

# COUNTY OF RAVALLI



February 03, 2023

Dave Holien  
Montana Transportation Alternatives Program  
Montana Department of Transportation  
Helena Headquarters  
P.O. Box 201001  
Helena, Montana 59620-1001

SUBJECT: Transportation Alternatives Grant  
RAL Trail to Daly School Bicycle/Pedestrian Commuter Path

Dear Mr. Holien,

Ravalli County is partnering with the Play Like Robert Foundation in support of a Transportation Alternatives Program grant application for planning, design and construction of the RAL Trail to Daly School Bicycle/Pedestrian Commuter Path along Golf Course Road and Kurtz Lane. The project will create a 10-foot wide shared use path along Golf Course Road and an 8-foot wide shared use path along Kurtz Lane between the southern RAL Trail terminus and the east entrance to Daly Elementary School. These paths will provide a safe route to Daly for Ravalli County residents living in the neighborhoods east of Hamilton, Montana, as well as provide a connection between the School District's elementary campus and an existing recreational trailhead.

Currently, pedestrian and commuter access between Daly Elementary School and the neighborhoods east of Hamilton along Golf Course Road is extremely dangerous due to a combination of factors, which include a lack of paved shoulders on either side of Golf Course Road and Kurtz Lane, heavy residential and commercial traffic on Golf Course Road, congested school access on Kurtz Lane, and unsafe intersections on Golf Course Road at Big Corral Road, Grantsdale Road and Kurtz Lane. The absence of dedicated bicycle or pedestrian facilities along the whole corridor creates an unwelcoming and unsafe environment for pedestrians and cyclists, particularly K-4 children and their families traveling to and from Daly Elementary School each day.

Improving the safety and connectivity of the Golf Course Road/Kurtz Lane corridor with dedicated non-motorized transportation facilities is a community priority, reflected in the Hamilton Area Transportation Plan adopted by Ravalli County and Hamilton's Non-motorized Transportation Plan. In partnership with Ravalli County, the Play Like Robert Foundation has developed preliminary engineering plans and cost estimates, and has initiated right-of-way conversations for the path. To make this project a reality, Ravalli County and the Play Like Robert Foundation need funding assistance from the Transportation Alternatives program to complete the detailed planning, design, engineering, and construction.

By improving safety and connectivity for all users, this project will have a substantial positive impact on the community's safety, health, and quality of life. We appreciate your consideration of the Ravalli County/Play Like Robert Foundation's 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