



City of Hamilton
223 South Second Street
Hamilton, MT 59840

October 18, 2018

Attn: Joe Genti, Manager
Montana Rail Link, Inc.
Real Estate Department
101 International Drive
P.O. Box 16625
Missoula, MT 59808

Dear Mr. Genti:

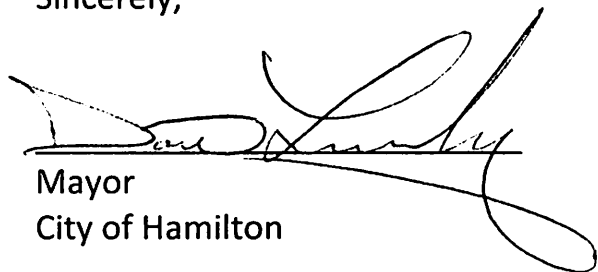
The City of Hamilton, Ravalli County Commissioners, Bitterroot Land Trust, Ravalli County Park Commission, and Bike-Walk Bitterroot would like to sponsor a bypass pedestrian - bike trail through Hamilton. The purpose of the trail is to provide a safe route off of Highway 93 from the north to the south end of Hamilton connecting on each end to the existing off-highway trail. We believe that this trail will provide better connectivity with Hamilton's transportation facilities and may also bring economic benefit to Hamilton businesses (see attached map).

To start discussion, we believe the best alternative could be a 10-foot wide, paved trail leaving the existing trail along Highway 93 north of Hamilton, going east on the north side of the Riverside Cutoff Road, then south on the west side of the Old Corvallis Road, bridging the Corvallis Canal, following the Montana Rail Link ownership on the east side of the existing tracks until reaching Golf Course Road, and then returning to Highway 93. The proposed trail would be approximately 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles on MRL ownership and about one mile on Ravalli County right-of-way. We are hopeful that funding for the trail could primarily come from a Federal Highway Alternative Transportation Gas Tax grant from Montana Department of Transportation.

We would like to meet with MRL to talk about the possibility of MRL granting permission to construct this proposed trail on the east one half of its ownership through Hamilton. If so, we could discuss issues such as the form the permission would take, and whether any conflicting agreements with utilities or local businesses exist along our desired route.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. We hope we can work with MRL to make this important project a reality. For initial discussions, the primary contact is Mayor Dominic Farrenkopf, 223 South 2nd Street, Hamilton, MT. 59840 Phone 406-363-2101 Ext. 213.

Sincerely,



Mayor
City of Hamilton



Chairman
Ravalli County Commissioners



Executive Director
Bitterroot Land Trust



President
Ravalli County Park Commission



President
Board of Directors
Bike-Walk Bitterroot

