



*HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant
Western Greater Yellowstone Consortium
Project Proposal for the*

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**Greater Yellowstone Trail
150-Mile Regional Pathway Connecting Montana, Idaho and Wyoming**

Submitted by: Wyoming Pathways, Idaho Walk Bike Alliance, and Bike Walk Montana

Project Purpose: *Develop a Conceptual Plan and Action Plan with HUD assistance, and with matching support carry out a regional partnership effort to create the Greater Yellowstone Trail - connecting communities and public lands in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming*

This collaborative project will develop a shared vision among the communities along a 150-mile route that wraps around the southwest corner of the 18-million acre Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The three statewide biking and walking nonprofit organizations will lead an effort with local partners, state and federal land agencies, local governments, and national partners toward the vision of a long-distance regional paved pathway connecting West Yellowstone to Jenny Lake via the old Yellowstone rail line and local pathway routes.

The Greater Yellowstone Trail (GYT) will connect West Yellowstone with Island Park, Ashton, Teton, Driggs, Victor, Teton Pass, Wilson, Jackson, Teton Village, Moose and Jenny Lake. The GYT is supported in the HUD Multi-modal Strategy of March 2014 - Goal 2.2, "Advance Economic Development strategies that integrate the Trails Network Concept."

Requested Funding: Consideration of HUD grant funding of \$40,000 for a 6-month project, with the strong potential for that to be matched by a private foundation.

HUD Funding Project Component: The project proposes to use the HUD funding to create a Concept and Action Plan for Greater Yellowstone Trail. This will be overseen by Wyoming Pathways, with partner assistance to gather information for the Concept Plan. A qualified

professional consulting firm will be contracted to prepare the plan for a not to exceed contract amount shown in the budget.

Greater Yellowstone Trail – Conceptual and Action Plan Outline:

- Project Vision with overview map, and executive summary
- Brief historical background of route
- Overview and accomplishments of existing agencies and organizations and how they have already contributed to this vision
- Existing Conditions Summary as of 2014
 - Maps showing existing trail, Note places where people can currently access, and the conditions of the various sections
 - Discuss approved plans/projects to extend existing trail
 - Detail the new FLAP grants for Victor and Teton County and how that fits into the larger vision, identify future FLAP grant projects.
- Opportunities and constraints
 - Identify gaps
 - Identify challenges
 - Identify available rights-of-way for trail development
- Recommendations and detailed Action Plan with prioritized implementation project phases and targeted funding sources with schedules for design and construction.



HUD Grant Project Management: The partners propose that Wyoming Pathways be the fiscal lead organization. It would contract for professional services to develop the Concept Plan with the HUD grant, and use agreements with the identified nonprofit partner groups to sub-allocate funds to carry out the planning, local meetings, education and other GYT activities in the budget.

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Foundation Matching funding - Community Outreach Work Plan outline: In addition to the HUD funded work to prepare the Conceptual Plan, the project partners are pleased to report the serious interest of a regional Foundation to support a matching grant of \$40,000 to support additional development work on the GYT. If approved, the foundation funding would:

- Organize project development meetings with key community partners in West Yellowstone, Island Park, Ashton, Teton, Driggs, Victor, Wilson, Jackson, Teton Village, and Moose.
- Identify and meet with economic development and travel and tourism groups to develop interest and support for trail promotion and development.
- Meet with national partners including the National Park Service/Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance, Adventure Cycling, and Rails to Trails (each has expressed interest) to clarify potential support and assistance for the Trail.
- Prepare an illustrated Trail Vision and Concept Plan (draft outline below); with stories, maps, and photos to identify constraints and opportunities, agencies and ownership, priority “low hanging fruit” projects for pathway progress. Partners propose to contract for professional assistance with this.
- Develop champions along the full route.

- Host a Greater Yellowstone Trail all-partner meeting at Harriman State Park, Idaho.
- Explore federal funding opportunities, secure project sponsors, and support the development of the next federal grant requests for phased construction.
- Create a collaborative community plan with the steps for the Trail looking forward.

Recent Accomplishments as of June 2014:

The project partners are excited to report success with two major Federal Land Access Program grants for the Wilson to Victor section of the Greater Yellowstone Trail. One grant is for the City of Victor that totals \$1.7 million, and one grant is for Teton County Wyoming for \$500,000.

Victor will design and construct a 2-mile paved pathway, extending the existing route from Moose Creek to the ID/WY state line. The Teton County project will complete NEPA planning for the remaining 6-mile Wyoming section, and will start design and potentially construction for the section from state line to Trail Creek Campground. Additional design and/or construction work will be completed based on available funding. The combined \$2.2 million that has been approved is a significant boost toward the goal to complete the 17-mile Victor to Wilson section.

Teton County Wyoming is completing a major new pathway connecting Wilson to Jackson. The \$14 million project includes a 742’ pathway bridge over the Snake River. Existing pathways connect Jackson to Jenny Lake via Teton County and Grand Teton pathways.

Another accomplishment is volunteers working with Teton Valley Trails and Pathways have created a website resource that provides an overview of the route, <http://tetonrailtrail.tvtap.org>.

Primary Project Partners – general areas of responsibility:

Wyoming Pathways – will act as the fiscal lead for the project, and will lead the advocacy efforts for the remaining Wyoming section from the top of Teton Pass to the state line. Oversee the contract and production of the HUD-funded trail conceptual plan document for the Greater Yellowstone Trail, identifying trail communities, public lands, ROW and land issues, and economic potential. Help co-host a Greater Yellowstone Trail Partner Meeting to work on action plans for the next priority projects.

Idaho Walk Bike Alliance – will lead state-level advocacy efforts on the Idaho section with Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation, ITD, and Idaho state agencies. Help support TVTAP’s local efforts in Teton Valley, help Fremont county, Ashton and Island Park government and business interests, and economic development groups. Help co-host the GYT Partner Meeting to work on action plans.



Bike Walk Montana – will lead advocacy efforts in Montana, working with West Yellowstone, including city, local business, Gallatin National Forest, other stakeholders to build a consensus for the 12-mile pathway connection to West

Yellowstone from Rheas Pass Idaho state line. Assist the FS and city to seek funding to build the pathway. Help co-host the GYT Partner Meeting to work on action plans.

Local Organization Partners – *The project will include the local pathway nonprofits as partners in the Greater Yellowstone Trail project. These key groups are helping:*

- **Teton Valley Trails and Pathways** - Lead advocate for Teton Valley, and the identified priority section from Driggs to Teton; will develop local government support in Teton County ID, business and tourism support, economic development groups. Helps with eastern Idaho community and partner outreach.
- **Friends of Pathways** – Help advocacy efforts for the Wyoming section over Teton pass, assist local government support and help develop local business support.
- **Ashton Bike Committee** – Can provide local knowledge and support in the Ashton area.
- **Island Park** – Individuals and interested businesses will be engaged in the GYT project.

National Organizations – *The three state group partners also plan to collaborate with three identified national groups that have expressed interest in the project:*

National partners include Adventure Cycling, Rails to Trails Conservancy, and the National Park Service/Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program. Specific roles are being refined, and may include planning, public meeting facilitation, public support, reports, and promotion of the trail as a destination for bicycle tourism.



The Greater Yellowstone Trail will connect West Yellowstone to Jenny Lake via a 150-mile nonmotorized pathway linking communities and public lands along the route

**Greater Yellowstone Trail Project
Proposal for HUD Funding**

Direct costs	Cost Unit	HUD Grant	Notes
GYT Conceptual Plan	Contract	\$30,000	Professional firm fees for preparation
Concept Planning coordination	Idaho and WY	\$4,000	Idaho Walk Bike and Wyoming Pathways
Travel and meetings	Dozen trips	\$4,000	
Administration and overhead	Lump sum	\$2,000	
Sub-Total HUD Planning Request		\$40,000	Amount Requested of HUD
Additional GYT Project Work Steps	Cost Unit	Foundation	Notes
Idaho Walk and Bike advocacy, outreach	Lump sum	\$10,000	
Bike Walk Montana advocacy, outreach	Lump sum	\$10,000	
Wyoming Pathways advocacy, outreach	Lump sum	\$10,000	
Teton Valley Trails and Pathways, outreach	Lump sum	\$5,000	
Friends of Pathways, outreach	Lump sum	\$5,000	
Subtotal Non-HUD funding match		\$40,000.00	Final approval grant pending
Combined Greater Yellowstone Trail project		\$80,000	(pending foundation approval)