



February 1, 2023

Mayor Hess and The Missoula City Council

Email: council@ci.missoula.mt.us

435 Ryman

Missoula, MT 59802

Dear Mayor Hess and City Council Members:

The Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Committee met today and unanimously approved the following letter be sent immediately. We are requesting additional time of two weeks before holding the vote on the proposed "Bridge Diet".

As the largest business organization in Missoula and a proven collaborative partner to both the City and County, we encourage you to allow us time to provide feedback and input from the business community. As demonstrated from our past collaborative efforts, we are in support of grant dollars for infrastructure and business development coming into Missoula. The Chamber has been a proven partner in bringing business and local government together for the greater good of our community. This was extremely prevalent when a number of City, County and private businesses flew to Washington D.C. to help secure a \$13 million dollar grant for the Mullan Area.

It appears that there are a number of businesses and Chamber members in the downtown area who feel they did not have the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed Road Diet. Because the Missoula Chamber learned January 30th that this vote was being held on February 1st, we did not have a chance to solicit member feedback.

There is a hearing currently scheduled for a vote on this issue February 1, 2023. The Missoula Chamber requests that you extend your vote for two weeks to allow time for our members to have input on the issues brought forth. If the extension of time is considered, the Chamber stands ready to deploy a survey to our member businesses, sharing both sides of this issue, in order to provide direct feedback to you. The Chamber also offers to organize and facilitate a townhall meeting inviting businesses to hear the concept and provide feedback.

If the past proven support of the Chamber is valued by our local leaders, we ask for the extra time to find a collaborative outcome for Missoula.

Respectfully,

The Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce


Kim Latrielle, President/CEO


Tim Winger, Chair of the Board

cc: Missoula Chamber Board of Directors

Montana Dept of Transportation