

Memorandum

To: Fremont County and the Western Greater Yellowstone Consortium
From: Brittany Skelton, Planning & Zoning Administrator; City of Victor, Idaho
Date: 4/21/2015
Re: **Technical Assistance Funding – Greater Yellowstone Trail FLAP Grant Applications**

As a result of the Greater Yellowstone Trail Concept Plan, 16 “missing links” were identified in the envisioned 182-mile regional Greater Yellowstone Trail. Currently, 114 miles of the trail network are in place; the 16 “missing links” account for 68 miles of trail that need to be designed and constructed. A new segment of pathway for each “missing link”, or gap, in the envisioned regional trail needs to be constructed in order for the regional pathway to be fully functional. For each missing link, the Greater Yellowstone Trail Concept Plan contains an implementation recommendation for further study and/or infrastructure improvements to fill the gap.

During the time the Greater Yellowstone Trail Concept Plan was being prepared, funding availability was announced through the Idaho Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP). Since many of the “missing links” in the GY Trail pass through or connect federal public lands, FLAP funding is one source of funding that can be used to implement the concept plan recommendations.

As a result, the City of Victor received technical assistance funding (the remaining \$10,000 authorized by the Consortium for this project) to professionally prepare two FLAP grant applications to address 20 of the 68 “gap” miles. The city’s consultant worked in cooperation with the project applicants in completing and submitting both applications prior to the deadline. On April 2, 2015, the Western Federal Lands Division of the Federal Highway Administration formally confirmed receipt of both applications. Funding awards are expected by fall.

The larger of the two FLAP grant requests is for \$324,310 jointly submitted by the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) and the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The grant and matching ITD dollars would fund the planning and engineering to reconstruct Idaho Highway 47 as a multi-modal transportation route from Ashton to Bear Gulch on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. This corridor improvement project would effectively address a 12-mile gap in the Greater Yellowstone Trail that is identified as Project ID-7 in the Greater Yellowstone Trail Concept Plan.

The other FLAP grant would fund the planning and engineering work needed to identify a preferred trail route between Driggs and Tetonia, and connect to the Ashton-Tetonia Rail Trail (see Project ID-6 in the Concept Plan). The \$100,000 grant application to address this 8-mile gap in the Greater Yellowstone Trail was a joint submittal between the City of Driggs and the Caribou-Targhee National Forest.