



City of Ketchum
City Hall

December 2, 2019

Mayor Bradshaw and City Councilors
City of Ketchum
Ketchum, Idaho

Mayor Bradshaw and City Councilors:

**Recommendation Authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Letter of Support for a
Blaine County Reconstruction Project on Warm Springs Road**

Recommendation and Summary

Staff is recommending Council to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support for a Blaine County reconstruction project.

“I move to authorize the Mayor to Sign a letter of support for Blaine County’s Warm Springs Rd. reconstruction project.”

The reason for the recommendation is as follows:

- Blaine County is planning to submit a grant application for LHTAC’s FY21 Local Rural Highway Investment Program
- Blaine County has asked the city to provide a letter of support to improve its ability to obtain the grant.

Introduction and History

Blaine County is planning to submit a grant application on December 3 for LHTAC’s FY21 Local Rural Highway Investment Program (LRHIP) to ask for the maximum amount allowed of \$100,000 to partially fund the Warm Springs Road Pavement Reconstruction Project. The entire project is expected to exceed \$185,000, but the grant would help offset the cost of the complete reconstruction of nearly 1200 feet of Warm Springs Road beginning at Cross Cut Lane and continuing west to the parking area/turnout. The condition of this section of roadway is badly degraded and continues to worsen as the spring floods and runoff cause further damage each spring. The severe avalanches in spring, 2019 damaged this portion of Warm Springs Road even further.

Analysis

Blaine County has performed extensive work on Warm Springs Road as a result of the historic flooding in spring, 2017. The County obtained emergency relief funding to repair or reconstruct major sections of this roadway, with the exception of this one-quarter mile section beginning at Cross Cut Lane.

If funded, the project would take approximately two weeks to complete in late spring or early summer, 2021. The project would entail grinding of the existing asphalt, excavating approximately two feet of the base material and refilling with washed rock. The job would continue with a four-inch application of road mix, blading and compaction. County Road & Bridge anticipates major shoulder work and enhancements to provide adequate space on the 24' wide road to dedicate a bike/pedestrian lane for non-motorized travel. The paving phase of the reconstruction project will be contracted and performed by a private company.

This project is the number one jurisdictional priority according to the Blaine County Regional Transportation Committee's updated list of priorities and is also ranked as a number one priority for LRHIP funding. Blaine County is unaware of any competing local agencies pursuing LRHIP funding in this grant cycle.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact for this action.

Attachment: Letter of Support



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December 2, 2019

Mr. Jeff Miles
LHTAC Administrator
3330 Grace Street
Boise, ID 83703

Re: Local Rural Highway Investment Program (LRHIP) – FY21 Warm Springs Road Pavement Reconstruction Project Application

Dear Mr. Miles:

The City of Ketchum would like to express its full support for Blaine County's Local Rural Highway Investment Program grant application for the Warm Springs Road Pavement Reconstruction Project.

The Warm Springs area has been the site of several extreme weather events in recent years including a major forest fire in 2013, a historic flood in 2017 and severe avalanches in 2019. These events have greatly impacted the road infrastructure resulting in major repairs on Warm Springs Road. The County's application asks for funding to complete the last remaining section of the heavily damaged road surface on Warm Springs Road. The work will require a complete reconstruction of one-quarter mile of the road including shoulder widening and enhancements to provide enough space to dedicate a bike/pedestrian path.

The City of Ketchum appreciates Blaine County's continuous efforts to work to improve the roads throughout the valley and are grateful that Warm Springs Road currently ranks as their number one priority. It is a vital route used by residents who live and work in the area, as well as the thousands of tourists who come to enjoy year-round outdoor recreational opportunities in Warm Springs and the surrounding Sawtooth National Forest. The road improvements are also vital for emergency services as it is a critical safety route. A solid smooth surface is paramount to the efficient and safe transport of emergency vehicles including fire engines, ambulances, and their crews and patients.

The livability and quality of life for residents, business, and tourists is greatly enhanced when travelers can safely navigate the roadways whether by vehicle, bike, bus or as a pedestrian. It serves to draw economic development to Ketchum, provide access to numerous recreational opportunities, and connects to key transportation corridors within Blaine County. We value the County's continuous efforts to enhance the safety of motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists using this vital roadway.

Thank you for your time and support.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil Bradshaw
Ketchum Mayor