the project has been excellent and I have had many conversations with others who feel excited for this new beginning. I look forward to seeing the rail park and trail come to fruition.

Thanks!

Courtenay Sprunger

Principal, Big Sky Public Relations

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The Kalispell Convention & Visitor Bureau supports the proposed Glacier Rail Park/Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail Project (Project). This redevelopment will enhance the viability of downtown Kalispell and provide essential amenities for visitors and locals such as trails, green area, and redevelopment of blighted areas.

The Core Area plan is slated to build a beautiful new linear park with hiking and biking trails through the historic rail corridor. This will serve to open the Core Area and historic commercial district to new businesses and development opportunities, establishing the future success of Main Street amidst increased commercial retail development in the north end of Kalispell. The downtown and Core Area are the original commercial districts of the city. It is this area that provides Kalispell with its unique identity. Losing that identity whether through neglect or haphazard development will be a detriment to the entire city.

Diane Medler
Director, Kalispell Convention & Visitor Bureau
Kalispell Chamber of Commerce/Convention & Visitor Bureau
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To whom it may concern:

The Glacier Rail Park and Kalispell Core Area Development and Trail Project will be a tremendous improvement for our city, adding improved connectivity for ground transportation and pedestrian access to the overall downtown area. Additional development opportunities in the core area will strengthen our economy and provide more walkable commerce to fit with our active, outdoor-loving lifestyle.

Sincerely,
Marc Rold
Wild Horse Limousine
(406) 756-2290

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10