

# MISSOULA TIGER GRANT REQUEST 2013:

## Missoula 2 Lolo Trail

The Project: Missoula County, City of Missoula, and the Montana DOT, have requested a USDOT TIGER Grant of \$4,580,363 to build a 7-mile, 10-foot wide, separated trail from Missoula to Lolo to fill a critical gap in the non-motorized transportation network in Western Montana.



The Bitterroot Bike Trail, a 38-mile separated path along Highway 93, is part of the designated route for 3 national bike routes. The proposed trail would connect the trail shown to the City of Missoula.

There is only one section of US Highway 93 between Hamilton and Missoula (50 miles) that does not have a separated bike path. This section, between Lolo and Missoula, is a winding, high-speed corridor, with narrow shoulders that poses significant dangers to the thousands of cyclists who undertake this trek every year. The proposed trail would be built along this stretch of highway completing the 50-mile trail.



### Future Trail Users: *Why the need is so great*

- **Lolo School Children** – The trail will be right in front of the K-8 Lolo Public School giving them a safe way to bike or walk to school. (There is no school bus system in Lolo);
- **People without Cars** – The trail will provide low-income, elderly, children/teens, and disabled citizens in wheelchairs or electric scooters the means to travel and recreate safely;
- **Commuters** – The trail will provide people with an active and economical option for getting to work or school;
- **Long and Short Distance Cyclists** – Numerous tourists from around the world and thousands of locals will benefit from a safe place to ride, bringing significant economic and health benefits to the region;
- **Recreationalists** - Runners, walkers, parents with baby strollers, families teaching their children to bike, and skaters will all benefit greatly from the trail.

## Proposed Project Area

Blue Mtn. Rec. Area

Missoula

65 MPH 4-lane highway with 25,000 ADT, narrow shoulders, guard rails and no separated path.

Lolo School

Lolo

"Highway 93 is a dangerous road. Pedestrians and riders of bicycles are at substantial risk while traveling along Highway 93." Missoula County Sheriff



Bitterroot Branch Trail: An existing 5-mile, separated, 10-foot wide path that ties into the city's nationally recognized trail network.

Great Parks National Bike Route to Glacier National Park & Jasper, Alberta (752 miles)

**MISSOULA**  
Population 82,000  
in urban district

Lewis & Clark National Bike Route to Hartford, IL (2,380 miles)

**LOLO**  
Population 4,000

**FLORENCE**

**RAVALLI COUNTY =**  
41,000

**STEVENSVILLE**

Bitterroot Path: an existing 38-mile, separated, 10-foot wide path constructed over the past decade as part of a federally funded \$117 million highway expansion from 2 to 4 lanes.

**VICTOR**

**CORVALLIS**

**HAMILTON**

TransAmerica Trail National Bike Route to Astoria, OR (708 miles)

Lewis & Clark National Bike Route to Astoria, OR (708 miles)

TransAmerica Trail National Bike Route to Yorktown, VA (3,526 miles)

Lewis & Clark National Bike Route to Hartford, IL (2,447 miles)

Great Parks National Bike Route to Yellowstone National Park & Durango, CO (1,766 miles)

### Key

- Proposed Project
- Existing Non-Motorized Path
- Major Roadway
- State Line (ID/MT)
- National Forests
- Recreation Areas, Trails, Campgrounds, Parks
- County Line

0 2 4  
Miles

