

Dale W. Lauman  
Joseph D. Brenneman  
James R. Dupont

*Flathead County*  
**Board of Commissioners**

(406) 758-5503



RECEIVED

MAR 20 2009 *SB*

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

March 18, 2009

Mr. Jim Skinner, Manager  
Program & Policy Bureau  
Montana Department of Transportation  
P. O. Box 201001  
Helena, Montana 59620-1001

RE: Kalispell Bypass

Dear Jim:

The Flathead County Board of Commissioners wishes to voice our continued support for the Kalispell Bypass Project.

Growth in the Kalispell area has strained the current transportation infrastructure greatly. New transportation investment in a bypass can relieve some of the congestion, improve the level of service, and provide enhancements for this community for many years to come. It is imperative that we improve rapid response time to the residents on the west side of Kalispell. This project has been a priority for this community for many years and we support any effort leading to the construction of this crucial piece of infrastructure.

We thank you for your continued efforts concerning the project and look forward to its eventual completion. Please contact this office should you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,  
FLATHEAD COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*Dale W. Lauman*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dale W. Lauman, Chairman

*James R. Dupont*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James R. Dupont, Member

*Joseph D. Brenneman*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph D. Brenneman, Member



# City of Kalispell

Post Office Box 1997 - Kalispell, Montana 59903  
Telephone: (406) 758-7701 Fax: (406) 758-7758

March 18, 2009

Jim Skinner  
Montana Department of Transportation  
2701 Prospect Avenue  
P.O. Box 201001  
Helena, MT 59620

RE: U.S. Highway 93 Bypass Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Skinner:

The City of Kalispell appreciates the efforts of the Montana Department of Transportation in the design, right-of-way acquisition and construction of the Kalispell Bypass. The city continues to fully support the bypass along with the citizens and business owners of this community.

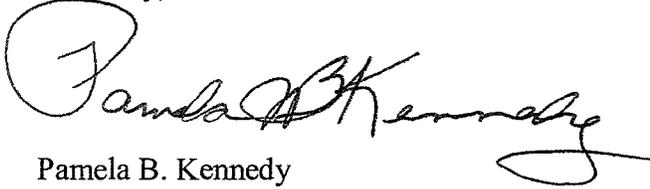
Growth continues to strain the current transportation system, even in light of our current economic slowdown. In our recently adopted Kalispell Transportation Plan, 18 intersections along the current US 2 and US 93 corridor in the Kalispell area were rated as failing in their "level of service" ranking. The bypass would solve many of our "level of service" issues. We as a community understand our need for the bypass. Kalispell has grown 45% since 2000 adding 6,200 residents just inside the city. The city continues to become the commercial center of northwest Montana. On average 300,000 square feet of office and retail space per year has been built in the city between 2002 and 2007. While 2008 was quiet, 2009 already has another 300,000 square feet of new construction proposed for the city. In addition, a new high school, a major hospital expansion and a new fire station have been constructed in the past 5 years. At the same time 2 million visitors a year continue to visit Glacier National Park, using US 2 and US 93 as their access roads and much of this traffic travels through our community. Finally, the safety factor looms large as we are the east-west and north-south crossroads of the trucking industry using US 2 and US 93. With the trucking industry comes hazardous freight which needs to be offered an alternative route through our community.

This project has been a community priority for over a decade. Both the Flathead County Commissioners and the City of Kalispell have publicly gone on record as supporting construction of the Kalispell Bypass with a special emphasis of starting at the south entrance of Kalispell and working northward.

The Kalispell Chamber of Commerce ranks it as their primary transportation issue and the downtown merchants are solidly behind the bypass as well. Our construction industry looks forward to the opportunity to put people to work constructing this facility. We, on the council, continue to work closely with our congressional delegation keeping them informed of our need.

In closing, thank you for your continued efforts in moving this necessary project forward. The city eagerly looks forward to its completion. Please feel free to contact me or Interim City Manager Myrt Webb regarding any questions or additional information you may need from the City of Kalispell.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela B. Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Pamela B. Kennedy  
Mayor