



PO Box 8881
Missoula, MT 59807

BIKE/WALK ALLIANCE *for* MISSOULA

January 4, 2008

The Honorable John Engen
Mayor
City of Missoula
435 Ryman
Missoula, Montana 59802

Dear Mayor Engen,

Greetings for the new year! BWAM very much looks forward to working with you and the city, including the council and staff, to create better cycling and walking conditions in Missoula.

We want to start by thanking you very much for your efforts and positions to advance biking and walking, including the new sharrows on 3rd Street (and, we hope, on many other officially designated bike routes around the city), a safer West Broadway, the Higgins/Hill/Beckwith Roundabout, and retention of the Reserve/Mullan bike lanes.

We also appreciate your support to renew Missoula's status as a bike-friendly community (BFC) through the certification program of the League of American Bicyclists. We urge you to keep this project moving forward swiftly and also to ensure that the city's Department of Public Works (DPW) takes the lead in preparing the application and soliciting input as rapidly and effectively as possible.

We understand that DPW may try to have volunteers or the Bike/Pedestrian Advisory Board take the lead on the project. While we have no objection to volunteer involvement (including BWAM members), we strongly believe it is the job of DPW and the city to take the lead in preparing the application. DPW also has the advantage of a broad perspective on city transportation issues, and was also responsible for filling out the original BFC application in 2003 (which could help provide a template for the new application). Please bear in mind that the deadline for application submission for BFC designation is **March 21, 2008**. It is imperative that DPW get this process going now so that a strong application can be submitted on time.

Mayor John Engen

January 4, 2008

Page Two

Thanks again for your support of the BFC application and for directing DPW to take the leadership role in preparing the application and gathering input and getting it submitted on March 21st.

Best wishes,

Jim Sayer

President

Board of Directors

PS: As we have talked about earlier, based on our research, there is currently no performance certification program for walkable cities, but we will continue to stay in touch with national walking organizations to seek out ways to help set benchmarks for better walking in Missoula.

***BWAM Board of Directors:** Geraldine Carter, Kevin Dohr, Molly Galusha, Erin Kautz, John Matthews, Ethyl McDonald, Ryan Newhouse, Jim Sayer, Bob Wachtel*

cc: Steve King, Director, Department of Public Works

Phil Smith, Bicycle Pedestrian Program Manager

Phil Condon, Chair, Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Board