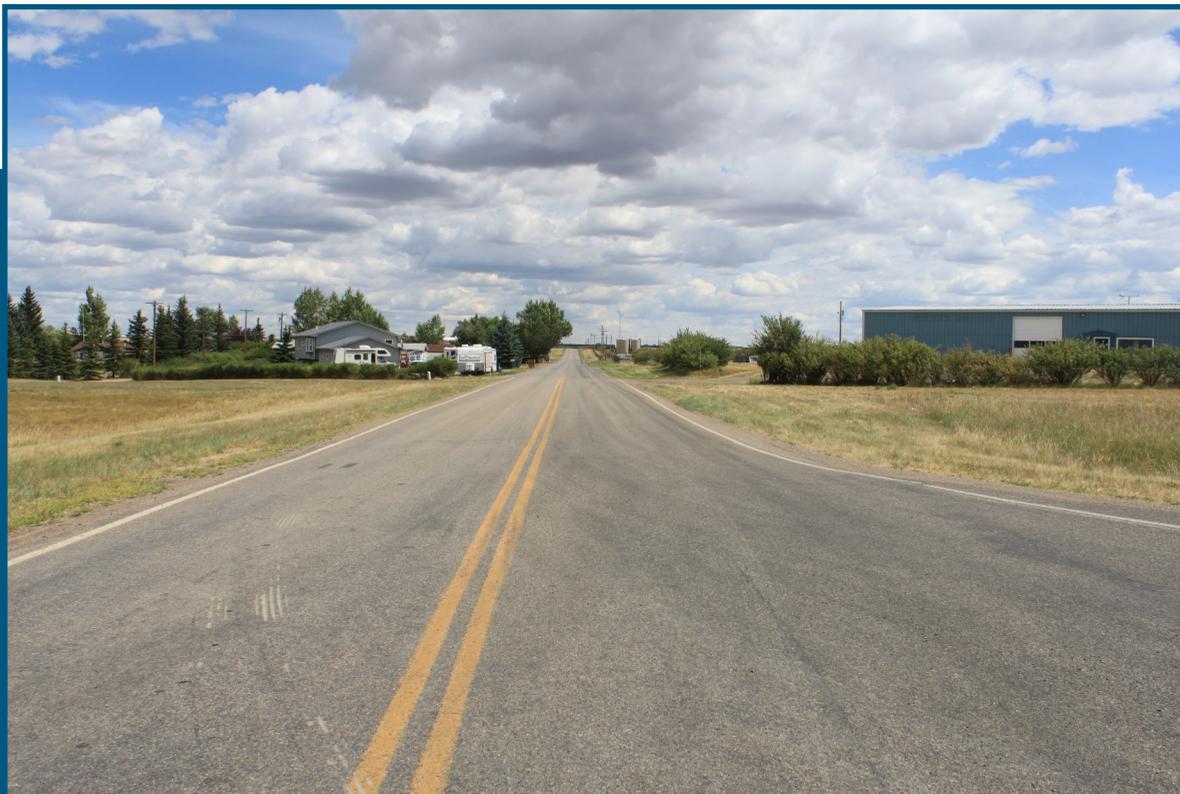




Glacier County

MONTANA



Montana Transportation Alternatives Program
2017-2018 TA Application

Cut Bank Trails Project

Submitted By Glacier County
with assistance from:



Glacier County Transportation Alternatives Grant Application

1. *Project Name: Cut Bank Trails Project – Sports Complex Segment Section 1*

2. *Local Entity Sponsor (Sponsor) and Population*

Glacier County, Montana

Population more than 5,000

3. *Project Contact (name, title, address, phone number(s), email)*

Glenda Hall, Clerk and Recorder

512 East Main Street, Cut Bank Montana 59427

406.873.3609

gmhall@glaciercountymt.org

4. *Estimated Total Project Cost*

Project Phase	Estimate	Note
Construction	\$ 380,083	Includes 20% Contingency
Preliminary Engineering	\$ 114,025	30% of Construction Cost
Construction Engineering	\$ 76,017	20% of Construction Cost
MDT Indirect Cost (IDC)	\$ 50,034	10.97% of Const. and Const. Engineering Cost
Total	\$ 620,159	

Detailed estimate included in Appendix A

5. Project Eligibility

The Cut Bank Trails Project – Sports Complex Segment Section 1 Project (the Project) is eligible for funding as a Transportation Alternatives (TA) project, as defined in Section 101 of the Fast Act. Local governments, including counties and towns such as Glacier County, are entities eligible to receive TA Set-Aside Funds.

The project will be consistent with priorities from the FAST Act (23 U.S.C. 101(a)(29)) that include:

- Construction, planning, and design of trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists and other nonmotorized forms of transportation, including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, lighting and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
- Construction, planning, and design of infrastructure related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to access daily needs.

This project will provide planning, design, and construction of a new segment of trail, consistent with a Trails Master Plan commissioned by Cut Bank Trails, Inc., from an existing sidewalk termination point on Skyland Road, which also provides pedestrian connectivity to Anna Jeffries Elementary School, and extending 1.5 miles to the Sports Complex/Glacier County Historical Society Facilities. This same proposed project was applied for under the 2015 – 2016 TA call for projects and since this proposed path remains at the top of the community’s priority list, it is being applied for again.

The Project is consistent with the priorities of TranPlanMT under the policy goal for Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation to assist government agencies other than MDT to provide transportation facilities that encourage or consider use by bicyclists or pedestrians and by providing connectivity of existing



trails/sidewalks, and improving facilities based on existing use and expected future use. This project also lends to economic development in Cut Bank, and supports TranPlanMT’s Policy Goal to “support the tourism industry through promoting access to recreational, historical, cultural, and scenic destinations”.

This trail, as part of a Trails Master Plan creating a large trail system that will provide recreational opportunities and walkability throughout the Cut Bank area, is a significant section of the planned route. That Master Plan, commissioned by the Cut Bank Trails Committee, has been used to successfully fund and construct four segments of pathway. Those segments provide pedestrian facilities (sidewalk) along MDT roadways and safe pedestrian access for school children at Anna Jeffries School. Consistent with TA Program goals and eligibility, this segment will be a continuation of connectivity to the Sports Complex and the Historical Society Museum.

6. Project Statement

a) Project narrative/abstract.

The Project is an eight foot wide hot mix asphalt path extending from existing sidewalk in the area of Anna Jeffries School, east along Nyhagen Road slightly under one mile, turning south toward the Sports Complex and extending past the Sports Complex to the south end of the Historical Society Museum property, a distance of approximately one-half mile.

The Project is defined as Section I of the Sports Complex Segment of the Cut Bank Trails Master Plan. It is part of planned trail plan imagined by the Cut Bank Trails Committee beginning in 2011. The Committee, intent on improving health factors and non-motorized travel in Cut Bank, commissioned a Master Plan for a network of sidewalks, paths and trails that would provide recreational opportunities, connectivity to local attractions, schools, and safety enhancements for residents of the City of Cut Bank and visitors to the area. See a map of the entire plan with the proposed project identified on the following page.



The Committee has successfully funded and completed four phases of the overall trail plan. The intent of this application is to obtain funding for the trail segment that will connect the Anna Jeffries School path to the Sports Complex and the Glacier County Historical Society Facilities.

Offering a safe route from Anna Jeffries School to the Sports Complex for school children who utilize those fields for various sporting activities is a major consideration for funding this segment of trail. The trail also provides the opportunity for all residents of Cut Bank and visitors to the area to utilize the trail for exercise and recreation. Adding this portion of trail to the overall Master Plan of existing trail/sidewalk provides approximately 2 miles of connectivity from the MDT overpass to the new trail segment termini.

Serving as a starting point for completion of future sections of the Sports Complex Segment of the overall Master Plan will allow pedestrian and bicycle access to Glacier County's History Museum facilities. This educational and tourism destination has several antique buildings, a museum, an office, and archives, as well as an outdoor museum. Another nearby historical site with significance in Blackfeet Country is the Lewis and Clark fight sight with an interesting history as a railroad and agricultural community. This project remains at the top of the trail/path priorities for the community and was previously applied for in the 2015-2016 TA call for projects and unfortunately was not successful.

b) Project benefits.

SAFETY:

Cut Bank's Main Street is U.S. Highway 2, the primary route to Glacier National Park and the primary route for travelers and pedestrians. With highway and truck traffic on main Street, Cut Bank needs a designated, safe form of pedestrian and non-motorized travel and recreation. Cut Bank has a public swimming pool, softball fields, a popular museum, and a golf course that cannot be accessed safely or conveniently by foot or bike. This Project will become part of a larger overall plan to promote Cut Bank as a better place to live, work, and visit by providing safe pedestrian and handicap access in and around Cut Bank for a host of non-motorized users.

The Project will provide improvements to public safety by installing a pedestrian/bicycle path where no sidewalk or formalized trails exist to extend an existing path system in accordance with the adopted master plan. The path will be an 8-foot wide, asphalt path, and will be separated from the shoulder of Nyhagen Road by approximately 10-feet. Providing a path that connects to an existing school sidewalk will enhance the Safe Routes to Schools principals that were intended with previous trails built with SRTS, MDT, and CTEP funding. The path will separate pedestrians from traffic and encourage the healthful practice of walking to school when safety concerns may have otherwise been a barrier. More students walking to school reduces congestion around the school which, in turn, lessens the chance for pedestrian/vehicle collisions during busy times of the school day.

Furthermore, the separated path planned for the project along Nyhagen Road will provide safe pedestrians and bicyclists travel by removing users from using an existing roadway that is only 24-feet wide. Project design will fully comply with ADA requirements, greatly improving the safety for accessibility challenged users.

ACCESSIBILITY:

The project will include an eight foot wide hot mix asphalt path that will meet ADA Accessibility Standards and increase pedestrian access to individuals with physical disabilities that would otherwise preclude them from accessing the existing route that is uneven and a variable walking surface. ADA accessibility standards will be met for running slope, cross slope, and detectable warning devices will be provided where the path crosses side roads or streets.

Cut Bank Trails Recent Facebook Post

This is an excellent example of why the Cut Bank Trail and Glacier County have teamed up to apply for a large grant through the State of Montana to complete the Sports Complex Phase of our trail system. Not only does the trail provide recreational pleasure and promote a healthy lifestyle, but it will serve as a safe alternative for our community's youth who participate in track and cross country. Currently they are using a narrow roadway to access the Sports Complex, putting themselves and drivers at risk.



CONNECTIVITY:

The Project is a segment of a Master Plan developed to promote an integrated trail/path system in and around Cut Bank. Glacier County applied for this same project in the 2015 – 2016 TA call for projects and, disappointingly, was not selected. Because this segment remains a priority for the community, the County once again decided to expend funds for putting an application together for this cycle.



Existing Sidewalk on Skyland Road

The Project will provide connectivity to previous segments of the Master Plan by connecting to the sidewalk that currently terminates on Skyland Road. This sidewalk was constructed in 2013 by MDT as part of the grade separation crossing project over the BNSF railroad. Subsequently, the Anna Jeffries School project that was funded by SRTS funding, now connects to this same location, so this proposed project will extend connectivity to both of these past projects.

Due to project size, and in order to keep overall funding within the range of previously selected TA projects, and to keep the local match feasible, the proposed trail terminates at the trails junction with Old Kevin Highway and the south boundary of the Historical Society Museum's property. A future project, ideally another TA project, will complete this path/trail system providing the loop back into Cut Bank as shown on the aerial map. The community developed master plan is the guiding document for project development and connectivity in and around Cut Bank.

c) Project Risk Analysis

BUDGET:

Stahly Engineering & Associates (SE&A) has extensive experience with the design, estimating, and construction of pedestrian path/trails with specific project experience in Glacier County. Glacier County understands the importance of accurate estimates from the get-go and accordingly utilized SE&A's services to develop the budget associated with this application. Stahly Engineering has served as the design engineer for multiple trail projects funded by the Community Transportation Enhancement Project (CTEP) program administered through MDT. Experience gained from those projects provides the consultant with details required to accurately provide a preliminary estimate for the County and determine up to date cost information on construction and total project costs.

The preliminary construction estimate shown in Section 4 and detailed in Appendix A of this application was developed using experience with trail projects, current construction material pricing, and comparison of final numbers to similar projects. Unit price for bid items anticipated for the proposed Project was

based on this recent project information. The MDT construction estimate form was completed as part of the estimating process. A 20% contingency was selected to estimate scope elements that cannot realistically be determined at this preliminary stage of planning and estimating. The estimate appropriately identifies construction costs, preliminary engineering cost, construction engineering cost, MDT indirect cost, and the required local match.

MATCHING FUNDS:

The Project will require a cash match from Glacier County because it is not on a designated state highway system within MDT right-of-way nor is it within reservation lands.

Glacier County has agreed to sponsor this project for a TA Grant (see minutes confirming sponsorship in Appendix B). Based on the resolution for sponsorship of the grant the Cut Bank Trails Committee has committed to contribute match monies as well and has pledged its current fund balance of \$53,000 to the Project. The required local match is \$83,225 and the Trails Committee is confident they can raise the additional money for the full match. With that said, Glacier County has committed to providing any and all funds necessary to meet the required local match for the project should committee fundraising efforts fall short.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:

Glacier County and Cut Bank Trails Committee has initiated and facilitated much public outreach and involvement over the years. Most recently a public meeting was held on March 15, 2017. This meeting was to inform interested persons of the County's intention to apply for this round of TA funding again along the same corridor as previously applied and gather information and comments about the selected segment of path. The affidavit of publication advertising the meetings and minutes of the meeting are in Appendix B.

An informal group of concerned citizens organized in early 2011 to promote the concept of a recreational trail network in Cut Bank. Master Planning for a usable trail system in and around Cut Bank and fulfillment of the components of that plan have been ongoing since 2011. The document, updated in 2015 to guide the process enjoyed considerable public input.

The Cut Bank Trails Committee, formed around the goal to promote Cut Bank as a better place to live, work, and visit. They recognized how providing safe pedestrian and handicap access throughout town provided opportunity for local outdoor activity in response to a 2015 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation study that named Glacier County as "the least healthy County in Montana of the 46 counties investigated.



The committee has actively developed local government and community support for the overall trails project. To date the Cut Bank Trails committee has successfully applied for and received Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) funding for a trail/sidewalk segment on 2nd Ave., N.E to provide safe pedestrian access to school children attending Anna Jeffries School, applied for and received the last of locally appropriated Community Transportation Enhancement Program (CTEP) funding for \$47,000 in work to further integrate Anna Jeffries School with the earlier MDT project and the SRS project. That project was completed in 2016. In June of 2015, the Committee successfully applied for and received a \$25,000 grant from State Farm Insurance Neighborhood Assist program for the first phase of the “Coulee Trail”. They tried for a Transportation Alternatives grant in 2016 to develop this Project but were unsuccessful in that attempt. Knowing the cost and benefit of the segment of trail providing safe access to the Sports Complex and Museum, they are hopeful that the additional fund raising and detail provided herein will allow for further success for their efforts.

The Committee and their planned projects are very visible in the Cut Bank community and they enjoy considerable support for their fundraising activities. They hold regular Committee meetings that are noticed to the public and generally attended by a considerable number of people (15+) and representatives from the City of Cut Bank and Glacier County local government. The Committee hosts a web site at <http://www.cutbanktrails.com/index.html> that demonstrates their outreach and support for their efforts. Their Facebook page regularly announces community meetings related to their trail projects including the meetings recently hosted by the County to determine the most appropriate project for this application. A recent post also disclosed a recent donation to the Committee for trails projects from First Interstate Bank. A copy of the article from Cut Bank Press referred to in the post is in Appendix C.

Letters of support for this project from agencies such as the Cut Bank Chamber of Commerce, Cut Bank School District, Northern Telephone, and the Northern Rockies Medical Center are in Appendix C. This project has tremendous support from a wide range of individuals and businesses.

MDT COORDINATION:

Stahly Engineering contacted Dave Holien, MDT Acting TA Program Manager, for guidance on the eligibility and other details of the application for the Project. Mr. Holien confirmed the proposed scope of work is consistent with the goals of the TA Program. In February of this year, Stahly Engineering reached out and coordinated with MDT Great Falls District personnel. In February, on a trip back from meeting with Glacier County and the Trails Committee about this project, personal contact was made with Great Falls District staff

From Kari Lewis (MSU Extension)

This trail is a proactive approach to providing a safe alternative route to the facility. Additionally, this project will increase Cut Bank’s appeal when recruiting and retaining quality community members and boost our rural economy by making us appealing to outside markets.

As the MSU Extension agent with 4-H and youth development responsibilities, I am excited for the increased safety that the TA grant would bring to our community for our youth.

members, Doug Wilmot, P.E., District Construction Engineer, and Steve Priensing, P.E., Engineering Services Supervisor, to determine if they had any thoughts, comments, or suggestions relating to the proposed project. Since this project is not located on MDT roadways district personnel were not familiar with the project corridor and did not have any pertinent information to share.

PROJECT INDEPENDENCE:

Section I of the Sports Complex Segment of the Cut Bank Trails Master Plan is a small portion of the overall Master Plan for the Cut Bank area trails (see map in Section 6, Exhibit A). However, it is a logical choice for the next section of trail to be built. It connects to and extends an existing section of sidewalk on Skyland Road (Highway 213), with also ties to the recently constructed Anna Jeffries School trail/path. It is anticipated that most users of the path will be students using the Sports Complex for after school activities who will then return on the path back to the school or be picked up at the Complex. Additional users of the trail will likely be recreational users who will use the remainder of the trail to visit the Museum complex. Therefore, upon its completion, the project will function to its full intent and purpose without being dependent on other projects. Of course the goal will be to complete the remaining “loop” back to Cut Bank, as identified in the master plan, with a future project.

PROJECT OWNERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE:

Upon completion of the project the trail will be owned by Glacier County and they will be ultimately responsible for maintenance. The County and Cut Bank Trails, Inc. developed a long term maintenance plan which outlines the responsibilities for long term maintenance. See the outline of the plan in Appendix D. Based on preliminary discussions with local government staff and the Trails Committee, Committee members will organize volunteers, as they have for other sections of the trail, to provide general operation and maintenance activities:



- Mowing
- Snow removal
- Weed control
- Crack sealing of paved surfaces

A solid plan for maintenance is in-place to ensure the on-going upkeep is accomplished. Maintenance is indeed the key to protecting the investment made to this project.

PROJECT RIGHT-OF-WAY:

Beginning at the end of the existing sidewalk on Highway 213 and heading east, the first 1,000-ft of new path will fall within Nyhagen Road right-of-way (County property) in which this the roadway has been abandoned. The next segment of proposed path, from Santa Rita Road east, will be placed adjacent to the southern right-of-way line (inside) of Nyhagen Road. Nyhagen Road right-of-way

(County property) varies from 60-feet to 70-feet, so the new path will be offset from the existing shoulder of Nyhagen by approximately 10-feet in 60' right-of-way locations and approximately 12.5-feet in 70' right-of-way locations. No right-of-way or easements need to be secured along this segment.

The remaining 2,640-feet of path running north/south from Nyhagen Road to the end of project at the intersection with Old Kevin Highway will be constructed on property owned by the City of Cut Bank, the Glacier County Historical Museum, and the Cut Bank School District. Glacier County and the Trail Committee have discussed the project in detail with these entities and have assurance of easement acquisition. Cut Bank Trails, Inc. has a specific committee assigned to easement acquisition for their projects. That sub-committee has acquired a statement of perpetual easement from the City of Cut Bank, the Cut Bank School District, and the Historical Society Museum for path construction within this segment. This commitment for granting necessary easements is included in Appendix E.



Nyhagen Road Right-of-Way 60-70 Feet

PROJECT UTILITY IMPACTS:

Subsurface Utility Engineering - Phase I is anticipated for the preliminary engineering phase. SUE Phase I generally consists of locating and collecting the approximate horizontal location of known utilities. There is one location, as shown in the photo, where the path will need to bump towards the road to avoid conflict with existing power poles. Additionally it is likely the existing culvert will need to be extended slightly to accommodate the path.



From reviewing Google Earth imagery and an on-site field review by County officials, there appears to be no existing surface utility features that would need to be modified, moved or relocated by the proposed work. Path projects generally do not include deep excavation that would conflict with underground utilities. Alignment of path projects provide flexibility such that any significant above ground utilities can be avoided. Project utility impacts are anticipated to be none to minor in nature.

Based on evaluation and research of the proposed project limits, an independent estimate for Incidental Construction (IC) specifically for utility impacts is not provided in the project budget.

Appendix A: Cost Estimates

Montana Transportation Alternatives Program 2017-2018 TA Application **Cut Bank Trails Project**

Submitted By Glacier County
with assistance from:



**Glacier County
8-foot Wide Asphalt Trail
2017 - 2018 TA Application**

Item #	Item Description	Engineer's Estimate			
		Unit	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
1	Traffic Control	LS	1	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
2	Topsoil Salvage & Replacement	LS	1	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
3	Clearing & Grubbing	LS	1	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
4	Imported Borrow	LS	1	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
5	Soil Sterilant	LS	1	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
6	Crushed Base Course	CY	1360	\$ 50.00	\$ 68,000.00
7	Commercial Mix - 1/2 In - PG58-28	TON	790	\$ 200.00	\$ 158,000.00
8	Detectable Warning Device	EA	4	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 4,800.00
9	Signing & Striping	LS	1	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
10	Seeding	LS	1	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
					\$ 282,800.00
Mobilization			12%		\$ 33,936.00
Subtotal					\$ 316,736.00
Contingency			20%		\$ 63,347.20
Construction Total					\$ 380,083.20
Construction Engineering			20%		\$ 76,016.64
Total					\$ 456,099.84
Indirect Cost (IDC)-Construction			10.97%		\$ 41,695.13
Total Construction w/IDC					\$ 421,778.33
Indirect Cost (IDC)-Construction Engineering			10.97%		\$ 8,339.03
Total Construction Engineering w/IDC					\$ 84,355.67
Total w/IDC					\$ 506,133.99
Preliminary Engineering			30%		\$ 114,024.96
TOTAL (CN,MOBILIZ., CONTIN., CE, IDC, PE)					\$ 620,158.95

REQUIRED LOCAL MATCH

13.42%		\$ 83,225.33
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Appendix B:
**Commission Meeting Minutes,
Affidavit of Publication,
Resolution**

Montana Transportation Alternatives Program
2017-2018 TA Application
Cut Bank Trails Project

Submitted By Glacier County
with assistance from:



AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MONTANA

ss.

County of Glacier

I, Patty Grubb, being duly sworn, deposes and says: That she is the Legals Editor of *The Cut Bank Pioneer Press*, a weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Cut Bank, Glacier County, Montana, and that the notice annexed:

Public Hearing Notice

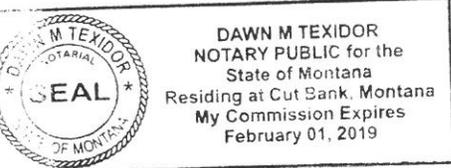
Community needs assessment

has been correctly published in the regular and entire issue of every number of said paper for two (2) consecutive issues, commencing on the 8th day of March, 2017 and ending on the 15th day of March 2017.

Patty Grubb

Subscribed and sworn before me this 15th day of March A.D., 20 17.

Dawn M. Texidor



Public Hearing Notice

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners will be holding a community needs assessment hearing. The purpose of the meeting is to explore ideas for a grant application to the Montana Department of Transportation's Transportation Alternatives (TA) program. The meeting will include presentation of information about the TA program and projects the County has identified as potential subjects for which to seek funding. Comments and proposals from the public regarding ideas for TA projects will also be welcomed. Glacier County Commissioners invite you to join them on Thursday, March 16, 2017, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Satellite Office Conference Room, Browning, Montana. A second meeting will be held at the Cut Bank Voting Center, Cut Bank, Montana from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. For further information contact Glenda M. Hall, Glacier County Clerk and Recorder at (406) 873-3609.

MNAXLP

**GLACIER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TA GRANT PUBLIC MEETING - BROWNING
THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2017 @ 11:00 A.M.**

Present: Michael DesRosier, Commission Chair; Ron Rides At The Door, Vice-Chair; Tom McKay, Member; Glenda M. Hall, Clerk & Recorder; Michael J. Kittson, HR Director.

Chairman, Michael DesRosier presented a brief summary of the TA Grant program and solicited the group for potential qualifying projects. Project ideas discussed included; 1. Browning – extend the current walking path from the Browning High School and connect it to the Veteran’s Memorial project; 2. Browning – walking path from the Skate Park to IHS (Indian Health Service) Hospital; and 3. Cut Bank Trails – selecting a portion of trail off the Cut Bank Trails Committee Master Plan.

Further discussion was held on pavement preservation of existing infrastructure for fixing the Town of Browning Streets and maintenance.

Adjourn: 12 noon

GLACIER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Michael DesRosier, Chairman

ATTEST:



Glenda M. Hall, Clerk and Recorder



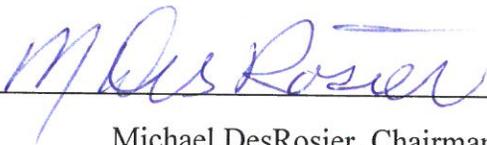
**GLACIER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
T.A. GRANT PUBLIC HEARING
THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2017 @ 5:00 P.M.**

Present: Michael DesRosier, Commissioner Chair; Ron Rides At The Door, Vice-Chair; Tom McKay, Member; Glenda Hall Clerk & Recorder; Michael J. Kittson, H.R. Director; Cicily Calfbossribs, Deputy Clerk; Sara Strain; Britt Peterson; Pat Murphy; Pam Withers; Amy Overstreet; Rachel Brown; Larry Schwindt; Keelie Montalban; Wade Johnson; Dan Raemaker;

Chairman, Micheal DesRosier presented a brief summary of the TA Grant Program and solicited the group for potential qualifying projects. Project idea discussion was the Cut Bank Trails – selecting a portion of trail off the Cut Bank Trails Committee Master Plan. Mike Kittson announced to keep in mind, the contribution of 13.4% will be needed to match the grant. Commissioner Rides At The Door added that the Commissioners will choose 1 project for the application. He added that the application process is a competitive one. Glenda Hall explained if the group comes up short for the match, Robie from Stahly Engineering said we can get together and come up with more accurate numbers. Larry Schwindt added that Bryon from Stahly Engineering discussed approximately \$600,000,00 with an estimated increase. He also added that the easements are being taken care of by the Cut Bank Trails group. Commissioners discussed the time line process of the application and when the winning project will be choose. Without any further discussion, Commissioners agreed on submitting the Cut Bank Trails as the applicant for the TA Grant.

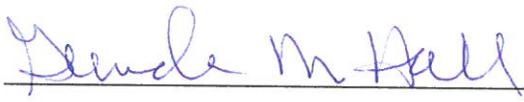
Adjourn: 6:00 p,m.

BOARD OF GLACIER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Michael DesRosier, Chairman

ATTEST:



Glenda M. Hall, Clerk and Recorder

GLACIER COUNTY RESOLUTION
RESOLUTION OF INTENT BY GLACIER COUNTY TO SUBMIT A MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION (MDT) TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE (TA) GRANT APPLICATION
TO CONSTRUCT A TRAIL IN CUT BANK IN SUPPORT OF THE CUT BANK TRAILS MASTER
PLAN
RESOLUTION #2017-09

WHEREAS, Glacier County has the responsibility to provide public infrastructure to enhance the quality of life within Glacier County; and

WHEREAS, Glacier County acknowledges pedestrian facilities consisting of trails complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) increases the walkability of the community; and

WHEREAS, Cut Bank Trails, Inc. was formed specifically to encourage building and use of non-motorized trails within and around the City of Cut Bank and has contributed considerable resources to that endeavor; and

WHEREAS, a Trails Master Plan was commissioned to study the feasibility of constructing and maintaining trails in and around the City of Cut Bank and the project proposed for this application – Sports Complex Segment Section 1 – is identified as a priority; and

WHEREAS, constructing walkable trails pose significant financial challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Transportation administers the Transportation Alternatives Program to assist with on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation; recreational trail program projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for the planning, design or construction of boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways; and

WHEREAS, Glacier County will submit an application as prepared by Stahly Engineering & Associates (the County's on-call engineers) to the MDT TA Program to seek the necessary funding to construct the segment of trail from the existing Anna Jeffries School Path past the Sports Complex to the Museum Complex; and

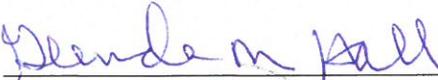
WHEREAS, Cut Bank Trails, Inc. has committed to providing matching funds as required by MDT; and

WHEREAS, Glacier County is aware of the responsibility to match 13.42-percent of costs related to the project and will guarantee the availability of that amount in the event Cut Bank Trails, Inc. cannot provide the full amount,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Glacier County of the intent of the Commission to apply for MDT TA funding to construct the Cut Bank Trails Project – Sports Complex Segment Section 1.

ADOPTED this 28th day of March, 2017.

ATTEST:


Glenda M. Hall, Clerk & Recorder

GLACIER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:


Michael J. DesRosier, Chairman


Ron Rides At The Door, Vice-Chairman


Tom McKay, Member



Appendix C: Letters of Support

Montana Transportation Alternatives Program 2017-2018 TA Application **Cut Bank Trails Project**

Submitted By Glacier County
with assistance from:



First Interstate presents grant to Cut Bank Trails

Posted: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 6:00 am

The Cut Bank Trails System was the grateful recipient of a generous grant from First Interstate Bank. On March 16, First Interstate Bank President Ryan Eney awarded the grant money to Keelie Montalban and Rachel Brown from Cut Bank Trails. First Interstate Bank gave \$5,000 to the organization for purchasing benches and signage along the Anna Jeffries section of the trail, as well as adding to matching grant funds for the continued construction of the trail. The Cut Bank Trails Committee is working diligently to create safe and easily accessible places for everyone in this community to enjoy and is proud to have the support of local businesses like First Interstate Bank.



PP_S3

First Interstate Bank President Ryan Eney presents a check to Keelie Montalban and Rachel Brown for the Cut Bank Trails System.

Crystal Kain – Cut Bank High School Head Track & Field Coach
101 Third Avenue South East
Cut Bank, Montana 59427
February 28, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

When I first moved to Cut Bank, I remember wishing that this community offered a running or walking trail. Until recently, I would jog the streets of Cut Bank, knowing there had to be a better way to get from one destination to the next. As the head Track & Field Coach for Cut Bank High School and a high school Health Enhancement teacher, I fully support the Cut Bank Trails project. Nothing shows that a community cares about their citizens more than investing in their health and safety.

As a Health Enhancement teacher, my goal is to promote lifelong physical activity, a concept that is not always easy in today's society. Cut Bank's current walking trail offers a safe and scenic opportunity for people to exercise. This not only helps my students realize the importance of lifelong exercise, but many of them are already utilizing the current trails as a way to stay fit.

With the completion of the proposed portion of the trail which will run from Anna Jeffries Elementary School to the Sports Complex, the community again would benefit. This new section of trail would not only offer easier access to the Sports Complex but also provide a safer way for community members to travel from one destination to the next. During track season, it can become difficult to vary the workouts without putting my athletes at risk, especially on longer runs. If the proposed portion of the trail gets approved, track athletes would be able to utilize the trail daily as a safer way to complete workouts. Between the high school and middle school track programs, we host anywhere from 6-8 meets a year. Having a walking trail that connects other areas of the community to the Sports Complex would provide community members, including youth walking from Anna Jeffries, a safe and easy way to access the Sports Complex to support these young athletes.

I am thankful to live in a community that supports the health and wellness of its citizens. The Cut Bank Trails mission has always been to provide a "designated, safe form of pedestrian and non-motorized recreation." The Cut Bank High School Track & Field program fully supports this mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Crystal Kain". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Crystal Kain
Cut Bank High School Track and Field Coach

Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 1243 · Cut Bank, MT 59427 · (406)873-4041
www.cutbankchamber.com · cutbankchamber@gmail.com



February 28, 2017

Transportation Alternatives Program,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of support for the Cut Bank Trails in its application for the Montana Department of Transportation TAP funding for construction of a pedestrian trail connecting the Anna Jeffries Elementary School to the Cut Bank Schools District's Sports Complex and the Glacier County Historical Museum.

Currently, the pedestrian access to the Sports Complex and the Glacier County Historical Museum is extremely dangerous due to the lack of a shoulder on the road, the frequent large semi-trailer trucks on the road from the agriculture and oil/gas industries and the blind corners in several locations. Currently, there are many people utilizing this path, but without a defined path to separate the traffic from the pedestrians it has become a serious concern for the safety of the walkers, runners and cyclists currently using this roads as a way to access the Sports Complex and the Glacier County Museum.

With funding from the Transportation Alternatives Program, the Cut Bank Trails would have the ability to provide a safe route to the Sport Complex and Historical Museum. This would not only create the opportunity to get outside and be active locally, but it would also make Cut Bank a more marketable destination within the tourism industry and when recruiting and retaining quality community members, such as educators and medical professionals.

The lack of a safe, accessible pedestrian route from the Northside of Cut Bank to the Sports Complex and Museum has created a sense of disconnect and under-utilization of the great amenities that our community has to offer.

The Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce is excited about the tremendous commitment the Cut Bank Trails has shown to improving the safety and connectivity for outdoor activities in our community. We are fully in support of their efforts to further the health, safety and overall well-being in Cut Bank.

Sincerely,

Amy Overstreet
Executive Director
Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce

February 23, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to express support for the recreational trail grant proposed by the Cut Bank Trails Committee. Community members, businesses, and local government organizations have all come together to support this project, and its completion would provide many benefits to our community including:

- The recreational trail will increase pedestrian safety in the areas near the proposed trail. Because the sections of road that currently service the Glacier County Museum and the Sports Complex are traveled by school buses, large county and state road equipment and farm trucks in addition to normal daily traffic, it is important to create a safe trail off of the well-traveled roads. Imagine taking the children out for some fresh air and trying to maneuver a stroller and children onto the grassy shoulder (if there is one) while a loaded farm truck rumbles past at 45 mph only a few feet away. Safety is my biggest concern.
- This connecting trail will allow our residents and visitors the opportunity to get outside and be active locally and take in events and exhibitions offered at the Museum and Sports Complex while getting some exercise. Wouldn't it be great, on a summer afternoon, to take a family walk or bike ride out to the museum or to see a baseball game while watching the prairie dogs play and listening to the meadowlarks on your way?
- Local educators often plan class trips to trail systems over 100 miles away to explore local natural habitats because of the safety and accessibility of those trail systems. This trail will take kids directly from the school to the museum through local habitats that are currently inaccessible due to traffic and often muddy conditions along the paved road.
- It is our belief that a community with outdoor recreation, such as this 5-mile loop of trail, is more marketable when recruiting and retaining quality community members, such as educators, medical professionals, etc. A trail like this would provide a thought-cleansing, stress-purging walking, running, or cycling opportunity that is not available within the city limits.
- This trail is likely to boost the city's economy by making us more appealing to outside markets. A trail which connects area attractions can make Cut Bank a more marketable tourism destination, instead of the pass-through community that we currently are.
- There are potential health benefits for the residents of Cut Bank. In early 2015, Glacier County was named the least healthy county in Montana of the 46 counties investigated by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This statistic stresses the need for accessible, low cost health and recreation facilities in Cut Bank and in Glacier County.

I have worked to support, plan, and promote the recreational trail and will continue to do so in the future. Thank you for your consideration of our Cut Bank Trails grant. We look forward to your assistance in bettering our community.

Sincerely,

Nancy Jacobson

March 23, 2017

Randi Larson
302 2nd St. SE
Cut Bank, MT 59427
cbhsrl@cutbankschools.net

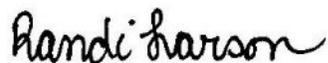
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the Cut Bank Trails Systems continued expansion. I have been a high school cross country coach for the last five years and a volunteer track coach for the last three years. I cannot express how wonderful the work of the Trails committee has been so far. The work that has been done is truly impressive and definitely fills a void that our small community had. The completed trail is both beautiful and challenging.

For me and the students I work with, the next phase of the Trail System would be monumental. One of our main work out routes for the cross country team is from the high school to the sports complex, which is 2 miles. The proposed next section of the trail would tie these two areas together and be of great benefit to all. When we send out cross country runners for a run to the sports complex, they have to cross Highway 2 and a two track railroad crossing. And then, they continue on a busy county road. Safety is of utmost importance and we are always trying to stay ahead of the runners to ensure safe crossing areas. With the expansion of the community trail, this would increase safety exponentially. I have also seen kids that don't have rides, walking to the sports complex for football and baseball practice. A walking trail would provide a safe route for them.

Another area of the trail expansion, Nyhagen Road is also widely used by our local running community. This is an area of gentle rolling hills with wide open views of the mountains, grain fields and farms. It is already a favorite running route. The addition of the trail would open it up to many others to enjoy and ensure safe running and walking conditions.

Sincerely,



Randi Larson
Cut Bank High School Cross Country and Track Coach



519 E. Main St.
Cut Bank, MT 59427
406-873-5670 (ph)
406-873-2256 (fax)

3/15/2017

To Whom It May Concern,

As the CEO of Glacier Community Health Center I would like to express my support for the Anna Jeffries to the Sports Complex/Museum segment of the Cut Bank Trails. We are one of the many local organizations that have come together to support this project. As a healthcare facility it is exciting to see another walking and biking path constructed in our community. This will no doubt provide significant health and safety benefits for our community. In early 2015, Glacier County was named the least healthy of the 46 investigated counties in Montana. This statistic, released in a study by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, amplifies the need for accessible, low cost recreation facilities in Cut Bank and in Glacier County. Additionally, completing another segment of this trail will provide the following benefits for our community:

- safe pedestrian access in and around the city of Cut Bank.
- better opportunity to get outside and be active in our local area.
- allowing local educators to explore natural habitats locally. These same educators currently plan their class trips to trail systems that are located over 100 miles away because those trails are safer and more accessible than what we currently have here in Cut Bank. The AJ to Sports Complex trail will take kids to our own local habitats that are currently inaccessible.
- add recruiting opportunities for local businesses. A community with outdoor recreation is more marketable when trying to recruit and retain quality medical professionals to the Cut Bank area.

Finally, this section of the Cut Bank Trails system currently cannot be accessed safely or conveniently by pedestrians and bicyclists. It is my understanding that they are currently requesting funding to complete a segment of the trails system that runs from our Anna Jeffries school to the Sports Complex and Museum. Funding this segment would mean not only will the local track students have a safer non-street route to run on (out of the way of large farm tractors and speeding vehicles), but it will also bring foot traffic to our local historical museum, as well as provide additional recreation at the sports complex. This would be a huge benefit to our rural community.

Glacier Community Health Center works to support and promote the recreational trail and will continue to do so in the future. Thank you for considering our community for your grant.

Sincerely,

Tom Smoll, J.D., CEO
Glacier Community Health Center

Glacier County Historical Museum

PO Box 576, 107 Old Kevin Hwy
Cut Bank, MT 59427
(406) 873-4904

March 9, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Glacier County Historical Museum, I would like to express support for the recreational trail that is being proposed by the Cut Bank Trail Committee. The museum's mission is to collect, preserve, and present the history of Glacier County through exhibits which are creative, stimulating, interactive, and educational. This project will dovetail with our mission, allowing us to expand our scope of service.

People using this segment of trail will learn about various aspects of our community through interpretive signs and/or a walking trail brochure. This trail allows participants the opportunity to get outside and be active while at the same time learning about natural history as well as the community's heritage. An increase in visitation would also be a benefit to the museum.

Our museum is located east of the community, and cannot be accessed safely or conveniently by pedestrians or bicyclists at this time. Currently, a narrow county road with a sharp curve is used to access the museum, and it is also being used by an increasing number of vehicles, including large oilfield trucks. The recreational trail will provide a safe route for community members of all ages to access the great amenities our community has to offer.

The Glacier County Historical Society has helped with planning for this segment of the recreational trail and will continue to do so in the future. We look forward to your assistance in bettering our community.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Seglem
Director

March 9, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

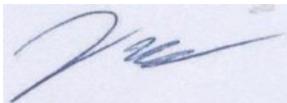
On behalf of the Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce, I would like to express support for the recreational trail proposed by the Cut Bank Trails Committee. Community members, businesses, and local government organizations have all come together to support this project, and its completion would be a great asset to our little community.

I see the Anna Jeffries to the Sports Complex and Museum section of the trail being a huge benefit to our town and county. We are in need of a safe route for our kids to travel to and from the elementary school to the Museum and Sports Complex areas out of town. Currently, if the kids want to walk or bike out there for sporting events or to visit the Museum, they have to walk on a heavily travelled road which can be dangerous. Our local track and cross-country kids currently run on this dangerous road to get to practices and events at the Sports Complex. It would be nice to provide a safe place for them to run. This segment of the trail will also encourage citizens to become more physically active. We were rated at the least healthy county in Montana by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, so any opportunity to create outdoor recreation is an asset.

As the President of the Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce, a big consideration for me is always how something will benefit our local businesses. Creating a good trail system will enhance our local businesses' ability to recruit and retain quality people. It will also help to make us more of a tourist destination by bringing people here to experience our rich local history and native habitats. More tourists equals more business. By constructing a trail that can safely take walkers and bikers to the Glacier County Historical Society, we increase the number of people who will come to our community.

The Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce has committed ourselves to the support, planning, and promotion of the Cut Bank Trails system (and this segment from AJ to the Sports Complex/Museum in particular) and will continue to do so in the future. Thank you for your consideration of our community and project. We are excited about working with you to create a better community for all of us!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Billman", is placed over a light blue rectangular background.

Jeff Billman
President, Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce



March 21, 2017

To whom it may concern:

This letter is in support of Glacier County's application for the Transportation Alternative grant, to support the Cut Bank Trails project. Cut Bank Trails, Inc. has the vision to create a safe, pedestrian and handicap accessible walking and biking trail throughout Cut Bank, Montana. There are eight planned segments of the trail that will be completed as funding allows, to create an 8.5 mile trail. This trail will provide the opportunity for residents to be active locally, will expose school children to local habitats, and will allow for a more marketable community when recruiting community members and businesses to the area.

The TA grant funds will be allocated to the Sports Complex route which will provide access from Cut Bank to the Sports Complex and Glacier County Historical Society facilities. Safe access to these facilities from our schools is crucial, as currently the only way to access these facilities is via heavily traveled county roads. The proposed trail will allow youth safe access via biking or walking to the softball, baseball, football, and soccer fields and all-weather track. Additionally, the trail will allow tourists to visit the Glacier County Museum via the walking trail which will encourage tourists to spend additional time in our rural community.

In 2015, Glacier County was recognized as the least healthy Montana county, according to a University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute report. By recognizing the challenge that residents have in finding low-cost, safe ways to be active, the Cut Bank Walking Trail will allow residents to be active locally and improve their physical health.

Specific to the Sports Complex route, the current means of accessing the facility is dangerous for our youth. This trail is a proactive approach to providing a safe alternative route to the facility. Additionally, this project will increase Cut Bank's appeal when recruiting and retaining quality community members and boost our rural economy by making us appealing to outside markets.

As the MSU Extension agent with 4-H and youth development responsibilities, I am excited for the increased safety that the TA grant would bring to our community for our youth. I strongly encourage you to fund this project, and please don't hesitate to contact me with any further questions at kari.lewis@montana.edu or 406-873-2239.

Glacier County Extension
1210 East Main
Cut Bank, MT 59427

Kari Lewis, Agent
kari.lewis@montana.edu

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads 'Kari Lewis'.

Kari Lewis, Glacier County Extension agent

March 17, 2017

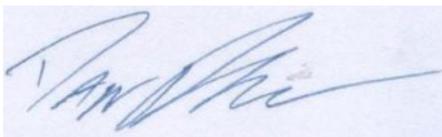
To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the City of Cut Bank, I would like to express support for the Anna Jeffries School to the Sports Complex/Historical Society Museum section of the Cut Bank Trails system. Community members, businesses, and local government organizations have all come together to support this project, and its completion would provide many benefits to our community including:

- *The recreational trail will provide safe pedestrian access to and from the Sports Complex and Museum area to not only the Anna Jeffries Elementary School, but also to the city of Cut Bank.
- *This trail allows the opportunity for people in our community to get outside and be active locally.
- *Our local teachers can safely take kids out into nature around our own town.
- *It is our belief that a community with outdoor recreation is more marketable when recruiting and retaining quality community members, such as educators, medical professionals, etc.
- *There are potential health benefits for our community. Having access to safe, pedestrian-friendly routes encourages people to get out and exercise.
- *Cut Bank has a sports complex and historical museum that cannot be accessed safely or conveniently by pedestrians. This section of trail will provide a safe route for community members of all ages to access the great amenities our community has to offer.

The City of Cut Bank works to support, plan, and promote the recreational trail and will continue to do so in the future. Thank you for your consideration of our community. We look forward to your assistance in bettering our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Raemaker", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Dan Raemaker

Mayor – City of Cut Bank



102 South Central Avenue – Cut Bank, Montana 59427

March 15, 2017

On behalf of Northern Telephone Cooperative, Inc., I would like to give my support to the newest project for the Cut Bank Trails and Glacier County, the Anna Jeffries Elementary School to the Sports Complex and Museum area section of trail. We are one of numerous local businesses, community members, and local government organizations that have all come together in support of this project.

As we see it, this section of trail will help to increase the availability of safe routes for community members to use. Currently there is no safe walking path out to our Sports Complex area and the Glacier County Historical Society. When there are community events out at the Sports Complex, those who have no access to a ride must walk on one of two busy roads leading to the area. Having a safe place to walk or bike would be a great benefit to our community members, especially kids who are the most common walkers.

Our community is not a very healthy community, so adding places for people to get outside and get active would be beneficial too. This outdoor recreation adds to the marketability of Cut Bank to outsiders. We sometimes have a hard time finding good people to come and work here, and outdoor recreation is something that good job candidates look for.

We whole-heartedly support the Cut Bank Trails and this newest section of trail. We would love to see a safe route out to the Sports Complex and Museum from our elementary school. Thank you for considering our community and our project for your grant. We look forward to your assistance in bettering our community.

Sincerely,

Kim Stoltz
Northern Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

March 6, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Northern Rockies Medical Center, I would like to express support for the recreational trail section that is being proposed by the Cut Bank Trails Committee. This specific section runs from our Anna Jeffries school to the Sports Complex and Museum. Community members, businesses, and local governments have all come together to support this project, and its completion would provide many benefits to our community.

Some of the benefits would be: Providing safe pedestrian access in and around town; giving locals the opportunity to get outside and be active; helping local teachers share native habitats with their students; providing a safe route to the Sports Complex/Museum area for walkers and bikers; increasing the marketability for our local community (communities with outdoor recreation are more likely to gain and keep quality people); adding to our appeal as a possible tourist destination rather than a “drive-through” community; and allowing the health of our community members to improve. In early 2015, Glacier County was named the least healthy county in Montana (of the 46 counties investigated by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation). This statistic amplifies the need for accessible, low-cost health and recreation facilities in Cut Bank and in Glacier County. All in all, Glacier County and the city of Cut Bank would benefit greatly from additional trails. It will vastly improve our safety and accessibility to vital community assets for both pedestrians and bicyclists.

In alignment with our strategic priorities, Northern Rockies Medical Center works to support, plan, and promote the recreational trail and will continue to do so in the future. Thank you for your consideration of our community. We look forward to your assistance in bettering our community.

Sincerely,

Cherie Taylor, CEO
Northern Rockies Medical Center

101 Third Avenue SE
Cut Bank, MT 59427
406-873-2229
406-873-4691 FAX

1-27-2017

To Whom It May Concern,

Walking trails are an important component of a healthy community. As superintendent of Cut Bank Schools, I fully support the efforts of the Cut Bank Trails Project and the committee behind the project. Exercise, recreation, and even transportation are all effective uses of the proposed trail system.

As a former physical education teacher, I know it is critical that we enable access to life-long physical activities. In today's age of technology, social media, and video games, it is more important than ever to get outside and exercise as often as possible. The Cut Bank Trails Project provides a safe place to exercise in an outdoor setting. Those who exercise and maintain solid physical condition are far more likely to lead happy, healthy, and productive lives. The trails that are already in place are a great start and I look forward to the completion of the remainder of the proposed trail system. Walking on the existing trail system with my family members and dogs is a great pleasure I look forward to each day.

The ability to safely walk, to and from places like the city pool and sports complex provides additional exercise to already healthy activities. Providing a safe system of trails is essential to the health and well-being of our community members now and for generations to come. Linking our city parks to the pool and sports complex allows children to travel from one part of town to another just as we did when we were children. Walking a few blocks to a nearby destination is a great way to exercise while accomplishing a transportation task for children and adults of all ages.

I fully support the mission of the Cut Bank Trails Committee and Cut Bank Schools are a willing partner in this project.

Sincerely,



Wade Johnson, Superintendent
Cut Bank Schools

Appendix D: Maintenance Plan

Montana Transportation Alternatives Program 2017-2018 TA Application **Cut Bank Trails Project**

Submitted By Glacier County
with assistance from:



Maintenance Plan for the Anna Jeffries to the Sports Complex/Glacier County Historical Society Segment

Trail operation and maintenance requirements

Proposed Agency Responsibilities

The proposed trail network runs from the Anna Jeffries Elementary School, through a small section of the town of Cut Bank, down Nyhagen Road (a county road), and then past the Cut Bank Schools Sports Complex as well as the Glacier County Historical Society.

Cut Bank Trails, Inc. will maintain this segment of the trail. Proper waste receptacles will be evenly spaced along the course of the trail. Committee members will be responsible for creating and enforcing a trash removal schedule. Trash will be removed on a once weekly schedule.

Cut Bank Trails, Inc. will also be responsible for identifying, planning, and removal of snow on the trail segment. This will be handled by committee members and volunteers as needed.

MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR TRAIL MANAGERS

Successful operation will rely on a continued and regular program of maintenance of the trail and associated support facilities. A Maintenance and Management Program will not only ensure a quality recreational or travel experience for the trail user but is also an essential ingredient of a risk management plan for the trail operator. Sufficient manpower and resources must be devoted to a regular maintenance schedule in order to meet these goals.

Another key element of the maintenance and management system of the trail would revolve around communication and information that would allow trail users to provide feedback and report on issues concerning trail maintenance and safety issues. This component of maintenance would be facilitated through effective signage throughout the Trail providing users with information on who to contact regarding such matters. We will utilize our website and our Facebook page for this.

Table of Maintenance Tasks and Operations

Mowing - (3-4 times annually) 4-foot min. wide each side of trail where applicable. Flail type mower best - less debris on trail.

Signage - (periodically as required) Maintain directional and informational signs and Permanent signs.

Access Control - (periodically as required) Replace damaged access control devices.

Trail Surface on gravel road - (periodically as required) Repair surface damage from bicycles, erosion, etc.

Litter Pick Up - (Weekly or as required) Trailside-litter pickup. Access area litter pickup. Encourage continued user "carry-in, carry-out" policy.

Trash Collection - (Weekly) Removal of trash from receptacles at access areas.

Vegetation Management

Effective vegetation management is a critical dimension of the maintenance program. Effective vegetation management is necessary to preserve and enhance the natural and scenic interest of the Trail. Effective vegetation management is an important component of trail safety. Adequate sight

distance along the trail should be maintained for crime prevention purposes. Hazardous tree limbs

and other obstructions should be promptly removed.

The following system-wide standards for vegetation management are proposed:

1. Mowing - Herbaceous material should be mown three to four times a year a minimum of 4-feet from the trail edge.

2. Removal of Vegetation from Trail surfaces – In order to maintain the integrity of trail surfaces, invasive vegetation should be eradicated through very limited and selective application of herbicides.

3. Woody vegetation control - Trees and shrubs should be controlled by an annual mowing along the edges of the trail (where trail is adjacent to fields, meadows and managed grass areas). Removal of woody vegetation in this width should minimize the need for frequent mechanical or hand pruning to maintain adequate horizontal and vertical clearances. Selective removal or “limbing up” of trees should also be scheduled to maintain or create desirable views from trail. Trees should also be kept clear of all drainage structures, bridges and walls that may be subject to mechanical damage by tree roots.

Appendix E: Easement Support

Montana Transportation Alternatives Program 2017-2018 TA Application Cut Bank Trails Project

Submitted By Glacier County
with assistance from:



March 23, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

We would like it to be known that we, the landowners of the property which will be used to construct the Anna Jeffries to the Sports Complex and Glacier County Historical Society section of the Cut Bank Trails System, are granting a perpetual easement to the Cut Bank Trails.

Sincerely,

Wade Johnson

School District #15

See Attached Letter

Glacier County Historical Society

Glacier County

Dan Raemaker

Dan Raemaker, *City of Cut Bank*

Glacier County Historical Museum & Archives

107 Old Kevin Hwy
PO Box 576
Cut Bank, MT 59427
406-873-4904
gcmuseum@hotmail.com

March 24, 2017

Cut Bank Trails, Inc.
Cut Bank, MT 59427

To Whom It May Concern:

The Glacier County Historical Museum and Archives have supported the Cut Bank Trail project since its inception. Our director has attended meetings and has volunteered staff time to develop both geological and historical interpretation for the various sites throughout the trail. The concept of a trail circling the community, allowing the public to walk and cycle freely, is easily and heartily supported by the museum.

This grant supports funding for the portion that will connect the Anna Jeffries Elementary School eastward to the Cut Bank Sports Complex and circle back to connect with Old Kevin Highway. The trail will pass through the western edge of the Museum property. Currently the western portion of the property has not been developed but has been reserved for future museum growth.

The Museum is a mission-driven organization dedicated to collecting, preserving, and presenting the history of Glacier County. Each year, the museum uses its limited resources to further its mission and improve its facility. Currently, a number of pedestrians, high school athletes, and bicyclists use the narrow county road that links the Museum and Sports Complex with Cut Bank. A sharp curve bordering the museum property makes this road dangerous for people using the road as a recreational trail. The Museum recognizes that the proposed trail would not only provide a safe access for recreationists but would potentially bring a new clientele to the museum to learn about Glacier County's past. The Museum is excited about this new opportunity.

Besides support for the trail projects, this extension of the trail project needs the Museum to grant an easement through its property on its western boundary. While the Museum is interested in doing this to assist the Cut Bank Trails Inc., it also must manage these new recreationalists and potential museum visitors using the new trail. One requirement is a fence line to separate the trail right of way from museum grounds as well as an access trail that would connect the main trail to the main museum building where all visitors start their museum experience. These, and other requirements ranging from a lockable gate, bike rack, and an informational sign describing museum programs, are necessary to move people across the museum grounds with minimal negative impact to Museum daily operations.

Presently, potential funding for this grant is directed only for constructing the main trail. The Glacier County Museum will work with the Cut Bank Trail Inc. as well as Glacier County and its engineering firm to grant easement access through Museum property and to work together in partnership for the Museum's other requirements. The creation of a quality trail and its constant maintenance will be an asset to the community when completed.

Sincerely,



Bob Bacon, President
Glacier County Board of Directors