From:	Craig Benjamin
To:	County Commissioners
Cc:	Alyssa Watkins; Sean O"Malley; Amy Ramage; Siva Sundaresan; Chris Colligan
Subject:	Alliance support of awarding contract for Teton County Wildlife Crossings Master Plan
Date:	Tuesday, September 27, 2016 3:14:10 PM
Attachments:	Alliance Letter Supporting WX Master Plan contract 20160927.pdf

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Dear Commissioners,

Every year, more than 300 animals are hit and killed on Teton County roads. Wildlife-vehicle collisions pose a threat to wildlife and human safety. Furthermore, because of growing traffic congestion, our roads act like fences that prevent wildlife movement and migration.

We can effectively address both of these problems and make our roads safer for wildlife and people by building a network of wildlife crossings. A first step toward doing so is studying the issue and laying out feasible site-specific solutions in a countywide master plan.

We thank you all for your past support and vision in allocating funding toward crafting such a wildlife crossings master plan. Now, it is time to move ahead and hire a qualified contractor to develop the master plan with the help of County staff, agencies, and local residents.

The Alliance strongly supports the County Engineering staff report recommending the award of a contract for a Teton County Wildlife Crossings Master Plan to Western Transportation Institute (WTI).

WTI is a clear expert in this field and has strong knowledge of local issues around wildlife-vehicle collisions, having done previous studies here. WTI staff have also worked closely with other local agency and non-profit partners with knowledge on this issue. County Engineering staff have worked with the consultants to develop a scope of work that meets our community's needs while also being within the allocated budget. We appreciate their thorough review of the applicants and believe their choice represents a good path moving forward.

We urge you to approve this award so we can all begin this planning process and work toward making it easier and safer for wildlife to cross our roads.

Thank you all for your work on behalf of the people and wildlife of Teton County. Please let us know how we can be of assistance in moving forward with this planning process.

Craig

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Protecting the wildlife, wild places, and community character of Jackson Hole.