



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Glacier National Park
West Glacier, Montana 59936



AUG 28 2009

Jim Lynch, Director
Montana Dept. of Transportation
P.O. Box 201001
Helena, Montana 59620-1001

Subject: Support for the Two Medicine River Bridge Project

Glacier National Park and the National Park Service are honored to have the opportunity to express our strong support for the Two Medicine River Bridge Reconstruction Project. This structure is a vital connection across the highline of Montana and is located at the gateway to Glacier National Park. The Two Medicine River Bridge project replaces a critical piece of infrastructure and improves safety and connectivity. The project will create job opportunities and promote economic recovery in Glacier County, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and in Montana.

Access along U.S. Route 2 is a vital component for tourism in Montana. Recreational opportunities promote visitor spending and support a large portion of Montana's economic base. Over 2 million visitors each year experience the grandeur of Glacier National Park with its 653 lakes, 392 miles of shoreline, 563 streams, 37 glaciers, and over 1 million acres of wilderness. Thirty-five percent of non-resident visitors to Montana vacation in Glacier National Park, generating billions of dollars of economic impact. Preserving accessibility to this pristine outdoor area park is essential to sustain Montana's tourist industry.

A new structure will enhance mobility by providing a safe and modern structure to connect the east and west side of Glacier National Park and ensure long-term connectivity essential for tourism. It will also preserve access to fire and emergency services, and retail, food and lodging services essential to sustain the park.

Glacier National Park supports the Montana Department of Transportation's application for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery funding for this project to ensure public safety and promote regional economic recovery.

Chas Cartwright
Superintendent

**TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA**

GLACIER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

512 E. Main
Cut Bank, Mt 59427

Phone (406) 873-5063 • Fax (406) 873-3613



Michael J. DesRosier
Chairman
Ext. 3603

Ron R. Rides At The Door
Vice Chairman
Ext. 3601

Tony Sitzmann
Member
Ext. 3602

Recording Desk
Ext. 3606

September 3, 2009

Jim Lynch, Director
Montana Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 201001
Helena, Montana 59620-1001

RE: Support for the Two Medicine Bridge Project

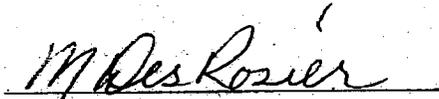
Dear Mr. Lynch,

Glacier County is honored to have the opportunity to express our strong support for the Two Medicine River Bridge Reconstruction Project. This structure is a vital connection across the highline of Montana and is located at the gateway to Glacier National Park. The Two Medicine River Bridge project replaces a critical piece of infrastructure and improves safety and connectivity. The project will create job opportunities and promote economic recovery in Glacier County, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and in Montana.

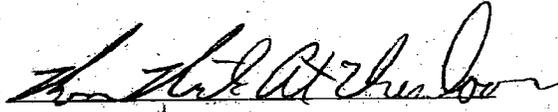
Access along U.S. Route 2 is a vital component for freight movement and tourism in Montana. Glacier County is geographically disadvantaged by its distance from the larger markets and the availability of large employers. The area economics are deeply rooted in ranching and farming which rely heavily on transportation infrastructure. A critical failure of this deteriorating structure could disrupt the economy of the nation because there is not a reasonable alternate route for freight and bus travel. Recreational opportunities promote visitor spending and support a large portion of Montana's economic base. Two million visitors each year experience Glacier National Park, generating billions of dollars of economic impact. Preserving accessibility to this park is essential to sustain the tourist industry. A new structure will ensure long-term efficiency in goods movement, connections to existing freight ports, farm-to-market access, and the connectivity essential for tourism. It will also improve safety and preserve the link to hospitals and essential services. The creation of jobs and sales of materials and support services will contribute to business opportunities and the increased spending in the region will add to the potential economic development.

Glacier County supports the Montana Department of Transportation's application for Transportation investment generating economic recovery funding for the Two Medicine River Bridge project to ensure public safety and promote regional economic recovery.

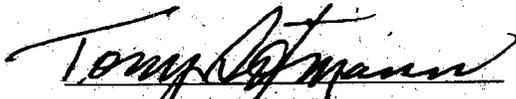
Sincerely,



Michael DesRosier, Chairman
Glacier County Commissioner



Ron Rides At The Door, Vice Chairman
Glacier County Commissioner



Tony Sitzmann, Member
Glacier County Commissioner



BLACKFEET NATION

P.O. BOX 850, BROWNING, MONTANA 59417
(406) 338-7521 FAX (406) 338-7530

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Willie A. Sharp, Chairman
Peter "Rusty" Tatsey, Vice-Chairman
Terry "TJ" Show, Secretary
Kenneth Augare, Treasurer

BLACKFEET TRIBAL BUSINESS COUNCIL

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Roger "Sassy" Running Crane

March 19, 2009

Jim Skinner, Manager
Program and Policy Bureau
2701 Prospect Avenue
P. O Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001

Subject: Two Medicine River Bridge

Dear Mr. Skinner:

On behalf of the Blackfeet Nation, we continue to offer our full support of the Two Medicine River Bridge Project.

We understand that this project will replace the aging Two Medicine Bridge, located in northwestern Montana on US Highway 2, a National Highway System Route. This bridge serves as the eastern entrance into Glacier National Park and is on a main corridor, Marias Pass, through the Rocky Mountains. It is also a critical link in the National Highway System and its replacement is needed to avoid a 300 mile detour of US 2 traffic if a catastrophic failure should occur.

As you are aware, this bridge is located on the Blackfeet Reservation and is an essential part of the local area transportation system. The alignment of the bridge as well as the weather conditions that we have has resulted in numerous accidents and deaths throughout the years. We consider the west end of this bridge as one of the most dangerous locations in this area.

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MAR 31 2009

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

We thank you for your continued efforts concerning this project and look forward to its eventual completion. Please contact Don White, Blackfeet Tribal Transportation Planner, at (406) 338-7445 regarding any questions or additional information you may need from the Blackfeet Nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Willie A. Sharp".

Willie A Sharp, Chairman
Blackfeet Nation

Cc: Don White, Transportation Planner