



**City of Missoula, Montana  
City Council Committee Agenda Item**

**Committee:** Public Works and Mobility

**Item:** Interlocal Agreement Approval for joint RAISE Grant Application

**Date:** January 5, 2023

**Sponsor(s):** Aaron Wilson

**Prepared by:** Ashley Strayer

**Ward(s) Affected:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 5
<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 6
<input type="checkbox"/> All Wards	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

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**Action Required:**

Approve an interlocal agreement to support application for a 2023 RAISE planning grant that will conduct feasibility and conceptual design of a cross-county trail linking Butte to Idaho along the Great American Rail Trail.

**Recommended Motion(s):**

I move the City Council: I move the City Council: adopt and authorize the mayor to sign the INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN POWELL COUNTY, MINERAL COUNTY, CITY OF MISSOULA, MISSOULA COUNTY, GRANITE COUNTY, BUTTE-SILVER BOW COUNTY for the purposes of applying for a 2023 RAISE planning grant to conduct feasibility and conceptual design of a cross-county trail linking Butte to Idaho along the Great American Rail Trail

**Timeline:**

Committee discussion:	January 11, 2023
Council action (or sets hearing):	January 23, 2023
Public Hearing (if required):	N/A
Final Consideration	N/A
Deadline:	N/A

**Background and Alternatives Explored:**

Western Montana’s Great American Rail-Trail submittal to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program will provide an unparalleled opportunity to strategize within a six-county region to conduct a feasibility study along the preferred alignment of the Great American Rail-Trail and bring certain trail sections within these communities up to a preliminary engineering design level. The subsequent pedestrian and bicycle improvements through Western Montana will fill critical gaps in the Great American Rail-Trail, a cross-country multi-use trail which is a project of Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. The Great American Rail-Trail is over 54 percent complete between Washington D.C. and Washington State, with over 2,030 miles completed on the ground.

As a collective initiative to bring cohesion to planning efforts along the trail corridor and a precursor to continued construction along the route, this grant application is the

anchor for substantive economic, social, and health benefits throughout Western Montana. By assessing alignments and mitigating risks through a feasibility study, the municipalities involved within this application will be competitively positioned to secure funding for trail construction activities. If awarded, the RAISE grant will pay 100% of the cost for a feasibility study along the preferred alignment of the Great-American Rail-Trail through Western Montana. Funding for a higher level of design will be requested for certain sections along this trail alignment within the grant application. This project when constructed will connect 35 rural towns and townships along a 220-mile active transportation route – spurring urban and rural infrastructure improvements, as well as promoting government collaboration and economic stimulus within communities functionally disconnected by Interstate-90 – from Butte, Montana to the Idaho/Montana border.

**Financial Implications:** The City's \$2,500 contribution will be drawn from the PL grant funds, and is already programmed in the FY23 Metropolitan Planning Organization budget and the FY2023 Transportation Division budget for consultant services to development federal transportation grant applications. No additional budget impacts are anticipated as a result of this interlocal agreement.

**Links to external websites:**