

Bridger Canyon Property Owners Association Attn: Tom Fiddaman 1070 Bridger Woods Rd Bozeman MT 59715

December 5, 2006

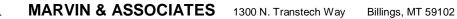
## Re: Bridger Canyon Partners Base Area Development TIS Review

Dear Tom:

I have reviewed the information you provided relative to the Bridger Canyon Partners' Base Area Development Traffic Impact Study (TIS). I also inspected pertinent transportation sections of the Bridger Bowl Master Plan EIS. Although my review was not extensive, I am able to provide you with my general impressions of the study's composition and value in assessing transportation impacts on the Highway 86 corridor in the following narratives.

The trip generation characteristics of the proposed development appear to be consistent with accepted standards and the assumptions regarding internal capture trips seem to be reasonable, if not conservative. The principal of providing on-site accommodations to reduce the number of external trips on Highway 86 to Bozeman is representative of good Transportation Demand Management practices and is well accounted for within the TIS report. Even though a wealth of information on trip generation is provided in the report, the actual traffic volume assignment on the Highway 86 corridor was not entirely clear. From the trip generation and distribution discussions in the report I was able to calculate that there would be approximately 1,765 external trips to and from the development on the average weekday (AWT), with 149 during the peak pm hour. Of those external trips, approximately 1,660 AWT and 140 pm hour trips would be directed to and from the south on Highway 86. South of Jackson Creek Road, to and from Bozeman, there would be approximately 1,465 AWT and 124 pm hour trips. Since the average annual daily traffic (AADT) on Highway 86 is currently about 2,000, the development would have significant volume impacts on the AADT, if not on the peak pm hour winter volumes.

Because of the number and variety of traffic data sources quoted and extrapolated upon within the TIS study, it was not clear what existing and planned traffic volume conditions were being analyzed as a part of the study. I could not find a statement or figure that clearly stated the exact volume numbers being analyzed. I can only assume that the study based all traffic growth on a 4% annual rate, which may be a valid assumption considering the time lag experienced in planned developments and the highly variable nature of historic traffic growth. Site development traffic assignment numbers would have then been added to background traffic increases. A check of capacity calculations for





the 2015 peak pm hour traffic volumes at the Jackson Creek Road – Highway 86 intersection, appears to support my assumptions.

Capacity calculation summaries for 4 intersections on Highway 86 were presented within the report and mitigation measures were presented for the movements that would be substantially impacted. One thing that was missing from the analysis was the two-lane highway capacity calculations for Highway 86. This would appear to be a critical issue considering that current design hour volumes for weekend ski days are approximately 35% of the AADT. Having performed impact studies for several ski areas in Montana, I know that this is a critical issue and I fully expected to see a very detailed summary of capacity variations along the corridor. I was also surprised to see that the Bridger Bowl EIS did not contain highway capacity calculations for the corridor either.

In order to determine if this would have been a critical issue, I completed HCS Two-lane Highway Capacity calculations for existing and year 2012 traffic volumes. Existing design hour volumes are 700 vph and calculated 2012 volumes used in the capacity analysis were 1,000 vph. The MDT documented peak pm hour directional split for this traffic was 24%/76% and MDT's records indicated that trucks traffic is approximately 6%. Without the benefit of other documented data, assumptions were made to complete the analysis (attached). It was determined that the existing level of service (LOS) would be "C" and that the year 2012 traffic conditions would result in LOS "D" on the highway corridor.

Generally, my only concerns with the study deal with the report's lack of clarity and the fact that no attempt was made to address operations along the entire Highway 86 corridor. If additional information or evaluation is required, feel free to contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elis R. Marin

Robert R. Marvin, P.E., P.T.O.E.

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