



Citizens for a Better Flathead works to foster informed and active citizen participation in the decisions shaping the Flathead's future, and to champion the democratic principles, sustainable solutions, and shared vision necessary to keep the Flathead Special Forever. Since 1992 we have been working to secure policies that will keep the Flathead the place we love as it changes and grows.

Citizens for a Better Flathead also works to secure local policies that encourage trail building:

- **Require Concurrency:** Concurrency is an infrastructure finance and growth management policy implemented by your local government. It is a policy designed to match public facilities and private development. When implemented, concurrency policies withhold land development approval unless selected facilities and services exist in accordance with locally adopted standards by the time the impacts of land development on those facilities occur. These policies can ensure that communities have the necessary infrastructure like roadways, sidewalks, bikeways and trails facilities in place *before* the impact of the new development¹.
- **Establish standards for complete streets:** Complete Streets are streets designed and operated to enable safe use and support mobility for all users. Those include people of all ages and abilities, regardless of whether they are traveling as drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, or public transportation riders. The concept of Complete Streets encompasses many approaches to planning, designing, and operating roadways and rights of way with all users in mind to make the transportation network safer and more efficient. Complete Street policies are set at the state, regional, and local levels and are frequently supported by roadway design guidelines².
- **Identify and prioritize Safe Routes to Schools:** Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is an approach that promotes walking and bicycling to school through infrastructure improvements, enforcement, tools, safety education, and incentives to encourage walking and bicycling to school³. These are important elements to consider for the health and well being of schools and communities around the Flathead Valley.
- **Discourage Highway Sprawl through Growth Policies and Zoning:** Through comprehensive growth policies and zoning our local communities can mitigate the spread of highway sprawl and provide guidelines that ensure planned development that meets the aesthetic and historic standards that meet community expectations. These include transportation planning that improve opportunities and experiences for bicycling, walking, carpooling, and transit as found in the Highway 93 South Corridor Plan adopted by the City of Whitefish in 2021.⁴

Transportation Policy affects what gets built and when and how it is paid for including trails. Citizens for a Better Flathead acts as a watchdog for opportunities to influence policies and to rally the public when their voice is needed. Here are links to plans that contain policies that shape how and where trails get built. You can also find this resource on our website shortly for live links.

The Flathead County Bike and Trails Plan	https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d2371db887b590001831b41/t/5e41a9db5b7aed405ede53c5/1581361631350/Flathead+County+Trails+Plan.pdf
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¹<https://www.mdt.mt.gov/research/toolkit/m1/pptools/gm/capfo.aspx>

²<https://www.transportation.gov/mission/health/complete-streets>

³<https://www.transportation.gov/mission/health/Safe-Routes-to-School-Programs>

⁴<https://www.cityofwhitefish.org/DocumentCenter/View/2656/Highway-93-South-Corridor-Plan-2021-PDF>

City and County	Link to Transportation Plans
Kalispell	https://www.kalispell.com/DocumentCenter/View/2311/Complete-Transportation-Plan-2006-Update-PDF?bidId=
Columbia Falls	https://klj.mysocialpinpoint.com/columbia-falls-home/
Whitefish	http://whitefish.transportationplan.net/

City and County	Link to Bike Plans
Columbia Falls	https://www.gatewaytoglaciertrail.com/projects/columbia-falls-river-trail
Whitefish	https://www.cityofwhitefish.org/DocumentCenter/View/294/01-09-2017-Connect-Whitefish-Bicycle-and-Pedestrian-Master-Plan-PDF

City and County	Link to Growth Policy
Flathead County	https://flathead.mt.gov/department-directory/planning-zoning/growth-policy
Kalispell	https://www.kalispell.com/DocumentCenter/View/465/Kalispell-Growth-Policy-Plan-It-2035-PDF
Columbia Falls	https://www.cityofcolumbiafalls.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/planning_amp_zoning/page/3331/growth-policy-2019.pdf
Whitefish	https://www.cityofwhitefish.org/DocumentCenter/View/301/2007-Whitefish-City-County-Growth-Policy-PDF

City and County	Link to public works standards for roads and trails
Flathead County	https://flathead.mt.gov/smbstorage/ocDownloads/ocSharedRBDocumentsWebAdministration/Standards/Road%20Standards%2007-01-2017.pdf
Kalispell	https://kalispell.com/DocumentCenter/View/466/Standards-for-Design-and-Construction-PDF
Columbia Falls	https://www.cityofcolumbiafalls.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/public_works/page/3151/public-works-standards.pdf
Whitefish	https://www.cityofwhitefish.org/DocumentCenter/View/324/2019-Engineering-Standards-PDF