

MIKE CRAPO
U.S. SENATOR
IDAHO

CO-CHAIRMAN, SENATE RENEWABLE ENERGY AND
ENERGY EFFICIENCY CAUCUS

CO-CHAIRMAN, WESTERN WATER CAUCUS

CO-CHAIRMAN, SWEETENER CAUCUS

CO-CHAIRMAN, COPD CAUCUS

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:

BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN

FINANCE

JUDICIARY

BUDGET

INDIAN AFFAIRS

July 5th, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

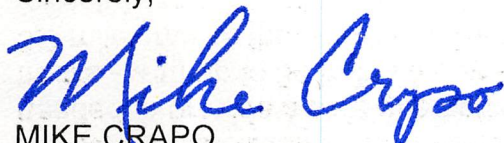
I write in support of the City of Ponderay's Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail (POBT) BUILD Grant Application. Ponderay has launched an effort to complete a planning grant in the amount of \$566,000 to pay for the design and engineering pre-work for a railroad undercrossing to access Lake Pend Oreille in Ponderay, Idaho. This grant will also cover the cost of NEPA work and preliminary design work for the highway approach leading to the undercrossing.

A formal feasibility study was completed 3-2017 paid for by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and Friends of the POBT non-profit 501c (3). An underpass is needed to provide a safe alternative to local residences illegally crossing BNSF mainline tracks - with up to 34 trains a day - to reach the beach and nature trail in order to avoid a 3.3 mile drive to the Sandpoint Beach entrance. BNSF is aware of the issue and looking for solutions to avoid loss of life.

Nearly a third of Ponderay, Idaho's residents rely on food stamps. This project could be a major factor in increased business and employment opportunities as visitors to the beach and trailhead would provide. The amount of the grant request is \$566,000.

I support the City of Ponderay Idaho's BUILD application and efforts to provide design and engineering cost for this must needed project. I urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to give the application all due consideration.

Sincerely,



MIKE CRAPO
United States Senator
MDC/bs

JAMES E. RISCH
IDAHO

RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 483

(202) 224-2752

FAX (202) 224-2573

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

FOREIGN RELATIONS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

July 17, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I write in support of the city of Ponderay's "Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development" (BUILD) grant application. The city of Ponderay, Idaho, would use the BUILD grant to fund the planning phase of a pedestrian underpass beneath a busy double track rail line. This section of line separates the cities of Ponderay and Kootenai from safe and effective waterfront access to Lake Pend Oreille and the Lake Pend Oreille Bay Trail. As a result, pedestrians frequently trespass on the railroad right-of-way. The risk and disruption of such activities are obvious.

With the construction of a pedestrian underpass in Ponderay, safety would improve by eliminating the risk of residents trespassing on railroad track. Residents of Kootenai and Ponderay would also have more direct, efficient access to the lake, meaning less fuel consumption. Instead of driving to the beach, walking or bicycling would become viable options. Because locals would have yet another access point to recreate on or near the lake, nearby businesses would benefit. The list of positives from this new underpass would be extensive.

I support the City of Ponderay's BUILD application and efforts to improve safety and quality of life in both Ponderay and Kootenai. I urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to give the application all due consideration.

Sincerely,



James E. Risch
United States Senator

SUITE 302
350 NORTH 9TH STREET
BOISE, ID 83702
(208) 342-7985

HARBOR PLAZA
610 HUBBARD, SUITE 213
COEUR D'ALENE, ID 83814
(208) 667-6130

SUITE 106
313 D STREET
LEWISTON, ID 83501
(208) 743-0792

SUITE 290
275 SOUTH 5TH STREET
POCATELLO, ID 83201
(208) 236-6817

SUITE 2
1411 FALLS AVENUE E
TWIN FALLS, ID 83301
(208) 734-6780

SUITE 202A
901 PIER VIEW DRIVE
IDAHO FALLS, ID 83402
(208) 523-5541

District 1
Boundary & Bonner Counties
Statehouse (208) 332-1349
(Session Only - January - March)



Home Address
P.O. Box 101
Sandpoint, Idaho 83864
(208) 263-1839
skeough@senate.idaho.gov

Shawn Keough
Idaho State Senator

State Capitol
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0081

July 6, 2018

Mayor Steve Geiger
City of Ponderay
288 Fourth St.
Ponderay, ID 83852

Dear Mayor Geiger,

I am writing to support the City of Ponderay in the effort to apply for and secure a grant under President Trump's BUILD program.

I support the request for \$ 616,000 dollars for a planning grant that would fund the design, engineering and environmental work needed for construction of an underpass of the MRL/BNSF Railroad that would connect the City of Ponderay to the lake shore and the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail. The planning grant project will develop construction plans for a grade separated railroad crossing so that the project is "shovel ready" when future funds become available.

Without a railroad crossing, the community of Ponderay, and neighboring Kootenai, will remain cut off from the lake shore and the popular shoreline trail leading to Sandpoint. This effort is one of providing safe public access to public waterfront across extremely busy railroads.

I appreciate your efforts and those of the City Council and city staff to secure the funding for this planning grant and to work towards building this project in the near future.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide support for this much needed project!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shawn Keough". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shawn Keough
Idaho State Senator
District One: Boundary and Bonner Counties



C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
Bobbi-Jo Meuleman, Director

7/5/2018

Mayor Steve Geiger
City of Ponderay
288 Fourth Street
Ponderay, ID 83852

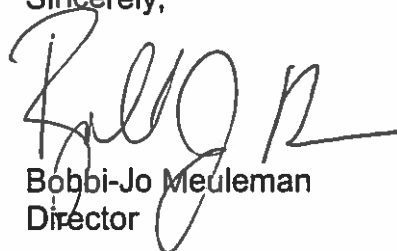
Dear Mayor Geiger,

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my support to the City of Ponderay for their BUILD Planning Grant. Lake Pend Oreille is a jewel for the communities of Sandpoint and Ponderay and a vibrant tourism asset. Creating a link between downtown Ponderay and the bike trails and shoreline will create a more livable Ponderay. This grant will create new economic development opportunities in the downtown area by providing a more direct, safer, and community friendly path underneath the railroad to State Highway 200.

As the Director of Idaho Commerce, I committed to making Idaho the best place in the United States to successfully start or expand a business. Our teams at Idaho Commerce work every day with companies that are considering Idaho as a place for their expansions. Having vibrant, safe, and active communities are vital to businesses that want to expand. We look forward to adding the Lakeshore Connection Project to the list of amenities in Ponderay.

Think of my team as an extension of yours. I look forward to working with you, now and long into the future.

Sincerely,



Bobbi-Jo Meuleman
Director



State of Idaho
Department of
Environmental Quality

2110 Ironwood Parkway ▪ Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814 ▪ (208) 769-1422
www.deq.idaho.gov

C. L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
John H. Tippetts, Director

June 26, 2018

Mayor Steve Geiger
City of Ponderay
288 Fourth St.
Ponderay, ID 83852

Re Letter of Support for City of Ponderay, Idaho BUILD Planning Grant Application

Dear Mayor Geiger:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) Brownfields Program was awarded a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Coalition Assessment Cooperative Agreement in the amount of \$650,000 in 2009 for the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail Brownfields (POBT) Assessment Coalition. Coalition partners included IDEQ, and the City of Ponderay, the City of Sandpoint, the City of Kootenai, and Bonner County. Environmental assessments were undertaken on nineteen properties and identified the need for cleanup on one property: former Panhandle Smelting and Refining Company. IDEQ is currently developing options and costs for cleanup at PSRC with the City of Ponderay.

The POBT curves along the shoreline of Lake Pend Oreille, the largest natural lake in Idaho and one of the largest inland lakes in North America. Situated within a rare undeveloped corridor on the lake's northern waterfront in Bonner County, the trail provides a peaceful setting for an easy close-to-town walk or bike with striking views of the lake and surrounding mountains. While the current trail stretches over 1.5 miles, the final project is envisioned as a 2.0 mile trail with 20-acre municipal park system connecting three shoreline communities - Sandpoint, Ponderay and Kootenai. The POBT will provide a pedestrian and bicycle-friendly route for children and adults to travel through these communities while greatly enhancing public access to the lake's northern shore.

The Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail is a valued community asset, but can now only be accessed from Sandpoint. An underpass in Ponderay will open up this trail to the larger community. This BUILD Planning Grant will advance an important community project: the construction of a railroad pedestrian underpass that will connect Ponderay and Kootenai to Lake Pend Oreille and the POBT shoreline trail that leads to downtown Sandpoint and Sandpoint City Beach.

Should you have any questions please contact me at 208.373.0565

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Traynor", is written over a horizontal line.

Eric Traynor, DEQ Brownfields Program Manager

cc: Dan Redline, DEQ Coeur d'Alene Regional Office
Steve Gill, DEQ Coeur d'Alene Regional Office



**Your Safety • Your Mobility
Your Economic Opportunity**

IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
600 W. Prairie Ave. • Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815-8764
(208) 772-1200 • itd.idaho.gov

July 11, 2018

Mayor Steve Geiger
City of Ponderay
288 Fourth St.
Ponderay, ID 83852

Dear Mayor Geiger,

District One of the Idaho Transportation Department is in support of the city of Ponderay's Lakeshore Connection Project BUILD planning grant application to fund design and engineering, planning and environmental assessment of a railroad undercrossing and connecting city street. The project which will provide this community with better mobility and safe access to Lake Pend Oreille beneath the BNSF tracks improving connectivity in the most populated part of Bonner County while enhancing the city's economic opportunity for responsible growth.

The Idaho Transportation Department sees the development of this undercrossing and the new city Street with connection to SH-200 as driving more economic development for the city of Ponderay and Bonner County.

Sincerely,

Damon L. Allen, P.E.
District 1 Engineer



KOOTENAI MAYOR

Nancy Lewis

CITY Clerk-Treasurer

Ronda L. Whittaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS

David Sundquist

James Macha

Grace Bauer

Daniel Schock

July 3, 2018

Mayor Steve Geiger
City of Ponderay
288 Fourth St.
Ponderay, ID 83852

Re: BUILD Planning Grant Application for Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail

Dear Mayor Geiger,

Please accept this letter of support from the city of Kootenai for your BUILD Planning Grant application for the design and engineering of a pedestrian underpass to provide access from the cities of Ponderay and Kootenai to Lake Pend d'Oreille and the shoreline trail. We have been a partner in planning the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail connection for many years, and are pleased to support the critical engineering work needed to link our communities to Lake Pend Oreille.

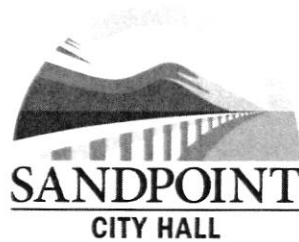
The Concept Plan and the Master Trail and Interpretive Plan for the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail both envision a trailhead one day in the city of Kootenai. This trailhead will access a pathway leading to an underpass, which will give our two communities much needed access to the shoreline. Currently, neither Kootenai nor Ponderay have safe access to the lake or the trail that leads to Sandpoint. As our City's motto makes clear, Kootenai is where families grow. We are a great place to raise a family and are home to Kootenai Elementary School. Our town and the families who live here will greatly benefit from better trail connectivity and a safe crossing for children and families to get to the lake and the shoreline trail.

Safety is one of our highest priorities in Kootenai. This project will dovetail nicely with planned improvements to U.S. Highway 200 through Kootenai, which includes pedestrian crossings across this busy highway. With a safe underpass to the lakeshore, students from Kootenai Elementary and families in Kootenai's residential neighborhoods will have much safer access to neighboring communities and our area's most popular outdoor asset, Lake Pend d'Oreille.

Thank you for sponsoring this grant application and know that we back this proposal 100 percent.

Sincerely,

Nancy Lewis, Mayor
City of Kootenai



July 12, 2018

Mayor Steve Geiger
City of Ponderay
288 Fourth St.
Ponderay, ID 83852

Re: Lakeshore Connection Project BUILD Planning Grant

Dear Mayor Geiger:

The Lakeshore Connection Project BUILD Planning Grant will bring our wider community closer to realizing an important and long envisioned project, building off of several joint efforts by both cities and the wider community. An underpass connecting the City of Ponderay to the Pend d'Oreille Trail will provide for a much-needed pedestrian connection to the City of Sandpoint while improving safety and furthering economic development for our region.

Having invested substantially in property acquisition for the Pend d'Oreille Trail and in concert with City of Ponderay, the City of Sandpoint is committed to the ultimate vision of a safe access connecting the two cities along the waterfront. The critical element to this vision is a pedestrian and emergency vehicle underpass within the City of Ponderay in order to mitigate the dangerous, yet often, pursued route to the trail and waterfront by children and adults alike across the tracks as well as providing for a much-needed emergency access route to this already well utilized trail.

A fully realized transportation and recreational amenity such as this proposal may also have a significant positive impact on economic development and property values. Both seasonal and non-seasonal business attraction, retention and expansion within our area is dependent upon the types of recreational amenities that are made available. Finally, and particularly in rural areas, trails are associated with increased physical activity and improved public health.

Please accept this letter as my highest recommendation for awarding the Lakeshore Connection Project BUILD Planning Grant and please do not hesitate if I can provide further information or insight.

Sincerely,


Shelby Rognstad
Mayor



Bonner County

Board of Commissioners

Glen Bailey

Jeff Connolly

Dan McDonald

July 3, 2018

Mayor Steve Geiger
City of Ponderay
288 Fourth St.
Ponderay, ID 83852

Mayor Geiger,

The Bonner County Commissioners would like to extend their support for the City of Ponderay's Lakeshore Connection Project BUILD application.

This BUILD Planning Grant will advance an important community project: the construction of a railroad underpass that will connect Ponderay and Kootenai to Lake Pend Oreille and a shoreline trail that leads to downtown Sandpoint and Sandpoint City Beach.

Trails and recreation opportunities in Bonner County provide incentive for businesses to locate, or relocate, to this area. This project builds on other pathway projects that help connect visitors and residents to community destinations and the outdoors.


The Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail is a valued community asset, but can now only be accessed from Sandpoint. An underpass in Ponderay will open up this trail to the larger community.

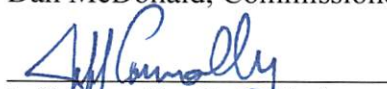
Please accept this letter of support as an addition to you grant application.

Sincerely,

BONNER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Glen Bailey, Chairman


Dan McDonald, Commissioner


Jeff Connolly, Commissioner



MONTANA RAIL LINK INC.
101 INTERNATIONAL WAY
POST OFFICE BOX 16390
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59808-6390
(406) 523-1500

July 3, 2018

Mayor Steve Geiger
City of Ponderay
288 Fourth St
Ponderay, ID 83852

Subject: Letter of Support (City of Ponderay, Idaho BUILD Grant Application)

Mayor Geiger,

Montana Rail Link supports the City of Ponderay's BUILD planning grant application. The grant would fund the design, engineering and environmental planning needed for construction of a railroad underpass that would connect the city of Ponderay to the Pend d'Oreille lake shore and Bay Trail.

Once completed, the project will offer many benefits to the community, including:

- An underpass at this location will improve safety by providing legal and safe access to the lake
- This project will provide safe and easy access to nature along this already popular shoreline trail
- It will provide a transportation alternative by creating a more direct non-motorized route between Ponderay and Sandpoint
- The Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail is a valued community asset, but can now only be accessed from Sandpoint. An underpass in Ponderay will open up this trail to the larger community

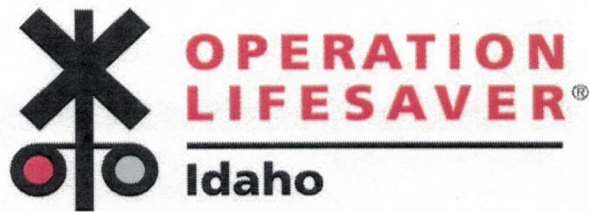
Montana Rail Link looks forward to working with the City of Ponderay on the planning for this project that will allow for future growth of the railroad and easy, safe and legal access to the lake and trails for all area residents.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Lewis'.

Jim Lewis
Chief Information Officer
Montana Rail Link

The Honorable
C. L. "Butch" Otter
Governor, State of Idaho
Honorary Chairman



Travis D. Campbell
Idaho State Coordinator
300 South Harrison Avenue
Pocatello, ID 83204
Phone: (208) 236-5626

BNSF Railway

July 3, 2018

Eastern Idaho Railroad

Boise Valley Railroad

Mayor Steve Geiger
City of Ponderay
288 Fourth St.
Ponderay, ID 83852

Federal Railroad
Administration

Dear Mayor Geiger:

Union Pacific Railroad

Idaho Operation Lifesaver (IOL) is an Idaho non-profit organization that promotes safety at rail grade crossings for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic through education, enforcement and engineering solutions. Our goal is to eliminate death and serious injury at all rail crossing points.

Great Northwest
Railroad

One area of grave concern is trespass by pedestrians on active rail corridors. In fact, the incidence of death and serious injury resulting from pedestrians trespassing is increasing. The solution is to eliminate points of conflict between pedestrians and railways. One of the safest ways to accomplish this is to provide a grade separation, or underpass, to safely move pedestrians across active rail corridors.

Idaho Chief of Police
Association

IOLS would like to congratulate the Friends of the Pend d' Oreille Bay Trail for their foresight and hard work to provide safe pedestrian connectivity of the trail to the City of Ponderay.

Idaho Department of
Education

Idaho Northern and
Pacific Railroad

Idaho Operation Lifesaver fully supports this BUILD project that will allow for the proper design, engineering and environmental work for a safe pedestrian underpass across a very active rail corridor. This project supports our vision of zero fatalities at rail crossings. Please let myself or the IOL State Coordinator Travis Campbell know if we can be of further assistance.

Idaho Public Utilities
Commission

Sincerely,

Idaho Sheriffs Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brent Jennings'.

Idaho State Police

Brent Jennings, P.E.
Chairman – Idaho Operation Lifesaver

Idaho Transportation
Department

cc: Travis Campbell

Montana Rail Link Inc.

Railroad Labor Unions

**Local Highway Technical
Assistance Council**

3330 Grace Street
Boise, Idaho 83703

Phone 208.344.0565
Fax 208.344.0789
Toll Free 1.800.259.6841

www.lhtac.org



Diana Thomas
Chairman

Gilbert Hofmeister
Vice Chairman

Todd Smith
Secretary/Treasurer

Jeff R. Miles, P.E.
Administrator

July 10, 2018

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Secretary Chao,

On behalf of Idaho's Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC), I'm writing to express support for the city of Ponderay's Lakeshore Connection Project planning grant to fund design and engineering, planning and environmental assessment of a railroad undercrossing to provide this community with access to Lake Pend Oreille and improve connectivity in the most populated part of Bonner County.

LHTAC provides technical assistance to 288 local jurisdictions around Idaho and administers federal highway funds for communities such as Ponderay. LHTAC has administered many federal-aid projects through our stewardship agreement with the Idaho Transportation Department. We are committed to providing project administration for the City of Ponderay if the city is successful in securing a BUILD planning grant.

This worthy project will provide the underserved community of Ponderay and the neighboring bedroom community of Kootenai with much-needed access to Lake Pend Oreille and a shoreline trail that now is accessible only from the City of Sandpoint. Currently, many residents of Ponderay access the lake by trespassing across two busy Montana Rail Link tracks. The undercrossing is needed to provide safe passage and to allow emergency vehicles from Ponderay to respond to incidents along the lakeshore. Without the underpass, emergency access can be achieved only on foot.

This project will also include a new city street connecting to State Highway 200, and provide an opportunity for economic development in the heart of Ponderay. LHTAC stands ready to assist with the planning of this highway connection, as well as the design and engineering of the undercrossing.

Sincerely,

Jeff R Miles, P.E.
Administrator

Council Members

Association of Idaho Cities
Mayor Mac Pooler
City of Kellogg

Mayor Robert Berlin
City of Roberts

Mayor Diana Thomas
City of Weiser

Idaho Association of Highway Districts
Commissioner Neal Gier
Buhl Highway District

Commissioner Terry Werner
Post Falls Highway District

Commissioner Gilbert Hofmeister
Power County Highway District

Idaho Association of Counties
Commissioner Don Ebert
Clearwater County

Commissioner Mark Rekow
Gem County

Commissioner Todd Smith
Madison County

Ex-Officio Members

Jessica Harrison, Executive Director
Association of Idaho Cities

Nick Veldhouse, Executive Director
Idaho Association of Highway Districts

Seth Grigg, Executive Director
Idaho Association of Counties



Idaho Walk Bike Alliance

P.O. Box 1594 Boise, ID 83701

(208) 345-1105

www.idahowalkbike.org

July 12, 2018

Mayor Steve Geiger
City of Ponderay
288 Fourth St.
Ponderay, ID 83852

Dear Mayor Geiger,
Idaho Walk Bike Alliance strongly supports the City of Ponderay's BUILD Planning Grant application. Our mission is to promote active transportation as healthy, safe and reliable for all Idahoans, and this project achieves exactly that.

This Planning Grant will advance the construction of a railroad underpass to connect the residents of Ponderay to the Ponderay Bay Trail. Currently, this trail is only connected and accessible to the City of Sandpoint. This type of facility needs to be a main connection piece between these two communities to promote active transportation in this region's culture. If a safe and accessible crossing point is not provided, residents will continue to trespass over the tracks endangering their lives and breaking the law.

The economic benefits of this project are manifold as history has proven. Businesses yearn to locate close to biking and walking traffic, as has been proven over and over along the Boise Greenbelt or Moscow's Latah Trail. These businesses flourish and are sought out by today's families, youth, and active aging community members as great places to bike or walk to while spending money and time. They build a sense of community unable to be created when cars are driven to a location.

We need to look thirty or forty years down the road to visualize Ponderay's future. Connectivity for non-motorized road users must be placed at the forefront of its transportation planning so it will become the thriving, liveable, and wonderful North Idaho gem it has the potential to become.

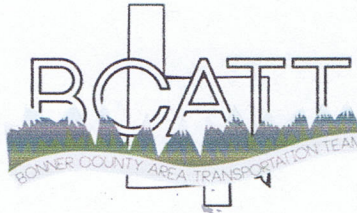
For all the economic, health, recreational, and transportation reasons, this project achieves many goals; we support it and hope to be involved however we can.

Please call if you would like more information.

Regards,

Cynthia Gibson
Executive Director

Walking. Biking. Going Places.



July 1, 2018

Mayor Steve Geiger
City of Ponderay
288 4th St.
Ponderay, Idaho 82852

RE: BUILD Transportation Discretionary Funding- 2018

Dear Reviewers:

The Bonner County Area Transportation Team, which includes all of local jurisdictions involved in the systematic coordination, planning, development and maintenance of transportation infrastructure in the geographic area of Bonner County, is pleased to provide support for the City of Ponderay's application for the Build Planning Grant for 2018. This funding will advance the planning and design of pedestrian railroad underpass that will connect the cities of Ponderay and Kootenai to Sandpoint- which serves as the county seat and the largest jurisdiction in the Urban Area. Most important, this underpass will provide safe passage for all residents and visitors to the shores of the large Lake Pend Oreille, which lies on the other side of 2 sets of mainline railroad tracks which traverse the county.

The City of Ponderay has worked with both private and public funding sources in seeking financial and project support for this undertaking. This buy-in at many levels will certainly enhance of the success of the overall project in terms of quality of life and economic benefits to the area.

Ponderay is an active voting member of our Transportation Team and has been actively engaged for decades in developing multi-modal transportation options for their city which lies along the very busy US 95 and SH 200. Ponderay serves as the commercial center of the county which enhances the need for accessibility by all persons who live, recreate, work and visit this area.

We urge your favorable support of this landmark project for our area.

Mayor Nancy Lewis,
BCATT Vice- Chair



July 12, 2012

Mayor Steve Geiger
City of Ponderay
288 Fourth St.
Ponderay, ID 83852

Re: Letter of Support
Build Application

Mayor Geiger,

The mission of Selkirks Pend Oreille Transit Authority (SPOT) is to provide safe and reliable transportation for the residents and visitors to work, recreation and services. We are constantly reminded of the limited access to some of these amenities in our service area. SPOT has not even considered offering service to lakeshore because there is no access. Yet, citizens unsafely find their way across the active railroad tracks to enjoy the underutilized lakeshore amenity.

SPOT supports the efforts of the City of Ponderay to create safe access to Lake Pend Orielle. Development of an underpass suitable for public transportation would open the door for SPOT to further its mission.

Respectfully Submitted

Clifton Warren
Treasurer, Selkirks Pend Oreille Transit Authority

Northside Fire District

P.O. Box 181

Ponderay, Idaho 83852

Phone: 208-265-4114

Fax: 208-255-7164

E-mail: bmitton@northsidefire.org

Mayor Steve Geiger
City of Ponderay
288 Fourth St.
Ponderay, ID 83852

Dear Mayor Geiger,

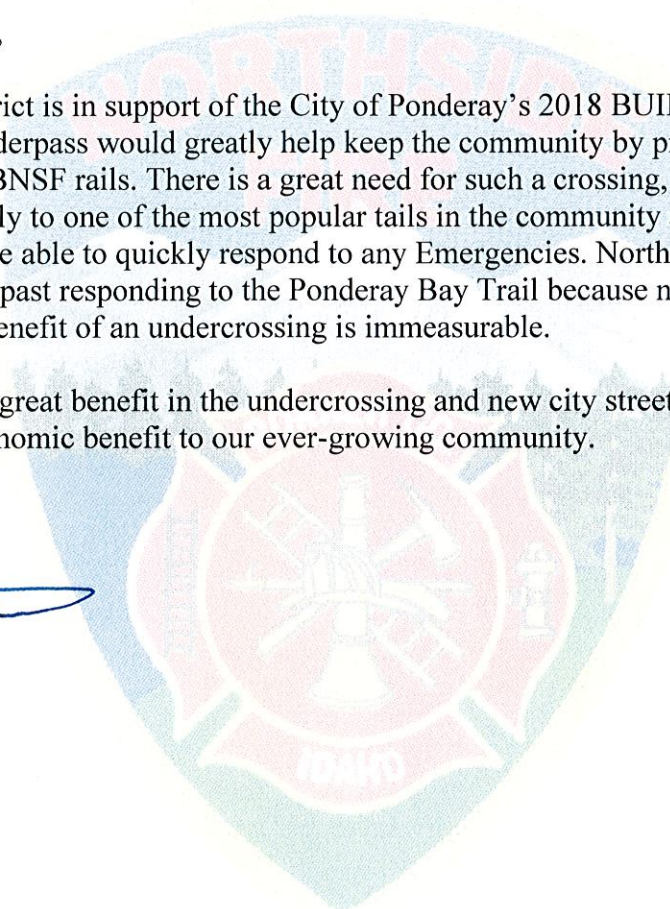
Northside Fire District is in support of the City of Ponderay's 2018 BUILD Grant application. The underpass would greatly help keep the community by providing a Safe crossing under the BNSF rails. There is a great need for such a crossing, it would allow public to travel safely to one of the most popular trails in the community and Emergency Services access to be able to quickly respond to any Emergencies. Northside Fire has been delayed in the past responding to the Ponderay Bay Trail because no such crossing exists. The public benefit of an undercrossing is immeasurable.

Northside Fire sees great benefit in the undercrossing and new city street for public safety and in potential economic benefit to our ever-growing community.

Sincerely,

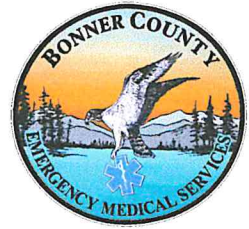


Brad Mitton
Fire Chief





BONNER COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



July 3, 2018

Honorable Mayor Steve Geiger
P.O. Box 500
Ponderay, ID 83852

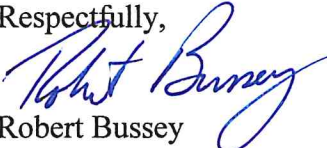
Dear Mayor Geiger,

Bonner County Emergency Medical Services is in full support for the funding of an undercrossing to be located in the City of Ponderay, allowing a safe passageway to The Pend Oreille Bay Trail. Bonner County EMS is the responding medical agency to any incident on the trail and all adjacent areas. By building and undercrossing this would greatly alleviate a safety issue of people crossing active railroad tracks.

In 2016 Bonner County EMS was able to purchase an off-road ambulance specifically to access railroad tracks and trails that a regular sized ambulance cannot. This ambulance was purchased through a generous donation by BNSF. Bonner County EMS has recognized for quite some time that the rail traffic through our area can present unique hazards to the public. By the purchasing of this ambulance we can better access the Pend Oreille Bay Trail, however, our access points are very limited. Not only will this undercrossing provide a safer route for the public, it will also provide an additional access point for all emergency responders.

I applaud you and the City of Ponderay's efforts in making access to the trail a much safer environment for all concerned.

Respectfully,


Robert Bussey
Chief



July 10, 2018

Mayor Steve Geiger
City of Ponderay
288 Fourth St.
Ponderay, ID 83852

Bonner General Health is genuinely passionate about helping individuals improve community health and quality of life. The City of Ponderay's BUILD application has the ability to promote healthy alternatives to community members experiencing health needs that were identified in the Community Health Needs Assessment that we conducted in 2016 and were: 1) Obesity, 2) Mental Health, 3) Suicide and 4) Child Abuse & Neglect.

Bonner General Health understands how critical it is to address the health needs in our community by providing as much support and access to health resources. Access to outdoor recreation and alternative transportation to the residents of Ponderay could increase physical activity, alternative transportation, and access to support services.

Please accept this letter of support for the City of Ponderay's BUILD application. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erin Binnall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Erin" and last name "Binnall" clearly distinguishable.

Erin Binnall, Manager of Community Development
208.265.3390



June 25, 2018

Mayor Steve Geiger
City of Ponderay
288 Fourth St.
Ponderay, ID 83852

Dear Mayor Geiger,

On behalf of the Friends of the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail, I'd like to express our wholehearted support for the city's application for a federal BUILD Planning Grant to fund the Lakeshore Connection Project, which would provide much-needed access to the lakeshore for your city and the community of Kootenai.

The Friends of the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail grew out of a committee established by former Sandpoint Mayor Ray Miller in 2005 to determine how to bring the shoreline trail into public hands. With the help of the National Park Service and public involvement, we created a conceptual plan for the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail. We then reorganized as the Friends of the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail, 501C3 organization, in order to serve as a private partner to the cities of Sandpoint, Ponderay and Kootenai in achieving the goal of connecting these communities with a shoreline trail.

In 2014, we finalized a successful campaign to open the 1.4-mile trail to the public by raising funds to support the cities' acquisition of private waterfront. However, the trail still does not truly connect these three communities. The bulk of this shoreline trail is within the city limits of Ponderay, but the only legal and safe access is through Sandpoint. While the trail serves about 200 people per day in fair weather, these people mostly use it as an out-and-back recreation, exercise opportunity. The few exceptions involve individuals who are trespassing across the double set of railroad tracks in Ponderay to get to the trail and the lake. A connection to Ponderay would allow many more people to benefit from this trail.

In 2014 and 2015, the Friends worked with the cities and a design and engineering firm to produce a Master Trail and Interpretive Plan for the trail. During the planning process, we gathered stakeholder and public input on potential improvements through meetings, events and a survey. The Ponderay underpass emerged as a top priority from this public input. This connection is clearly needed for a number of reasons, chief among them safety for those determined to get to the lake, despite the barrier of the railroad tracks. The people of Ponderay have an incredible outdoor amenity at their doorstep, but the railroad tracks prevent this impoverished community from enjoying the benefits of the region's greatest natural asset.

We are convinced that this underpass will improve the health and quality of life for the residents of Ponderay – and neighboring Kootenai. Easy, safe access to a natural shoreline trail will be an incentive for residents to get outside and walk, bike or swim along the lakeshore. This access will be a draw for businesses and visitors to Ponderay, helping to boost the local economy. Access to the trail will give an alternative commuting route between Ponderay and Sandpoint. The Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail planning has progressed alongside assessments and plans for the eventual cleanup of the Brownfields site at Black Rock, which currently has unsafe levels of lead and arsenic on-site and can never be used by the property owner, or the public, until it is cleaned up. The underpass, in short, is closely tied to the cleanup of a human health and environmental hazards along the shoreline, as well as commercial, civic and residential development within walking distance of the lakeshore.

The planning and preparation for this project has been deliberate and many years in the making. We understand that the biggest challenges facing Ponderay in this effort have been financial. A BUILD planning grant will advance this underpass proposal to project readiness and bring within reach a critical piece of community infrastructure and greatly improve connectivity in Bonner County. We are honored to be a partner in this effort.

Sincerely,



Susan Drumheller, President
Friends of the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail
P.O. Box 1607
Sandpoint, ID 83864
Susandrumheller29@gmail.com
(208) 946-0846



PEND OREILLE PEDALERS

P.O. Box 2451
Sandpoint, ID 83864
www.pendoreillepedalers.com

June 26, 2018

Mayor Steve Geiger

City of Ponderay
288 Fourth St.
Ponderay, ID 83852

Dear Mayor,

I am writing on behalf of the Pend Oreille Pedalers bicycle club in support for your grant application for a BUILD Grant to design and engineer a railroad underpass that will connect the communities of Ponderay and Kootenai to the lakeshore and the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail.

The Pend Oreille Pedalers bike club supports projects that improve the non-motorized transportation options for people in our area, as well as trails that provide recreational opportunities. The Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail can do both. The trail currently is an easy and popular bike path along the shoreline for people to exercise and enjoy our beautiful outdoors. With a safe crossing, it could also provide a route for people to travel by bicycle between Sandpoint and Ponderay and Kootenai. Now the shortest route between these cities is the busy and narrow U.S. Highway 200. The Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail would be a much safer and preferable route than along this busy highway.

The addition of the underpass in Ponderay will not only benefit the people of Ponderay, but also the entire Bonner County. Not only will access to the Lake Pend Oreille shoreline be greatly improved for local families and visitors, but this underpass will go a long way toward achieving the kind of non-motorized connectivity that we desire and need for our quality of life in this growing community.

We thank you for paying attention to the needs of all your citizens and wish you success in this application process.

Sincerely,

Mike Murray
President, Pend Oreille Pedalers

Trail Mix Committee
C/O Bonner County Parks and Waterways
Bonner County Administration Building
1500 Highway 2, Sandpoint, ID, 83864

Mayor Steve Geiger
City of Ponderay
288 Fourth St.
Ponderay, ID 83852

June 20, 2018

Dear Mayor Geiger,

I am writing you on behalf of the Bonner County Trail Mix Committee to express our support for the community of Ponderay's application for a BUILD grant for the purpose of engineering and design for a railroad underpass to connect this small city with the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail and Lake Pend Oreille.

The Trail Mix Committee is a collaborative of federal, state, and local agencies along with many recreational trail organizations – including the Sandpoint Nordic Club, North Idaho Bikeways and the Pend Oreille Pedalers Bike Club - to promote trails in Bonner County, Idaho. We worked together to create a trails plan for the county that focuses on connecting people in the Greater Sandpoint Area to their waterways, public lands and to each other, though a variety of trail systems.

Our plan, completed in 2016, has a list of priority trail segments that were identified as key to creating the kind of trail connectivity that will enhance the quality of life in the communities of Sandpoint, Ponderay, Kootenai and Dover, as well as the surrounding county. A survey conducted for our trail plan found that nearly three-quarters of local residents use trails in our county, and our goal is to improve the trail system to better serve the trail-using public.

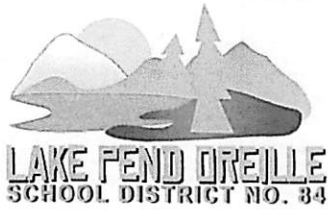
The Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail connection to Ponderay is one of our top-rated priority trail projects in the county trail plan. By providing access under the railroad tracks, this connector trail will provide unlimited and safe access to the people of Ponderay and Kootenai to the lake, the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail and Sandpoint City Beach. This also will open up loop trail opportunities and enhance the ability for people to get around without cars in the greater Sandpoint area.

Thank you for championing this important project.

Respectfully,



James Shannon
Chairman of the Trail Mix Committee



Lake Pend Oreille School District #84

Shawn Woodward, Superintendent

901 N. Triangle Drive • Ponderay, Idaho 83852
Phone: 208/263-2184, ext. 1015 • Fax: 208/263-5053

Web: www.lposd.org

Email: shawn.woodward@lposd.org

June 18, 2018

Mayor Steve Geiger

City of Ponderay

288th Fourth St.

Ponderay, ID 83852

Re: Letter of Support for City of Ponderay's Lakeshore Connection Project BUILD

Dear Mayor Geiger,

The Lake Pend Oreille School District would like to support the city of Ponderay's Lakeshore Connection Project BUILD application for the acquisition of funds for a pedestrian only underpass that will connect Ponderay and Kootenai to Lake Pend Oreille and the shoreline trail that leads to Sandpoint.

This project will enhance the quality of life and health for residents of Kootenai and Ponderay by providing safe and easy access to nature along this already popular shoreline trail. There are scores of youth that would benefit from safe access to this wonderful community treasure.

In addition, the underpasses strategic location within our community landscape would allow enhanced access to outdoor classroom opportunities for our students. Place-based learning activities are crucial elements of a well-rounded education. Community resources such as this can and should be critical components of deep, meaningful, and relevant learning.

Thank you for your careful consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shawn Woodward".

Shawn Woodward

Superintendent

Lake Pend Oreille School District



June 25, 2018

Mayor Steve Geiger
City of Ponderay
288 Fourth St.
Ponderay, ID 83852

Dear Mayor Geiger:

Kaniksu Land Trust supports the City of Ponderay's Lakeshore Connection Project BUILD application to provide access to Lake Pend Oreille. This project will provide important enhancements to quality of life and health for residents of Kootenai and Ponderay by providing safe and easy access to nature along this already popular shoreline trail.

Though surrounded by public land, a surprising number of our county's residents have limited opportunities to spend time in natural settings, an experience that has been proven to improve physical, emotional, and psychological well-being, as well as contributing to an ethic of stewardship and conservation of our area's natural resources.. The addition of an underpass at this location that provides safe trail access to citizens of Ponderay will expand the impact of this remarkable outdoor amenity to a new geographic subset of our community.

Also, enhancements to outdoor amenities such as the Pend d'Oreille Trail continue to make the Greater Sandpoint Area more attractive to potential businesses looking to relocate, thereby providing jobs and improving the economy. An economic study conducted by the Headwaters Institute found that one reason Bonner County's economy is more resilient than others is due to its rich quality of life. Emergent light industrial and technical companies are choosing to locate in Bonner County because of quality of life issues.

The extension of this ever-popular lakeside trail will continue to pay dividends to the adjacent communities for many years to come. We strongly encourage support of this important community project.

Sincerely,

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to read "Eric Grace", is written over a horizontal line.

Eric Grace
Executive Director
Kaniksu Land Trust



Proudly serving our business partners in North Idaho and Eastern Washington

June 25, 2018

Mayor Steve Geiger
City of Ponderay
288 Fourth St.
Ponderay, ID 83852

Dear Mayor Geiger,

I am writing on behalf of the Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce in enthusiastic support of your application for a federal BUILD grant to fund the engineering and design of an underpass to connect Ponderay to Lake Pend Oreille and the shoreline trail to Sandpoint.

The mission of the Chamber is to be an advocate of business development and tourism for the Greater Sandpoint area, and as such, we support community initiatives seeking to preserve and enhance the quality of life locally, and provides amenities for visitors to our area. The Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail is an asset to the community because it offers an opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors near downtown Sandpoint and City Beach. Our current visitors guide features the annual Bay Trail Fun Run and includes the trail on our Sandpoint map.

A major shortcoming of the trail is it can only be accessed from Sandpoint. We fully support the goal of the city of Ponderay and the Friends of the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail to connect this spectacular shoreline trail to Ponderay and Kootenai by way of a railroad underpass. This will improve the quality of life for people living and working in those communities and will provide the opportunity to explore more places and create loop bike routes. In addition, it opens up the possibility of hosting athletic and civic events throughout all three of these neighboring communities, benefitting all three economically.

By improving our trail connections and outdoor amenities, we make our community a more attractive place to live, and making it more attractive for businesses looking to relocate here. While this is an expensive project, the need for it is clear. We recognize the importance of this federal grant to make this vital trail connection a reality and support you in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Kate McAlister

Kate McAlister
President/CEO



Administrative Offices and Visitor Center

1202 Fifth Avenue ▪ P.O. Box 928 ▪ Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

p. 800.800.2106 or 208.263.2161 ▪ f. 208.265.5289 ▪ SandpointChamber.com ▪ info@sandpointchamber.com



July 2, 2018

Mayor Steve Geiger
City of Ponderay
288 Fourth St.
Ponderay, ID 83852

Re: City of Ponderay BUILD Application

Dear Mayor,

This letter is written in support of the BUILD Planning Grant for the City of Ponderay for the construction of a railroad underpass that will connect the Cities of Ponderay and Kootenai the Lake Pend Oreille shoreline and the trail that leads to downtown Sandpoint.

The creation of trails and recreation opportunities in Bonner County is very important to continuing our economic growth. Business are not only looking for solid infrastructure, transportation and labor, but are also looking for a healthy and vibrant environment. Completing the Ponderay Bay Trail, which requires a railroad underpass will improved access, and safety and make the access to the lake front property a legal right-of-way.

The Ponderay Bay Trail is a valuable community asset for the Cities of Ponderay, Kootenai and Sandpoint and the current lack of underpass restricts the use and access.

Paul

Paul Kusche
Executive Director
Bonner County Economic Development Corporation



PANHANDLE AREA COUNCIL, INC.

11100 N Airport Drive
Hayden, ID 83835-9798
(208) 772-0584
(208) 772-6196 FAX
www.pacni.org

July 17, 2018

Mayor Steve Geiger
City of Ponderay
288 Fourth St.
Ponderay, ID 83852

RE: City of Ponderay BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Application

Dear Mayor Geiger:

Please accept this letter of support to the City of Ponderay for the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant application. The addition of a safe, legal shared use pathway system connecting the City of Ponderay to the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail and lakeshore will improve livability, tourism and ultimately, the economy of the City and Bonner County.

As the designated U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA Economic Development District for Idaho Region I, Panhandle Area Council supports the enhancement and protection of assets like the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail because of the economic benefits they create. Communities that have safe, quality attractions can look forward to benefits such as increased property values, growth in tourism, and new or relocating businesses. The City of Ponderay will continue to see economic success in the future with continued investment in projects that increase tourism and enrich the lives of the community.

We look forward to working with the City of Ponderay and the Friends of the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail to develop this project and many more in the future.

Sincerely,

L. Wally Jacobson
Executive Director