

December 5, 2023

Malcolm Long, Director  
Montana Department of Transportation  
2701 Prospect Ave.  
Helena, MT 59623

Subject: Gallatin Valley MPO Designation Request

The purpose of this letter is to request MDT's assistance to obtain Governor Gianforte's designation of the Gallatin Valley Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Bozeman Urban Area and the designation of the Gallatin Valley Urban Transportation District (GVUTD) as the recipient of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding for the metropolitan area on behalf of the City of Bozeman, Gallatin County, and the City of Belgrade.

To carry out the metropolitan transportation planning process, 23 U.S.C. §134 requires an urban area with a population of more than 50,000 as delineated by the decennial census be designated an MPO. The US Census Bureau determined the 2020 Census Bozeman Urban Area population was 59,080 necessitating the formation of an MPO. MPO designation must be made by the Governor, in agreement with the units of local government that represent at least 75 percent of the urban area.

The Gallatin Valley Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee meets this requirement. This letter, signed by all affected local jurisdictions, serves as our request to establish the Gallatin Valley MPO pending Governor designation.

FTA makes funding available to urbanized areas for transit capital, operating assistance, and transportation-related planning (e.g., 49 U.S.C. 5307). The Gallatin Valley Urban Transportation District is the public transit provider for the area. The City of Bozeman, Gallatin County, and City of Belgrade are requesting that GVUTD be designated as the recipient of available FTA funds.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Nicholas Ross, City of Bozeman Director of Transportation and Engineering, at (406) 582-2315 or at [nross@bozeman.net](mailto:nross@bozeman.net). Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Jeff Mihelich  
Bozeman City Manager  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Neil Cardwell  
Belgrade City Manager  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Zach Brown  
Gallatin County  
Commission Chairperson  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

copies: Nicholas Ross, Bozeman Director of Transportation and Engineering  
Levi Ewan, Gallatin County Engineer  
Tom Eastwood, City of Belgrade Engineer  
Cyndy Andrus, Bozeman Mayor  
Russ Nelson, Belgrade Mayor  
Geno Liva, MDT Butte District Administrator  
Carol Strizich, MDT Multimodal Planning Bureau Chief  
Mitch Buthod, MDT Statewide and Urban Section Supervisor  
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