MAX BAUCUS
MONTANA

WASHINGTON, DC
(202) 224-2651

MONTANA TOLL FREE NUMBER
1-800-332-6106

INTERNET:
max@baucus.senate.gov
http://www.senate.gov/~baucus

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2602

March 8, 2012

Mr. Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 50590

Re: Yellowstone International Airport Interchange Project

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Gallatin County and the City of Belgrade as they apply for the Department of Transportation's TIGER IV Discretionary Grant funds for the Yellowstone International Airport Interchange Project.

Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport at Gallatin Field is positioned to surpass Billings as Montana's busiest airport in the coming years and provides many economic benefits to the state. Currently, access to the airport is in need of improvement. State and local governments have all worked together to plan an interchange in East Belgrade to address this access issue. If funded, the Yellowstone International Airport Interchange will improve access to the airport, which will increase safety and traffic flow while also reducing the public's overall fuel consumption as congestion and wait times are reduced. The Yellowstone International Airport Interchange is exactly what the state and county need to help transportation flow smoothly to this critical economic driver.

Receiving a TIGER Grant and with the help of the $7 million in local contributors, the Yellowstone International Airport Interchange will have its final piece of funding to make this project a reality. Not only would this project improve access to the airport, the City of Belgrade anticipates a new business district forming south of the interchange that would provide a boost in jobs and economic benefits.

Again, this project carries with it my full support and I hope you will consider their application favorably. Please feel free to contact my office if I provide any additional information about my support of the Yellowstone International Airport Interchange project. I would also greatly appreciate if you kept my office informed about the status of this request.

Sincerely,

Max Baucus

BILLINGS (406) 657-6790 | BOZEMAN (406) 586-6104 | BUTTE (406) 782-8700 | GREAT FALLS (406) 761-1574 | HELENA (406) 449-5480 | KALISPELL (406) 756-1150 | MISSOULA (406) 329-3123