DISCOVER Kalispell CHAMBER

2023

BOARD OFFICERS

Erica Wenda
Chair

Tanner Hess
Vice Chair

Ryan Bowman
Secretary & Treasurer

Commissioner Brenda Wekel
Immediate Past Chair

Lorraine Dennis
President/CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Proctor
Brian Augustine
Brian Mandibach
Dan Clemens
Dennis Williamson
Jason Combs
Jeff Corrigan
Jim Metcalf
Linda Pinkerton
Mark Blasdel
Mike Story
Ryan Bowman
Rob Krumwiede
Shane Jackson
Tamara Williams
Tim Robbs
Tom Anderson
Tom Ray

EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS

Amy Dodds
Doug Russell
Jane Neal
Cindy Cumming-Dawson
Mayor Hall
Pete Hedrick

PROGRAMS

Flathead Area Young Professionals

Kalispell Chamber Foundation

Leadership Flathead

INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

Bioscience Alliance

Discover Kalispell

Manufacturers Alliance

April 6, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
United States Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Letter of Support for BARS Grant Funding for West Reserve Drive Corridor

Dear Secretary,

The Kalispell Chamber of Commerce is pleased to support the City of Kalispell's RAISE Grant application for the West Reserve Road expansion project from the Mountain Ranch Road intersection to the Whitefish Stage intersection on behalf of our 741 members representing 17,000+ employees in Kalispell and the Flathead Valley.

With the successful completion of the Kalispell Alternate 93 Bypass, this next step is essential to achieve five community transportation goals.

- Improve safety and reduce accidents in support of the Montana Department of Transportation's Zero goal.
- Accommodate existing and future travel demands, therefore reducing travel times and emissions.
- Improve intersection operations and levels of service.
- Improve non-motorized travel options and safety.
- Employ travel demand management strategies.

Kalispell is now the fastest growing Micropolitan City in the Nation. Pairing this with the impacts of non-resident tourism growth and the $100 million expansion to Glacier Park International Airport as well as the expected growth to area businesses, it is clear the current roadway and intersections are insufficiently sized and designed to accommodate the demand now and in the future. We acknowledge that it is imperative we are able to include sidewalks and intersection crossings to be built for ADA compliance to serve all community members and visitors.

As the highest trafficked and greatest bottlenecked portion of this vital east-west connector in our city due to the business & commercial connections it serves as, we respectfully urge you to support the Kalispell RAISE grant to improve and widen West Reserve Road.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Dennis, President/CEO | Erica Wenda, Chair | Tom Ray, Government Affairs