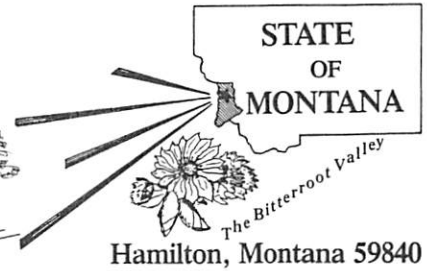


# COUNTY OF RAVALLI



February 06, 2023

Peter Buttigieg  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

SUBJECT: RAISE GRANT – City of Hamilton, Montana  
Montana Main Street / Marcus Street: Planning, Design and Engineering

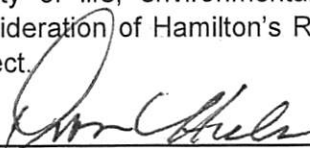
Dear Secretary Buttigieg,


We are writing in support of the City of Hamilton's RAISE grant application for planning, design and engineering for improvements to Main Street and Marcus Street.

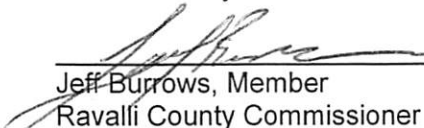
Together, Main Street and Marcus Street serve as the primary east-west corridor in Hamilton, connecting neighborhoods, schools, parks and commercial areas on either side of Highway 93, a five lane highway bisecting the community. The absence of dedicated bicycle and pedestrian facilities along much of this corridor creates an unwelcoming and unsafe environment for pedestrians and cyclists, particularly children going to school and residents travelling to downtown and river front parks. Additionally, several sections of this corridor are in need of realignment and added intersection controls to address safety and delay concerns for all travel modes.

Improving the safety and connectivity of the Main Street/Marcus Street corridor is a community priority, reflected in Hamilton's transportation, downtown and land use plans. Before construction can commence however, Hamilton needs detailed planning, design and engineering which will identify workable design alternatives and a realistic budget. With completed design work and engineering, Hamilton will be in an advantageous position to seek capital funding to complete this project. In the absence of this work, Hamilton will have to take a piecemeal approach what will likely extend needed improvements out to the next decade.

By improving safety and connectivity for all users, this project will have a substantial positive impact on Hamilton's quality of life, environmental sustainability, economic competitiveness and equity. We appreciate your consideration of Hamilton's RAISE planning grant application and encourage you to fund this transformative project.

  
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Dan Huls, Chairman  
Ravalli County Commissioner

  
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Greg Chilcott, Member  
Ravalli County Commissioner

  
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Jeff Burrows, Member  
Ravalli County Commissioner