



2018

**MEMORANDUM**

July 8, 2018

**TO:** The Honorable  
Governor of Montana

Mike Tooley, Director  
Montana Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 20000  
Helena, MT 59622-0000

**FROM:** The Honorable  
Governor of Montana

**Subject:** Letter of Support for Montana Department of Transportation BARD Application for the Kalispell Bypass

**DATE:** 7/8/2018

**BY:** The Honorable  
Governor of Montana

Dear Governor Tooley:

On behalf of the 130 undersigned businesses, organizations, elected officials, and individuals, we would like to offer our strongest possible support for the Montana Department of Transportation's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for BARD grant funding to complete the western half of the Kalispell Bypass.

For the 20-year period of 2010 to 2015, Kalispell and Flathead County saw in the top 20% of fastest population growth areas of the country. Over time, traffic counts have grown dramatically with addition of three National Park increasing 40% over the last three years, and totaling 1.1 million visitors in 2017. This growth has resulted in undue congestion and traffic impediments in and around the county.

As Kalispell is the quality growing regional trade center for Northern Montana, this project will have beneficial impacts on the local and regional transportation system. Furthermore, this proposed project will improve the current traffic congestion levels along the western end of the Bypass, provide additional safety and quality of life improvements on the U.S. 2 highway by diverting through traffic from local streets and further the intent to establish downtown initiatives focused on local traffic.

Most importantly, a four lane alternate bypass route for U.S. 89 around the west side of the County was considered and approved in a 2004 Final Environmental Impact Study as part of the regional improvements to the highway. For these reasons, the Kalispell Chamber and the undersigned urge you to give your most serious consideration and approval for the selection of the Kalispell Bypass for BARD grant support.

  
Mark Schmitt, President and CEO  
Kalispell Chamber of Commerce  
Convention and Visitor Bureau

**UNDERSIGNED:**

The Honorable  
Governor of Montana  
The Honorable  
Governor of Montana  
The Honorable  
Governor of Montana  
The Honorable  
Governor of Montana

**MEMORANDUM**

Flathead Area Young  
Professionals

Montana Governor  
Walter White

Montana Governor  
Walter White

Leadership Flathead

Montana Governor  
Walter White

