

Missoula County Commissioners

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BCC 2025-195
Dec. 4, 2025

Representative Ryan Zinke
U.S. House of Representatives
512 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Federal Infrastructure Investment Impacts from Reconciliation

Dear Representative Zinke,

We are writing on behalf of Missoula County and the residents we represent in East Missoula regarding federal transportation funding that was rescinded as part of H.R.1, the One Big Beautiful Bill.

We respectfully request your assistance to reverse the detrimental Neighborhood Access and Equity rescission that has left East Missoula without funding for the transformative Highway 200 Corridor project. The \$24 million in lost funding will be virtually impossible to replicate from other existing federal sources, and it is certainly not an amount the local taxpayer base could be expected to fund.

The Highway 200 Corridor project is crucial to increasing public safety and connectivity for this rural community, and it would also play a critical role in boosting economic development and supporting small businesses. Missoula County and regional partners have spent years building consensus, securing matching local funds, winning state support and preparing this project for construction. This is a “shovel-ready” project backed by a broad and invested coalition.

Missoula County is working with other local governments to advocate for an updated approach to reinstate the unobligated Neighborhood Access and Equity project funds that were rescinded for projects across the country. The current concept under discussion would restore these previously awarded balances and place them under a newly named program within the U.S. Department of Transportation called the Community, Local Infrastructure, and Economic Development Restoration Program.

The goal is to ensure that awarded projects, which followed every rule, competed in good faith and attracted private investment and created jobs, can move forward with planning, design and construction without further disruption. While Missoula County and our partner agencies would need to explore additional matching fund opportunities and consider cost increases since the initial fund rescission, knowing the bulk of project costs would be covered with federal funding would provide increased certainty moving forward.

We are reaching out to see whether your office would consider leading or joining an effort to include a fix in a potential year-end agreement or a January add-on package. Your office understands the importance of this project to our community, so we are hoping you might be willing to lead or join an effort to move this legislation forward.

We appreciate your past engagement on this issue and would welcome any opportunity to provide further background. Please see the attached a one-page overview of the draft legislative framework as well as draft text now being discussed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Juanita Vero, Chair

Josh Slotnick, Commissioner

David Strohmaier, Commissioner

BCC/ac