

THE COLLABORATIVE GROUP

September 18, 2020

Dear Chairwoman Macker, Mayor Muldoon, County Commissioners and Town Councilors,

Thank you for your leadership in our community, especially during this year of extraordinary challenges and needs in our valley.

We know that the County and Town have faced budget cuts and made some hard decisions this year regarding our community's departments and services. However, even before this year, we feel that transportation has not had enough of a priority compared to other issues.

There are currently 8,000 commuters daily plus the in-valley residents driving/biking/taking transit to work, school, services, social engagements, and more, not to mention our visitors. We need transportation solutions, and we need leadership and infrastructure to go along with those solutions.

If we want to make housing progress, primarily when it concerns density and reduced parking spaces, a robust transit system must support this objective. Transportation and transit solutions work hand in hand to help our housing, quality of life and wildlife/ecosystem community objectives.

The Town and County need to prioritize the hiring of a Transportation Director. We know there are obstacles, but if this is a top priority— and it should be—then hiring a Transportation Director and assembling a Transportation Department, much like the Housing Department, should happen. Like housing, transportation affects our quality of life and needs a captain at the helm to guide a holistic and strategic vision for Teton County. It seems the only entity currently steering the ship is WYDOT, often without understanding our community's goals and vision.

We know the ITP update is coming up. It does not make sense to approve the update without a firm plan to hire a Transportation Director. In the short term, even a contract interim director would be better than nothing. Our community needs to prioritize transportation with housing - they both affect every resident and visitor's quality of life.

Transportation needs prioritization and leadership, or we will continue to compound our current issues. A Transportation Director and Transportation Department will be the crucial first step in turning the tide on county-wide and regional transportation solutions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Friends of Pathways
Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce

Jackson Hole Community Housing Trust
Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance
Jackson Hole Working
Shelter JH

About The Collaborative Group

The Collaborative Group is a coalition of for-profit and non-profit businesses, housing and transportation advocates, and conservation leaders whose goal is to unite behind a comprehensive vision that will advance a wide variety of community priorities. We are committed to practical, balanced solutions that will support housing, a healthy environment, transportation options, and a sustainable economy.