Dear Mayor Muncaster and Victor City Council

I fully support the adoption of the two easements that connect the AJ Linnell trail to the BLM lands adjacent. Access to public lands is highly valued by a broad spectrum of the community, and opportunities to legally codify a new access are rare. Residents of Teton Valley love their trails and the great, healthy opportunities to recreate on them. Victor residents in particular will benefit from a close to town public lands access.

The new trails accessed by these easements have been adopted in a revised BLM travel plan, which underwent the full Environmental Assessment (EA) process mandated by NEPA. Trails to connect to a proposed Fox Creek trailhead are not included in that Travel Plan update, and should require their own EA.

I also support the proposed MOU between the Victor, MBT and TVTAP. The trails accessible from the new Easements will replace a haphazard network of user created trails and provide predictable stewardship and maintenance.

I ask you to **accept the public access easements** connecting the AJ trail to adjacent BLM lands and **approve the MOU** for stewardship and management of the easements.

Thank you for your service and consideration of my views.

Dan Powers
Teton County Commissioner

Outlook

(No subject)

From Nicholas Banta <[redacted]>
Date Wed 9/9/2026 1:20 PM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

This is the first time you received an email from this sender ([redacted]). Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Re: AJ Linnell Trail Public Access Easements

Dear Mayor Muncaster and Members of the Victor City Council

My name is **[NAME]**, and I am **[Victor resident / Teton Valley resident / local business owner / public-land user / mountain biker / hiker / other]**. I am writing to ask the City of Victor to accept the public access easements connecting the AJ Linnell Trail to BLM public lands and approve the MOU between the City, Mountain Bike the Tetons, and Teton Valley Trails and Pathways.

[*Share 2–4 sentences about your personal connection to Victor, the Teton Valley, public lands, trails, or outdoor recreation. What do these places mean to you? How do you or your family use them? Why is continued access important?*]

[*Share a personal experience using local trails or public lands, volunteering, raising a family outdoors, recreating responsibly, or seeing the benefits of well-managed recreation.*]

I support the AJ Linnell access easements because they provide a legal, perpetual, and managed connection from the City of Victor to BLM public lands. Two private landowners have voluntarily granted these easements, creating a thoughtful solution to a longstanding access challenge.

I believe the City should support this already-planned approach to public-land access rather than allow access to remain informal or unmanaged. A designated access point to this multi-use trail network will concentrate use, establish clear access, protect private property, communicate expectations, and provide predictable stewardship and maintenance.

I also support the proposed MOU between the City of Victor, MBT, and TVTAP. Having organizations committed to ongoing stewardship provides the City with a clear partner for maintaining the easements, managing trail use, and helping ensure that the access remains consistent with the terms of the easements.

[Optional: Add a specific reason you believe this benefits Victor, for example, recreation opportunities, connectivity from town, local families, tourism, quality of life, responsible public-land access, or alignment with the City's recreational goals.]

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the Victor City Council to:

- **Accept the public access easements** connecting the AJ Linnell Trail to BLM public lands.
- **Approve the MOU between the City of Victor, MBT, and TVTAP** for stewardship and management of the easements.
- Support a **sustainable and responsible approach to public access and recreation** that aligns with the BLM's approved Travel Management Plan and the City of Victor's mission.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the City of Victor.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Banta

Trails Coordinator- Mountain Bike the Tetons

Outlook

Approving Easements for AJ Linnell Trail

From Jeannie Blackwood [redacted]>
Date Tue 9/15/2026 8:36 PM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

This is the first time you received an email from this sender ([redacted]). Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Dear Victor City Council,

I live at the end of Fox Creek near the land that was recently donated to connect to the BLM parcel. I am so excited about the long term opportunity I will have to bike or walk on trails all the way to Victor, to the parks, ice rink, and surrounding farms and neighborhoods. I am thankful for long term easements and donations that keep the public lands surrounding Victor accessible by all. I am asking the City Council to :

Accept the public access easements connecting the AJ Linnell Trail to BLM lands.
Approve the MOU between the City of Victor, MBT, and TVTAP.
Support a legal, planned, and responsible approach to public access and recreation close to town.

Thank you for the consideration and time you are taking to address this matter.
Jeannie Blackwood

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

I have lived in Teton Valley since 1993 and currently reside in the south end. I support the City of Victor to accept and hold the public access easement and memorandum of understanding associated with the AJ Linnell Trail. I have worked with the Bureau of Land Management to inventory the current uses of this land and proposed ways to mitigate the impacts of new uses. Building sustainable trails will help minimize erosion and make trails that serve the whole community.

Public access to our abundant public lands is important so everybody can enjoy our many recreational opportunities. When I was a Teton County Commissioner (2009-2013), we worked hard to preserve public access throughout the county. I think that it is important to continue to improve these access points. Public lands are important aspect of our lives in this area and are important for health of the community and surrounding landscape.

This access point and the use of lands above have been thoroughly evaluated during the Bureau of Land Management environmental assessment. They have considered the impacts on wildlife, different users, and existing conditions. Their plans have balanced the many demands of these different perspectives.

Victor's acceptance of these easements is consistent with its comprehensive plan to support recreational opportunities for the community. Formal access to public lands and encouraging responsible stewardship for these lands are important to the growth and health of the community and surrounding landscape.

I respectfully ask the City Council to accept and hold the AJ Linnell public access easement(s), approve the MOU and support this opportunity to provide lasting public access to public lands for the good of the broader community.

I appreciate your commitment to serving our community and thank you for your consideration of my position.

Cordially,

Bob Benedict
[redacted]
Victor, ID 83455

Outlook

AJ Linnell Trail Access Easements

From Claire Brandhorst <[redacted]>
Date Wed 9/16/2026 10:48 AM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

This is the first time you received an email from this sender [redacted] Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Dear Sue and Members of the Victor City Council,

Claire Brandhorst here, Teton Valley resident as well as a mountain biker, trail runner, and Program and Outreach Director for Mountain Bike the Tetons. I'm reaching out to urge the City of Victor to approve the public access easements that connect the AJ Trail to the BLM land east of Victor and approve the MOU between Victor, MBT, and TVTAP.

I moved to the area almost 10 years ago, and since then have been an avid user of our public lands, both on foot and on bike. In my time here, I've become more and more involved in our local trails community and in making mountain recreation accessible to more people. My work primarily revolves around youth biking programs, getting young kids to enjoy our public lands on bikes. The more I do this work, the more I realize that if kids are near trails (and public land), they'll use them. However, this land is only valuable as a resource to the public if we have access to it.

I strongly support the AJ Linnell access easements because they provide a legal, perpetual, and managed connection from the City of Victor to BLM public lands. Two private landowners have voluntarily granted these easements, creating a thoughtful solution to the longstanding access challenge.

I believe the City should support this already planned approach to public land access rather than allow access to remain informal or unmanaged. A designated access point to this multi use trail network will concentrate use, establish clear access, protect private property, communicate expectations, and provide predictable stewardship and maintenance.

Additionally, I support the proposed MOU between the City of Victor, MBT, and TVTAP. Having organizations committed to ongoing stewardship provides the City with clear partners for maintaining the easements, managing trail use, and helping ensure that the access remains consistent with the terms of the easements.

To support public lands accessibility for everyone who lives in, visits, and loves our region, I believe that the City of Victor should support the AJ Linnel access easements to the BLM lands as well as the proposed MOU between the City of Victor, MBT, and TVTAP.

With all of that in mind, I urge the Victor City Council to:

- Accept the public access easements connecting the AJ Linnell Trail to the BLM land.
- Approve the MOU between the City of Victor, MBT, and TVTAP for stewardship and management of the easements.
- Support a sustainable and responsible approach to public access and recreation that aligns with the BLM's approved Travel Management Plan and the City of Victor's mission.

Thank you for reading and for all that you do for our community.

Best,

Claire Brandhorst
Mountian Bike the Tetons Program and Outreach Director



Outlook

Letter of Support for the AJ Linnell Trail Public Access Easements

From Lorna Bushong [redacted] >
Date Tue 9/15/2026 10:23 AM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

This is the first time you received an email from this sender [redacted]). Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Re: AJ Linnell Trail Public Access Easements and MOU (September 23 agenda)

Dear Mayor Muncaster and Members of the Victor City Council,

My name is Lorna Bushong and I'm a longtime Victor resident. I'm writing in support of the City accepting and holding the public access easements associated with the AJ Linnell Trail and approving the MOU with Mountain Bike the Tetons and Teton Valley Trails and Pathways.

I was born and raised in Victor, which has instilled in me a strong belief in the importance of maintaining access to public lands. My earliest memories are of my parents taking me hiking and horseback riding in the wilderness surrounding the Valley. Over the years I've seen trail systems expanded, improved, and maintained, creating greater opprotunities for outdoor recreation. I've met many new residents on those trails, seen their appreciation for how easily they can get into the mountains here, and come to understand how much that access means to the wellbeing of our community.

At the same time, I've watched residential development steadily close off routes locals once used, because a plan wasn't formalized and protections weren't put in place. I'm watching it play out again in the discussion around these easements.

The BLM ground above town is already being used and has been for years, on informal routes no agency planned or built and no one maintains. Declining the easements won't change that. It will only ensure the use stays unmanaged, with more impact on adjacent landowners and on the land itself than a designed system would create.

The signed easements resolve the corner crossing issue legally and in perpetuity, and the private landowners granted them voluntarily and generously. The BLM has already completed its NEPA review and approved the Travel Management Plan these trails fall under, so the Council isn't being asked to make a new land use decision, only to accept the access that plan assumed. Accepting the easements is consistent with the City's comprehensive plan and its commitment to recreational opportunity. The MOU adds to that by giving the City accountable partners for stewardship and maintenance rather than leaving those obligations to staff.

I respectfully ask the Council to accept and hold the AJ Linnell public access easements, approve the MOU, and support this opportunity to provide lasting, managed public access to public lands for the good of the broader community.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to Victor.

Lorna Bushong
MBT Treasurer
[redacted]
Victor, ID 83455

Outlook

AJ's Trail extension and re-route

From Corey Dahline [redacted] >
Date Wed 9/16/2026 8:57 AM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

This is the first time you received an email from this sender ([redacted]). Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Dear City Council,

We live in town and are daily users and supporters of the local trail network. Having the trails adequately maintained and built to professional standards is one of our favorite things about Victor. Please support more and better trails by doing the following:

- Accept the public access easements connecting the AJ Linnell Trail to BLM lands.
- Approve the MOU between the City of Victor, MBT, and TVTAP.
- Support a legal, planned, and responsible approach to public access and recreation close to town.

Thank you for your help in making Victor and the south valley a better, more accessible trail better!

Corey Dahline
[redacted]
[email redacted]

Outlook

STRONG Support of the APPROVED AJ Trail

From Trevor D [redacted] >
Date Tue 9/15/2026 4:17 PM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

This is the first time you received an email from this sender [redacted]). Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

To Mayor Muncaster and the Victor City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Victor to accept the public access easements connecting to the AJ Linnell Trail and to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Mountain Bike Tetons (MBT) and Teton Valley Trails and Pathways (TVTAP).

This project represents a crucial step forward for legal, planned, and responsible public land access close to town. The designated non-motorized trail underwent extensive public evaluation and detailed environmental analysis through the BLM's 2024 Upper East Snake Travel Management Plan and the formal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Having passed full environmental assessment and received federal approval, it would set a troubling precedent to derail the project now. A small group of individuals who are voicing opposition after the formal environmental review has already been completed and approved should not be permitted to cancel plans that have satisfied every legal, environmental, and public requirement. Allowing late-stage pushback to overturn years of transparent planning undermines the public process and deprives our community of a tremendous asset.

Informal access is already occurring in this area. Approving these agreements provides a proactive, structured solution that manages public recreation responsibly rather than forcing the community to react to unmanaged use later. We owe immense gratitude to the two generous private landowners who voluntarily granted these access easements to make legal public access possible.

Furthermore, the terms of the proposed agreement and MOU demonstrate exceptional consideration for neighboring residents. By establishing clear, enforceable restrictions—including prohibiting parking within [address redacted] base, directing user parking to established town infrastructure at the Ice Rink/Transit Center and Sherman Park, restricting access strictly to foot and pedal-bicycle traffic with no e-bikes permitted, and giving the City the explicit authority to impose temporary closures if rules are violated—the City and trail partners have ensured that private property rights and local quality of life are fully protected.

I strongly urge the Victor City Council to vote **YES** on September 23 to accept the public access easements and approve the MOU. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to sustainable stewardship and responsible recreation in our community.

Sincerely,

Outlook

Support for AJ Linnell Trail Access

From Morgan Dykshorn [redacted] >
Date Tue 9/15/2026 4:38 PM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

This is the first time you received an email from this sender [redacted]. Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Mayor Muncaster and Members of the Victor City Council,

I'm a Victor resident writing to express my support for the AJ Linnell Trail project, including the proposed public access easements and MOU with Mountain Bike the Tetons and TVTAP.

One of the things I value most about living in Victor is having access to trails and public lands close to home. Creating a legal, planned connection to surrounding public lands is a great opportunity for the community, especially through voluntary easements and with local organizations helping manage long-term stewardship.

As someone who regularly uses our local trails, I also value responsible access, clear signage, trail maintenance, and respect for neighboring private property.

I hope the City will support the agreements needed to move the AJ Linnell Trail forward.

Thank you for considering the input of Victor residents.

Best,
Morgan Dykshorn
Victor, Idaho

Outlook

Vote Yes on AJ Linnell Trail Access

From jannine fitzgerald <[redacted]>
Date Thu 9/10/2026 3:07 AM
To Sue Muncaster <suem@victoridaho.gov>; Amy R <amyr@victoridaho.gov>; Stacy Hulsing <stacyh@victoridaho.gov>; Emily S <emilys@victoridaho.gov>; Jeremy Besbris <jeremyb@victoridaho.gov>; Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

EXTERNAL EMAIL - This email was sent by a person from outside your organization. Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Dear Mayor Muncaster and Members of the Victor City Council,

My name is Jannine Fitzgerald, and I live at [address redacted] here in Victor. I moved to Teton Valley in 2004, and over these past two decades this place has shaped how I spend my time, who I've become as a neighbor, and how I think about the land around us. The wildlife, the quiet, the ability to walk out my door and be somewhere wild within minutes, that's the reason I've stayed here this long.

That's why I hope you'll say yes to the easements linking the AJ Linnell Trail to the surrounding BLM land, and sign off on the agreement between the City, MBT, and TVTAP that lays out who's responsible for taking care of it. Trails like this don't happen by accident. Someone has to hold the paperwork, coordinate the upkeep, and make sure the whole thing doesn't just fall apart after a few years. Turning this down doesn't make the demand for access disappear, it just means people find their own way onto that land anyway, without any of the planning, boundaries, or accountability a real agreement provides.

I'd also gently push back on the idea that this is happening too fast or without enough scrutiny. My understanding is that the BLM already ran this trail through a full federal review process, one that included input from state wildlife officials **and the public**, before folding it into their official plan for how this land gets used. That work is done. What's in front of you now is the local piece: whether Victor steps up to formalize its side of an agreement that's already been vetted.

I know a handful of neighbors have pushed back, and I don't doubt their concerns are sincere. But I'd ask you to hold that against the bigger picture: a decade of planning, a legal framework that keeps private landowners protected, and the reality that the alternative isn't no trail, it's an unofficial one nobody manages. I think Victor is better than that, and I think this council has a chance to prove it by getting ahead of the problem instead of cleaning up after it.

This valley's trails and open country are why so many of us live here in the first place. I

hope the council backs a version of public access that's built to last.

Thank you for the time you're putting into this, and for caring about where this town is headed.

Sincerely,
Jannine Fitzgerald
[redacted], Victor, ID

Outlook

Vote yes for AJ Trail Access Easements and MOU!

From Sarah Foster <[redacted]>
Date Wed 9/16/2026 10:44 PM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

This is the first time you received an email from this sender ([redacted]). Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Re: AJ Linnell Trail Public Access Easements

Dear Mayor Muncaster and Members of the Victor City Council

My name is Sarah Foster, and I am a resident of Victor and avid user of trails on public lands. I am writing to ask the City of Victor to accept the public access easements connecting the AJ Linnell Trail to BLM public lands and approve the MOU between the City, Mountain Bike the Tetons, and Teton Valley Trails and Pathways.

My husband and I moved to the valley largely because of the access to outdoor opportunities, and along the way have forged great friendships and built community while enjoying our public lands. I am a mountain biker, trail runner, backcountry skier, hiker, and newly a mom. Maintaining access to public lands and promoting trail stewardship is something that is deeply important to me. Time spent recreating on our public lands is a vital part of life to many who call this valley home, and it is something that we should all have access to. Now that I have a daughter, I am so excited to be able to share these special places with her and see her grow as she interacts with nature and learns what she is capable of.

When I moved to the valley, I started volunteering with Mountain Bike the Tetons. I have coached the youth Sprockids program, attended many trail days, and hosted women's specific bike rides and maintenance days. I have recently joined the Mountain Bike the Tetons Board, and being a part of an organization that puts so much thought and effort into responsible trail stewardship and works to provide biking opportunities to all, is really so special and something that brings me joy and makes me proud at the same time.

I support the AJ Linnell access easements because they provide a legal, perpetual, and managed connection from the City of Victor to BLM public lands. Two private landowners have voluntarily granted these easements, creating a thoughtful solution to a longstanding access challenge. These easements are the last thing needed to allow all residents the ability to access these public lands and all the opportunities that exist within them.

I believe the City should support this already-planned approach to public-land access rather than allow access to remain informal or unmanaged. A designated access point to this multi-use trail network will concentrate use, establish clear access, protect private property, communicate expectations, and provide predictable stewardship and maintenance. A supported and well thought out plan is always much better than a lack of any formal plan. As my good friend Taylor Swift says, "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail." This is a concrete plan to succeed. It has already gone through all the official approval

processes by the BLM, with input and approval from the affected property owners. All the city needs to do is approve it. Be a part of a plan to succeed, instead of planning to fail.

I also support the proposed MOU between the City of Victor, MBT, and TVTAP. Having organizations committed to ongoing stewardship provides the City with a clear partner for maintaining the easements, managing trail use, and helping ensure that the access remains consistent with the terms of the easements.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the Victor City Council to:

● Accept the public access easements connecting the AJ Linnell Trail to BLM public lands.

● Approve the MOU between the City of Victor, MBT, and TVTAP for stewardship and management of the easements.

● Support a sustainable and responsible approach to public access and recreation that aligns with the BLM's approved Travel Management Plan and the City of Victor’s mission.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the City of Victor. I am excited for the community, about the opportunities that will be unlocked once this project completed.

Sincerely,

Sarah Foster, Victor resident and avid trail user

GREATERYELLOWSTONE.ORG
LOCATIONS IN MONTANA, IDAHO & WYOMING

[address redacted]
[phone redacted]

August 26, 2026

Victor City Council
[address redacted]
[address redacted]
[address redacted]

Dear Mayor Muncaster and City Councilors:

Thank you for your careful consideration of the access easements for the AJ Linnell Trail that you discussed at your August 12, 2026, meeting. Recreational use of the Victor Front is obviously a complicated issue that necessitates the involvement of local governments, federal agencies, nonprofits, and the public. I appreciate that you are taking the time to understand how best to proceed in the face of competing values like recreational development, trailhead access, and wildlife management.

The Victor Front is some of the last intact wildlife habitat without substantial trail development or recreational use in Teton Valley. Stretching from Moose Creek to Fox Creek, it provides critically important winter range and security habitat for deer, elk, and moose in the southern Tetons. Residential development and the proliferation of user-created trails in the Front have already increased the habitat loss and fragmentation these ungulates face.

I encourage you to continue having conversations with the Idaho Fish and Game Department (IDFG) about agency staff giving public testimony and input on the wildlife values in the Victor Front, as you indicated you would at the August 12 meeting. Tasked with managing state wildlife resources, IDFG's mission is to "preserve, protect, and perpetuate" wildlife populations across the state as a public good. As wildlife managers, IDFG staff can provide context that goes beyond what is included in the wildlife report they submitted to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for its Upper Snake Field Office Travel Management Plan (TMP). They can also place the Victor Front and Teton Valley within the larger issue of habitat loss, which the agency identified as a major factor pressure in its strategic plan.

I also strongly encourage you to invite BLM recreation staff, who can describe planning processes regarding planned and proposed trails in the Victor Front. Though I recognize that BLM staff will be able to best answer questions about the process for future trails, I wanted to clarify where the Victor Front trails stand. The easements before you allow access to the AJ Linnell Trail, which connects to approximately seven miles of trails the BLM approved as part of travel management planning. These trails were user-created, so they exist in some form, then were codified as part of the TMP process and now are sanctioned, official trails on the BLM's maps. The easements before you are necessary for trail building organizations and the BLM to begin construction and rerouting of

the already approved trails. A proposed pair of trails that would link the BLM trails to Fox Creek have not been approved, nor have they gone through a planning process. The Trust for Public Land is currently working on a trailhead property off 5000S that those proposed trails would connect to, according to maps previously published by Mountain Bike the Tetons and my conversations with Chris Demming at the Trust for Public Lands.

Again, the proposed trails to Fox Creek have not been approved and are not included in the TMP. Any future consideration of these trails would require the appropriate level of BLM planning and review to determine whether they should be approved. Given that an Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed for the Travel Management Plan, we would encourage and expect an appropriate level of review for any newly proposed trails, one that would include opportunities for public review and input. That could take the form of either a standalone EA or a supplemental EA to the original TMP decision. However, BLM staff should be able to describe in more detail their planned process and administrative or legal rationale.

In your August 12 meeting, you mentioned the possibility of hosting a town hall about this issue so you could hear from agencies and interested nonprofits. If a town hall is scheduled, I'd love to attend and offer GYC as a community voice on wildlife issues. We are a regional conservation group headquartered in Bozeman with an office in Driggs. We've worked on issues at the intersection of wildlife and recreation for many years, including hosting a regional symposium on the topic in 2018 and participating in land management planning efforts at the administrative and legislative levels in the three states in which we work.

GYC has participated in the BLM's Travel Management Plan process since its inception, offering substantive comments during each stage of public engagement. In partnership with the Idaho chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, we hosted a wildlife and recreation presentation this spring at Highpoint Cider, bringing together IDFG and BLM officials, scientists, and trail building organizations to discuss recreational development and functional wildlife habitat. Wildlife managers and scientists stressed that due to increasing populations and recreational development, we have moved beyond balancing recreation and secure habitat conservation in Teton Valley. Instead, new trails in previously undeveloped areas represent a loss of secure wildlife habitat, which likely cannot be replaced.

GYC's approach is to advocate for reasonable, durable solutions to wildlife issues across the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, including in Teton Valley. City-level private property issues, like these easements, are not generally within our purview. However, wildlife and human development issues are complex and often require thoughtful engagement on both private and public land issues. These easements are salient for the management and enforcement of the entire Victor Front trails, many of which reside on federal public land, and I hope we can provide important context as part of that larger conversation.

Beyond giving public comment at your meetings, if there is an opportunity for our organization to play a role in this discussion, we would love to have a seat at the table, if that would be helpful to you. The pressure to accommodate increasing recreational access and conserve or protect important wildlife habitat is not a challenge for Victor alone. In fact, our entire community is struggling to find that balance. Victor has an opportunity to be a leader in this space by convening a group of stakeholders to identify a path forward that can be shared across our community,

especially since wildlife don't know jurisdictional boundaries. I appreciate your time and careful consideration on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Tom Hallberg
Idaho Conservation Associate, Greater Yellowstone Coalition
[redacted]
t[redacted]

Outlook

Greater Yellowstone Coalition letter regarding Victor Front trail system

From Tom Hallberg [redacted] >
Date Tue 9/8/2026 9:14 AM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>
Cc Victor Mayor <mayor@victoridaho.gov>; Emily S <emilys@victoridaho.gov>; Amy R <amyr@victoridaho.gov>; Stacy Hulsing <stacyh@victoridaho.gov>; Erica Linnell <Erical@victoridaho.gov>

1 attachment (257 KB)
GYC Victor Front City Council Letter.pdf;

This is the first time you received an email from this sender [redacted]. Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Hello,

Thank you for your careful consideration of the trail easements in the Victor Front at your meeting in August. Please find an attached letter regarding the issue and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition's commitment to wildlife issues in Victor. Let me know if you have any questions and thank you for your time.

Tom Hallberg (he/him/his)
Idaho Conservation Associate • Greater Yellowstone Coalition
[redacted]
Get to know GYC at greateryellowstone.org

Outlook

I support the AJ trail easement

From Travis Halverson <t[redacted]>
Date Tue 9/15/2026 10:00 PM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

This is the first time you received an email from this sender [redacted]. Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Mayor Muncaster,

I am writing this email in support of the town council accepting the public access easements to the BLM lands east of Victor. This access point to public lands will be cherished by locals and visitors alike. Having access to trails that people in the town of Victor can get to without driving will be such an asset to the town. I look forward to the day that Victor has a true backyard trail network. Without the easement in place, the residents of Victor stand to be cutoff from the BLM lands above town. I ask that you and the town council accept the easement and approve the MOU between the town, MBT and TVTAP.

Thanks!

Travis Halverson
[redacted]

Outlook

Accept public access easements for the AJ trail!

From Mark Holbrook [redacted] >
Date Wed 9/9/2026 3:42 PM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

This is the first time you received an email from this sender [redacted]). Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

My name is Mark Holbrook, and I am a recreation enthusiast of the unincorporated Victor area. I am writing in support of the City accepting and holding the public access easements and MOU associated with the AJ Linnell Trail. Why has this not happened already! Let's get the job done Victor!

Public access to public lands is very important to me because I believe they belong to all of us and only through proper use and management can we keep them from being privately developed. Living in the Victor area has been a life long dream and having access to well managed, lawful trails is one of the major reasons I moved to Teton Valley 15 some years ago.

The City's acceptance of these easements is consistent with its comprehensive plan to support recreational opportunities for the community. Facilitating formal access to public lands and encouraging responsible stewardship for these lands are important to the growth and health of the community and surrounding landscape.

I respectfully ask the City Council to accept and hold the AJ Linnell public access easements, approve the MOU and support this opportunity to provide lasting public access to public lands for the good of the broader community.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to the wellbeing of this community and its future.

Sincerely,
Mark Holbrook
[redacted]
Victor, ID 83455
[redacted]

Outlook

Approval of Bender and Yara Thomas Easements

From Andrew Howe [redacted]
Date Thu 9/10/2026 9:05 AM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

This is the first time you received an email from this sender ([redacted]). Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Hello,

I am writing for support to accept the Bender and Yara Thomas Easements and approve the MOU with MBT and TVTAP. Mountain biking and biking in general continues to be a growing sport and with added trail networks, it will allow more people to experience the outdoors on all vehicles of travel, whether that be hiking, biking, or horse travel. I believe that added trails like this one will bring a boost to our local economy and community through tourism and local engagement with our town and outdoor environment. Please approve and accept this easement. Thank you and have a lovely day!

~ Andrew V Howe
[redacted]

Outlook

AJ Linnell Memorial trail support

From Susan Jackson [redacted]>
Date Wed 9/9/2026 3:35 PM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

This is the first time you received an email from this sender ([redacted]). Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Dear Mayor and Members of the Victor City Council:

I am a homeowner in Victor and very much support the City accepting and holding the public access easement(s) and MOU associated with the AJ Linnell Trail.

As a resident of Teton Springs, along the east side of the neighborhood, I see first hand the importance of access to public lands by looking out my kitchen window at the hikers, bikers, horses, and ATVs on the Sherman Springs trail headed to the trails in the National Forest. I too enjoy using the trails in the forest at the south end of my street.

The AJ Linnell trail would open more areas on public land to community use one of the most loved characteristics of the Teton Valley.

The City's acceptance of these easements is consistent with its comprehensive plan to support recreational opportunities for the community. Facilitating formal access to public lands and encouraging responsible stewardship for these lands are important to the growth and health of the community and surrounding landscape.

I respectfully ask the City Council to accept and hold the AJ Linnell public access easement(s), approve the MOU and support this opportunity to provide lasting public access to public lands for the good of the broader community.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to the wellbeing of this community and its future.

Sincerely,

Susan Jackson
[redacted]
Victor, ID

Outlook

AJ Trails access

From John Kennedy <[redacted]>
Date Wed 9/16/2026 7:55 AM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>
Cc John Kennedy [redacted]>; Chris Brule <[redacted]

1 attachment (2 MB)
AJ Trails Access Letter to Mayor of Victor.docx;

This is the first time you received an email from this sender [redacted]). Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Dear Mayor Muncaster,

My name is John Kennedy, Shop Manager at Pierre's Pedal Project, a resident of Victor Idaho and an avid outdoorsman (Hike, Mountain bike, Snowshoe, etc)

Can you please review my attached letter regarding access to the proposed AJ trail system.

Sincerely,

John Kennedy
[redacted]

September 16, 2026

Re: AJ Linnell Trail Public Access Easement

Dear Mayor Muncaster and Members of the Victor City Council:

My name is John Kennedy and my wife Anne and I live in Victor, Idaho. We are both avid hikers and mountain bikers and use the South Valley trails probably 2-3 times per week. I am writing to ask the City of Victor to accept the public access easements connecting the AJ Linnell Trail to BLM public lands and approve the MOU between the City, Mountain Bike the Tetons, and Teton Valley Trails and Pathways.

I am a Shop Manager at Pierre's Pedal Project which is a non- profit organization that takes discarded bicycles from the land fill, refurbishes them and gives them away to disadvantaged families in the Teton Valley area. Furthermore, we have joined forces with the Basin High School to teach kids how to rebuild bicycles that they are then allowed to keep for themselves. I can tell you firsthand we have taken troubled kids, got them off the couch and onto the trails. It is truly rewarding to watch these kids find a new purpose in life.

I support the AJ Linnell access easements because they provide a legal, perpetual, and managed connection from the City of Victor to BLM public lands. Two private landowners have voluntarily granted these easements, creating a thoughtful solution to a longstanding access challenge.

I believe the city should support this already-planned approach to public-land access rather than allow access to remain informal or unmanaged. A designated access point to this multi-use trail network will concentrate use, establish clear access, protect private property, communicate expectations, and provide predictable stewardship and maintenance.

I also support the proposed MOU between the City of Victor, MBT, and TVTAP. Having organizations committed to ongoing stewardship provides the City with a clear partner for maintaining the easements, managing trail use, and helping ensure that the access remains consistent with the terms of the easements.

A variety of recreational opportunities are good for Victor and the surrounding community. We want our kids active and outdoors and involved in physical activity.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the Victor City Council to:

- Accept the public access easements connecting the AJ Linnell Trail to BLM public lands.
- Approve the MOU between the City of Victor, MBT, and TVTAP for stewardship and management of the easements.
- Support a sustainable and responsible approach to public access and recreation that aligns with the BLM's approved Travel Management Plan and the City of Victor's mission.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the City of Victor.

Sincerely,

John Kennedy

Pierre's Pedal Project Shop Manager

[redacted]

Victor, Idaho 83455

Outlook

Letter of Support for Public Access Easements

From Em Ledingham [redacted] >
Date Mon 9/14/2026 10:17 AM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

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Dear Mayor Muncaster and members of City Council,

My name is Em Ledingham. I'm a Victor resident and community member. I'm writing because I really hope you'll approve the MOU associated with the AJ Linnell Trail, and accept the public access easements.

Access to public lands is super important to me. It's why I live in Victor. I'm a mountain biker. More importantly, I think the world would be a better place if we could just all get outside a bit more.

When there's access, but it isn't formal or legal, it's a bad look, and I don't think it encourages responsible stewardship. I'm advocating for this easement/MOU because I'm satisfied with the process, and see it as part of a thoughtful, coordinated effort to create more access for our community.

Please accept the easement(s) and approve this MOU.

Thanks so much for your service to this community. I appreciate your hard work,

Em

Outlook

BLM / AJ Linnell Trails Project Update

From George Martin [redacted] >
Date Tue 9/15/2026 3:12 PM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

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I strongly support the development of local lands to be used for recreational use, specifically mountain biking and hiking.

I have confidence in Mnt. Bike the Teton's and the other organization involved to follow a legal, planned, and responsible approach to public access to localized trails.

One of the main reasons why Victor is such a wonderful place to live is due to the access to recreational lands and its proximity.

I hope that the Mayor and City Board accepts the public access easements from AJ Linnell land to BLM lands.

I also hope the City of Victor accepts the MOU with TVTAP and MBT.

George W. Martin
The Ponds Neighborhood
Victor, ID 83455

Outlook

BLM Trails Project — Unresolved NEPA, Access, and Enforcement Deficiencies

From Amy McCarthy [redacted] >
Date Mon 9/14/2026 9:47 PM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>
Cc Sue Muncaster <suem@victoridaho.gov>; Amy R <amyr@victoridaho.gov>; Emily S <[email redacted]>; Stacy Hulsing <stacyh@victoridaho.gov>; Forrest G McCarthy <[redacted]>

EXTERNAL EMAIL - This email was sent by a person from outside your organization. Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Submission for September 23rd meeting packet:

TO: Mayor Muncaster and Members of the Victor City Council

FROM: Amy and Forrest McCarthy, [redacted], Victor, ID

DATE: September 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Structural Discrepancies Between the 2024 Upper Snake East Travel Management Plan and the Proposed BLM Trails Project on the Teton Front, Absence of Federal Wildlife Safeguards, and Compliance with the ReEnvision Victor Comprehensive Plan

I. SUMMARY

The Victor City Council is currently being asked to take formal administrative action—through easement acceptances, Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), and associated city access approvals—that directly facilitates the implementation of the proposed BLM Trails Project.

While this effort is often framed as the simple implementation of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) 2024 Upper Snake East Travel Management Plan (TMP), the proposal currently before the City differs fundamentally from what was analyzed and approved in 2024.

Furthermore, recent administrative rollbacks within the Department of the Interior (DOI) have stripped away the formal environmental safeguards that previously ensured federal oversight. The City of Victor can no longer rely on the BLM as an independent safeguard to protect local big game, winter range, and critical wildlife corridors.

Under the ReEnvision Victor 2021 Comprehensive Plan, the City Council holds a duty to ensure that municipal decisions, public access authorizations, and land-use approvals actively align with community goals to protect local wildlife habitat and preserve key open space.

II. HOW THE CURRENT PROPOSAL DIFFERS FROM THE APPROVED 2024 TRAVEL PLAN

While the 2024 Upper Snake East Travel Management Plan designated route mileage and general non-motorized corridors across a 126,000-acre planning area, the current construction proposal introduces several material operational and physical changes that were never evaluated in the 2024 NEPA process:

- **Machine-Built Trail Class vs. Standard Non-Motorized Routes:** The 2024 TMP evaluated route designations generally. The current project calls for heavy, machine-built (using Sutter 300 dozers), mountain bike trail construction requiring extensive ground clearing, soil compaction, cut-and-fill slopes, and significant vegetation removal.

- **High-Density Concentrated Design:** Linking the private access easements (including the new Thomas ROW and the Bender ROW) to a single entry point creates a high-density and concentrated funnel that shifts recreational pressure rather than dispersing it.

- **Discrepancy in Authorized Vehicle Classes (E-Bikes):** The August 2026 private access easements granted to the City explicitly prohibit all classes of electric bicycles (e-bikes). However, the broader federal trail network is being designed and promoted for e-bikes. Opening a major federal network without a viable, legally compliant access plan creates an operational mismatch that will inevitably lead to illegal trespassing, unmanaged corridor use, and the displacement of pedestrians, hikers, and other traditional trail users who will no longer be able to safely share a corridor with unregulated e-bike traffic.

- **Unanalyzed Regional Network Expansion:** The 2024 plan evaluated isolated route designations. The current proposal acts as the foundational "gateway" for a multi-phase, regional network (connecting Fox Creek and broader Teton Front lands), effectively segmenting the construction impacts rather than analyzing the cumulative footprint at once.

III. DISSOLUTION OF FORMAL ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS

When the 2024 TMP was finalized through an Environmental Assessment (EA), the public was assured that subsequent site-specific construction would undergo rigorous federal environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Those formal safeguards no longer exist:

1. Shift to "CE-First" Standard: DOI and BLM administrative directives now heavily favor approving infrastructure projects via Categorical Exclusions (CEs) rather than conducting comprehensive EAs or Environmental Impact Statements (EISs).

2. Elimination of Mandatory Public Comment: By utilizing a Categorical Exclusion, the BLM bypasses mandatory public notice, formal public comment periods, and the requirement to evaluate reasonable alternatives.

3. Heightened Judicial Deference and Narrowed Review: Under current federal guidelines and recent judicial precedents like *Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County*, 605 U.S. 168 (2025), federal courts grant substantial deference to agencies on procedural choices. This posture encourages field offices to rely on streamlined administrative checklists rather than conducting robust, site-specific cumulative impact analyses.

IV. WHY THE BLM CANNOT BE RELIED UPON TO PROTECT LOCAL WILDLIFE

The Teton Front serves as **critical year-round habitat**, including vital winter range, birthing habitat, and movement corridors for elk, mule deer, moose, and protected apex predators. Historically, local communities relied on federal land managers to balance recreation with conservation. Today, the BLM's institutional mandate has shifted away from proactive resource protection for the following reasons:

- **Resource Allocation Prioritizes Infrastructure Development:** The BLM Upper Snake Field Office has explicitly partnered with trail advocacy groups (TVTAP and MBT) to expedite construction infrastructure, treating recreation expansion as the primary management objective.

- **No Post-Construction Wildlife Monitoring or Enforcement:** The BLM lacks the personnel and funding to enforce seasonal wildlife closures, monitor recreational displacement, or police prohibited uses (such as e-bike violations on restricted private connectors). The burden of enforcement is effectively offloaded onto local municipalities and private landowners.

- **Reliance on Internal Checklists Over Science:** Rather than conducting site-specific wildlife population studies or habitat fragmentation analyses, the BLM relies on standardized internal checklists to declare "no extraordinary circumstances," allowing heavy machinery to operate in sensitive habitat without formal mitigation.

V. CITY COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITY UNDER THE REENVISION VICTOR 2021 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Because federal environmental oversight can no longer be relied upon, local municipal policy becomes the vital line of defense. The ReEnvision Victor 2021 Comprehensive Plan (adopted Feb. 24, 2021, pursuant to Title 67, Chapter 65, Idaho Code) establishes clear goals to balance municipal infrastructure with habitat preservation:

- **Protecting Natural Habitat and Corridors:** The Comprehensive Plan explicitly establishes that new municipal infrastructure, access points, and development decisions must minimize impacts to natural resources, vital wildlife habitat, and critical migratory corridors.

- **Consistency with Adopted Community Values:** Under the Idaho Local Land Use Planning Act (LLUPA), the Comprehensive Plan serves as the City’s official statement of community values and land-use goals. While Idaho Code § 67-6511 specifically governs zoning decisions, the principles of the Comprehensive Plan represent the standard to which the City has committed itself. The Council must evaluate whether accepting access easements and executing MOUs supports or directly undermines these adopted goals.

- **Preventing Unmitigated Municipal Impacts:** Approving access easements that direct high-density recreation through sensitive areas without a comprehensive wildlife impact analysis directly contradicts the core principles of the 2021 Comprehensive Plan.

VI. CONCLUSION AND REQUEST TO CITY COUNCIL

The BLM is moving forward on the assumption that the City of Victor will provide the necessary municipal infrastructure, easements, and enforcement to make their trail network and recreation area

operational.

Because the current proposal differs fundamentally from what was analyzed in the 2024 Travel Management Plan, federal environmental safeguards have been substantially weakened, and the ReEnvision Victor 2021 Comprehensive Plan establishes a clear commitment to local resource protection, the Victor City Council must exercise its municipal authority.

We respectfully request that the City Council:

1. Pause all approvals regarding the Bender and Thomas easement acceptances and partner MOUs.

2. Require a formal municipal review evaluating the project's consistency with the wildlife, natural resource, and transportation goals of the ReEnvision Victor 2021 Comprehensive Plan.

3. Demand that BLM prepare a single, site-specific Environmental Assessment covering all four phases of the project as one connected action — not a series of piecemeal reviews — with full public comment and enforceable wildlife impact mitigation, before the City grants any public access connection to federal lands.

photo **Amy Brennan McCarthy**

A [redacted], Victor, Idaho 83455
M [redacted]

Create your own email signature

Outlook

(No subject)

From Chris Owen <[redacted]>
Date Wed 9/16/2026 10:38 AM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

This is the first time you received an email from this sender [redacted]. Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Dear Victor City Council,

My name is Chris Owen and I am the trails program manager for Friends of Pathways. I wanted to write in support of the public access easement connecting the AJ Linnell Trail to the BLM parcel. This will be my 20th year working on trails and I know the importance of key easements in connecting people to their public lands. I have had the pleasure of working with the great folks at TVTAP and MBT and know they will do a good job managing this access in the future. This will be a win for the town of Victor and the community. I also had the pleasure of working with AJ at NOLS and to compete against him in many bike races. I can't imagine a better way to honor him than providing meaningful and permanent public land access. I hope you will support this.

Thank you,

Chris

Chris Owen
Trails Program Manager
Friends of Pathways
[redacted]

Outlook

AJ Linnell Trail

From Maddie Pitts <[redacted]>
Date Thu 9/10/2026 8:54 AM
To Emily S <emilys@victoridaho.gov>; Amy R <amyr@victoridaho.gov>; Sue Muncaster <suem@victoridaho.gov>; Stacy Hulsing <stacyh@victoridaho.gov>; Victor Mayor <mayor@victoridaho.gov>
Cc Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

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Dear Mayor and Members of the Victor City Council,

I am writing in support of the steps necessary to establish the AJ Linnell Trail.

Specifically, I ask the City Council to:

- Accept the public access easements that would connect the AJ Linnell Trail to BLM public lands.
- Approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Victor, Mountain Bike the Tetons (MBT), and Teton Valley Trails and Pathways (TVTAP)
- Support a legal, planned, and responsible approach to public access and recreation that is consistent with the BLM's approved Travel Management Plan and with the City of Victor's commitment to providing and supporting recreational opportunities for the community.

The more people who have the opportunity to safely and responsibly experience the outdoors, the better. **Access to nature, trails, and outdoor recreation contributes to physical health, mental well-being, and a stronger connection to the place where we live. Increasing opportunities for people to get outside and be active is something I believe our community should stand behind.**

I have always been uncomfortable with the idea that public lands should be treated as though they belong exclusively to those who live closest to them or have historically used them. Public lands belong to all of us.

I understand and respect the concerns that come with increased recreation and potential overuse. Those concerns are real, particularly in a place like Teton Valley where we all see firsthand how quickly our outdoor spaces can become crowded. But I also strongly believe that the answer to those challenges should be responsible planning and management—not restricting access simply because more people want to enjoy public lands.

That is why I see the AJ Linnell Trail as an opportunity to strike the right balance. Formalizing access through easements and establishing clear stewardship responsibilities gives the City and its partners a framework to direct recreation appropriately, protect surrounding lands, and manage use responsibly.

It also allows public access to occur within the framework of the BLM's approved Travel Management Plan, rather than through informal or unmanaged use.

I hope the Council will recognize the value of approving these measures.

Thank you for your consideration and for your work on behalf of the Victor community.

Sincerely,

Maddie Pitts

[redacted]
Victor, Idaho 83455

Outlook

AJ Linnell trail easements

From Dan Powers <[redacted]>
Date Thu 9/10/2026 11:42 AM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

1 attachment (13 KB)
AJ Easement letter.docx;

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Hi Michelle. Please accept the attached comment letter in support of the AJ trail easements and associated MOU.

Sincerely,
Dan Powers

--
Teton County Commissioner
Dan Powers
[redacted]

Outlook

Please Approve the Public Access Easement & MOU for the AJ Trail

From IRIS SAXER [redacted] >
Date Tue 9/15/2026 3:02 AM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

This is the first time you received an email from this sender ([redacted]). Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Dear Mayor Muncaster and City Council Members,

My name is Iris Saxer, and I am a resident and homeowner in old town Victor. I am writing in support of the City accepting and holding the public access easements and MOU associated with the AJ Linnell Trail to create an accessible trail network for all Victor residents.

Public access to public lands is important to me because I hike, bike, and walk my dog regularly. Our wild lands and trails are a big reason that I settled in Victor. As new housing developments continue to pop up, we are losing more and more of our access to get into the wilderness often requiring people to drive and park at trailheads miles from city center. It is rare that a private landowner offers a public easement to benefit the whole community. We are so lucky to have this opportunity to increase access to our foothills and mountain trails so we can continue to recreate within walking distance of downtown Victor.

As housing density continues to increase in Victor, we need ways for people to get on the trails without having to drive to access it. Highway 33 through Victor is already too busy. If I can bike or walk out to a local trail rather than driving to Teton Canyon or elsewhere, that removes cars from the road. The trail has been built with so much community energy, input and love. It has passed all of the studies, permits, and negotiations so now it is primed to be a truly valuable asset to all of us. This trail will benefit current and future residents - including those who are opposing it. Growth will impact us all so rather than just opposing every new opportunity, it is important to look at ways to mitigate concerns but do what will benefit the most people in Victor rather than just the loudest few. Public lands belong to all of us, but if we can't access it, then it becomes the domain of the few connected people.

The generous offer of a public easement by a private landowner is something Victor should embrace and approve.

The City's acceptance of these easements is consistent with its comprehensive plan to support recreational opportunities for the community. Facilitating formal access to public lands and encouraging responsible stewardship for these lands are important to the growth and health of the community and surrounding landscape. Please don't let a few residents screaming NIMBY derail such an important asset to the whole community.

I respectfully ask the City Council to accept and hold the AJ Linnell public access easements, approve the MOU and support this opportunity to provide lasting public access to public lands for the good of the broader community.

Thank you.

Iris Saxer

Outlook

the AJ Linnell Trail and Public Access

From Ann Schorling [redacted] >
Date Wed 9/9/2026 3:59 PM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

EXTERNAL EMAIL - This email was sent by a person from outside your organization. Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

My name is Ann Schorling, and I have been a full-time resident of Victor since 2010. I am writing to express my strong support of the City accepting and holding the public access easement(s) and MOU associated with the AJ Linnell Trail.

I live in Victor and love to live here because of the wonderful public access to public lands and the many places to go. As more and more people move to and visit the valley with the same aspirations as me, we expand into more areas. Managed public access enables us to concentrate use, avoid informally generated trails, and ultimately protect the places we love. Building the AJ trail will create earlier access to biking and hiking in the spring, create another bikeable trail system in Victor, and ultimately support the community and the tourism on which we depend.

The City's acceptance of these easements is consistent with its comprehensive plan to support recreational opportunities for the community. Facilitating formal access to public lands and encouraging responsible stewardship for these lands are important to the growth and health of the community and surrounding landscape.

I respectfully ask the City Council to accept and hold the AJ Linnell public access easement(s), approve the MOU and support this opportunity to provide lasting public access to public lands for the good of the broader community. The hard work of assessing the plan, working with the BLM, working with Idaho Fish and Game, coordinating with the respective landowners has already been done. Please do not undo all of this wonderful work to create more access in our community because of a few, loud dissenters.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to the wellbeing of this community and its future.

Sincerely,

Ann Schorling

Outlook

trail construction and use on the BLM land accessed from Mountainside Village

From Jonathan Selkowitz [redacted]>
Date Wed 9/16/2026 3:06 PM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

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To Mayor Muncaster and the Victor City Council,

This letter is in response to councilwoman Amy Ross's inquiry during the August 12, 2026 City Council meeting as to why I have changed my position on the proposed biking trails extending from the top of the AJ Linnell Trail which ends at the northeast corner of Mountainside Village.

I have been a Mountainside Village resident since 2012 and frequently hike through the woods and hills where the new trails are proposed to be built. I also enjoy mountain biking on the trail networks around Teton Valley, especially those in the Southern Valley Recreation Area extending from the Mike Harris camp ground as originally envisioned by AJ Linnell. Prior to the creation of the Southern Valley Trails, I was eager to have a new option to bike above my neighborhood and beyond. I now realize how important this Teton Front area is for wildlife, as I have seen how many animals are up there. I have learned how the speed and distance covered by mountain bikers exponentially impacts wildlife as noted below from Backcountryhunters.org and High Country News.

- **Flight and Avoidance Distances:** Data cited in local management plans, including the **Vail Open Lands Plan**, shows that wildlife reacts differently to various trail users. While hikers may cause animals to flee at distances up to 400–600 meters, **mountain bikers can cause a flight response up to 750–1,500 meters away**. Because mountain bikers move faster and quieter, they trigger stronger "startle" or anti-predator responses. [1, 2, 3, 4]
- **Spatial Footprint:** Because a mountain biker covers significantly more distance in a single session than a hiker, a single cyclist creates a **much larger spatial footprint of disruption** per unit of time, effectively driving sensitive species out of vital security cover and alpine meadows. [1, 2, 3]

I am grateful for the abundance of existing mountain bike trails in Teton Valley, and am concerned by the hyper enthusiasm for more and more recreational opportunities without concern for the the animals that are the true locals in this valley. This storyline reminds me of Dr Seuss's book The Lorax in the way society's ever increasing blind quest for product (thneeds) results in a world void of what originally made that place so special and healthy.

I am all for public access to the BLM land from the top of the Mountainside Village AJ Linnell Trail. This idea originally put forth by the Bender and Thal families is admirable and generous. Hopefully this

access can be realized in a manner that is most sensitive to the wildlife that thrive in this tendril of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. How about slow pedestrian trails rather than flow trails?

Thank you for your time and service to our community.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Selkowitz

Outlook

Letter re AJ Linnell Trail easements

From Billie Siddoway <[redacted]>
Date Mon 9/14/2026 4:25 PM
To Sue Muncaster <suem@victoridaho.gov>
Cc Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

1 attachment (490 KB)
doc06150820260914155515.pdf;

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Dear Mayor,

Please see the attached letter from the Teton County Board of Commissioners. I'll drop the original at the office.

Best regards,

Billie

Billie Jean Siddoway
County Administrator
Office: [phone redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[address redacted] | [address redacted]

Teton County Commissioners

150 Courthouse Drive | Driggs, ID 83422 | bocc@tetoncountyidaho.gov

September 14, 2026

Mayor and Council
City of Victor
[address redacted] Suite 201
[address redacted]

Dear Mayor Muncaster and Councilors,

The Teton County Board of County Commissioners fully supports the adoption of the two easements connecting the AJ Linnell Trail to the adjacent BLM lands. Securing legal access to public lands is highly valued across our community, and opportunities to formally establish such access are rare. Teton Valley residents deeply appreciate outdoor recreation, and Victor residents in particular will benefit from this enhanced proximity to public lands.

The new trails accessed by these easements have been adopted in a revised BLM travel plan, which underwent the full Environmental Assessment (EA) process mandated by NEPA. Trails to connect to a proposed Fox Creek trailhead are not included in that Travel Plan update, and should require their own EA.

We also support the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Victor, Mountain Bike Tetons (MBT), and Teton Valley Trails and Pathways (TVTAP). The trails accessible via these new easements will replace an informal network of user-created trails, providing structured stewardship, predictable maintenance, and improved environmental oversight.

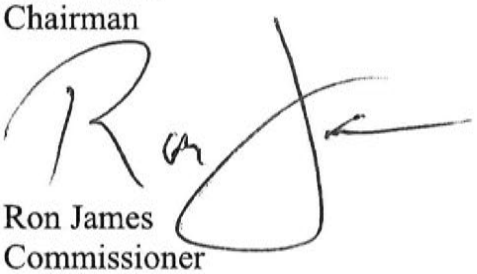
Accordingly, we respectfully ask that you accept the public access easements connecting the AJ Linnell Trail to adjacent BLM lands and approve the MOU for ongoing stewardship and management.

Thank you for your service and consideration of our views.

Sincerely,



Brad Wolfe
Chairman



Ron James
Commissioner



Dan Powers
Commissioner

Outlook

AJ Lindell Trails Project

From Peter Thurston <[redacted]
Date Wed 9/16/2026 5:36 AM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

This is the first time you received an email from this sender ([redacted]). Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Dear Mayor Muncaster,
I would like to express my support for all the work that Mountain Bike The Tetons has done to create new bike trails connecting the AJ Lindell trail to adjacent public lands. The MTN community is growing rapidly and these new trails will provide a much needed addition to local riding options.

I encourage the Victor city council to accept the public access easements that connect the AJ trail to public lands and approve the MOU between the City of Victor, TVTAP and MBT. Teton Valley will clearly benefit from a planned and responsible approach to these trails and the legal framework that ensures sustained public access into the future.

Thank You,
Peter Thurston
[redacted]
Driggs

Outlook

in support of the AJ Trail

From Sarah Vlach <[redacted]>
Date Thu 9/10/2026 9:53 AM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

This is the first time you received an email from this sender [redacted]). Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

My name is Sarah Vlach and I am a resident of Victor Idaho (just outside city limits by Pole Canyon). I am writing in support of the City accepting and holding the public access easement(s) and MOU associated with the AJ Linnell Trail.

Public access to public lands is important to me because I believe in creating and sustaining a community that supports wild lands and access for all.

The City's acceptance of these easements is consistent with its comprehensive plan to support recreational opportunities for the community. Facilitating formal access to public lands and encouraging responsible stewardship for these lands are important to the growth and health of the community and surrounding landscape.

I respectfully ask the City Council to accept and hold the AJ Linnell public access easement(s), approve the MOU and support this opportunity to provide lasting public access to public lands for the good of the broader community.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to the wellbeing of this community and its future.

Sincerely,

Sarah Vlach MD

Outlook

BLM / AJ Linnell Trails

From Astrid Warden [redacted] >
Date Tue 9/15/2026 4:46 PM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>

This is the first time you received an email from this sender ([redacted]). Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Dear Mayor Muncaster and the Victor City Council,

Responsible recreation access to public lands matters to me and our community. I ask the City Council to:

- Accept the public access easements connecting the AJ Linnell Trail to BLM lands.
- Approve the MOU between the City of Victor, MBT, and TVTAP.
- Support a legal, planned, and responsible approach to public access and recreation close to town.

Thank you for your time and for considering this input.

Sincerely,
Astrid Warden
[redacted]

Outlook

MOU for access to BLM lands

From Todd Warden [redacted]
Date Tue 9/15/2026 2:53 PM
To Michelle Smith <michelles@victoridaho.gov>
Cc Todd Warden <[redacted]

This is the first time you received an email from this sender ([redacted]). Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Dear Mayor Muncaster and the Victor City Council,

Responsible recreation access to public lands matter to me and our community. I am writing in support of accepting the public access easements connecting the AJ Linnell Trail to the BLM lands up above town. Please approve the MOU between the City of Victor, MBT and TVTAP that support legal, planned and responsible public access and recreation close to town. MBT and TVTAP are two of our most respected non-profits in the valley, with a long history of partnership in building our incredible trail network.

Respectfully,

Todd E Warden