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May 6, 2019

Mike Trosky  
Director  
Western Department of Transportation  
PO Box 202000  
Bozeman, MT 59720-2000

Caroline Fisher  
Transportation Commissioner, District 2  
Western Transportation Commissioner  
1430 Thunder Creek Road  
Kalispell, MT 59901

**Subject: Designation Change of West Beaver Drive, Kalispell, to State Primary System**

Dear Director Trosky and Commissioner Fisher:

On behalf of the 725 members of the Kalispell Chamber, I'd like to indicate our strong support for a change of designation of West Beaver Drive from the State Urban System to the State Primary System. Due to traffic volumes and safety considerations, connectivity of the facility to West 215, Highway, and Kalispell Circle of growth, Beaver Drive from U.S. 93 to U.S. 2 is well deserving of inclusion in the state primary system.

This section of Beaver Drive carries 17,000 to 20,000 cars per day which is increasing for a wide and increasing variety of uses over time. Indeed, Kalispell was named by the U.S. Census Bureau as the 19th fastest growing metropolitan area in the United States for the last two years in a row. This means that there is likely to be an increase in traffic volumes for years to come here.

Additionally, Beaver Drive connects U.S. 93, U.S. 21, alternative routes, and U.S. 2, making it essential for the segment to be rated at least at the state primary level. If not part of the national highway system, the section of road north of Highway and to between U.S. 93 and 215/Highway Loop Road is the site of Kalispell's next phase of large commercial development and will be the site of the next elementary school. So, traffic volumes may increase even faster than currently projected.

The Kalispell Chamber encourages your most serious consideration of the Kalispell Transportation Advisory Committee's proposal for a re-designation of West Beaver Drive. It could be a beneficial decision for Kalispell, the Kalispell Valley, and the entire state of Montana.

With Warm Regards,  
  
Tommie Grier, President and CEO  
Kalispell Chamber of Commerce

CC: Lynn Corbin, ASB, Traffic, and Planning Administrator - WDT  
Deane Holby, P.E., Chief Engineer - WDT  
64 Team P.E., Western District Administrator - WDT