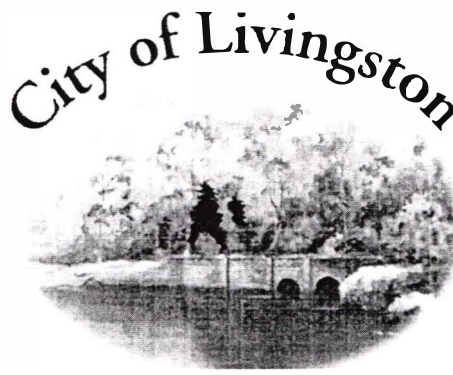


City Manager
Lisa Lowy

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Chairman
James Bennett

Vice Chairman
Dorel Hoglund

Commissioners
Mel Friedman
Quentin Schwarz
Sarah Sandberg

Incorporated 1889

February 22, 2017

Mr. Dave Holien
Montana Department of Transportation
Engineering Division/Consultant Design Bureau
PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001

Dear Review Committee,

The City of Livingston is writing to express our strong support and commitment to the proposed *O Street-to-Bennett Multi-Use Path and Connector Project*. This project represents an integral connection for our community. As you can see from the letters of support and survey results, we have support from local citizens, city and county commissioners and officials and multiple committees and coalitions. This project is a critical multi-modal safety connection for Livingston residents to access the new hospital, Livingston Healthcare, which opened its doors in October 2015.

This connection will also provide a safe walking and bike route to the stunning vista from Veteran's Bridge, as well as the sculptures and wildlife along Meyer's River View Trail, which takes individuals directly to the Yellowstone River. However, due to limits in our budgets, we are unable to fund it in its entirety; we also understand that, because it is an MDT asset, this project must be funded through the State even if we were to procure private funding. Thus, to prevent a tragedy in our community and enhance our alternative transportation routes, we ask for your favorable review.

Approximately ½ mile of the proposed project is in MDT's ROW; however, we understand that MDT has incurred budget challenges in the Highway Special Revenue Account. In order to ensure that this key project will not be cancelled in the event that State matching funds are unavailable, we are willing to offer a local 13.42% match for the entire estimated \$235,907 project (i.e., \$31,659 cash match), which will be funded through our Transportation Impact Fees. However, should the State's budget challenges be resolved, we would ask that MDT remit funds for this portion of the project in its ROW, as per standard protocol, and we would provide a cash match of \$6,769 for the O Street sidewalk portion, which is not within MDT's ROW. Additionally, we have the means and equipment to successfully maintain this critical connector and will implement a signed

Maintenance Agreement, as discussed in the proposal. We would also like to note that, throughout this process, we have been in steady communication with MDT to proactively overcome this known safety issue. Our partners at MDT are aware of this proposed project and offer their full support.

In summary, the purpose of our local government is to maintain and improve safety, quality of life, a sustainable economy, and the public's interest and trust. Our mission is to ensure a high quality of life by keeping our community well maintained, well informed, and working together. The proposed project aligns with both our purpose and our vision. We hope that you will consider our proposal favorably, and we thank you for your time. Please do not hesitate to contact our Interim City Manager Lisa Lowy at 406-823-9870 or llowy@livingstonmontana.org should you have any questions regarding our commitment to this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Bennett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James Bennett, Chairman
Livingston City Commission