

NEWS RELEASE
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Resolution Benefits Montana Horsemen and Economy; Transportation and Recreation Planning Targeted

The Gallatin Equestrian Partnership (GalleEP) of Gallatin County, MT successfully led an effort to pass a statewide resolution encouraging the consideration of equine activities in community transportation and recreation planning. The effort began when equine activities such as riding and driving were left out of Bozeman's Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails plan and the Greater Bozeman Transportation Plan Update. GalleEP worked for months with the committees producing both plans, but were unsuccessful in their efforts. As a result, horses are not allowed on any City of Bozeman trails, and rural road travel is becoming increasingly unsafe as roads are being paved with no shoulder while traffic volumes and speeds increase.

Undeterred, the GalleEP leaders were able to enlist the help of Senator Gary Perry (R of Senate District 35), who recognized the historical, cultural and economic importance of horses to the State of Montana. Perry sponsored a resolution that recommends city, county and state officials plan for safe equestrian access when planning and designing transportation and recreation corridors. Final language for the resolution can be found at [http://laws.leg.mt.gov/laws09/law0203w\\$.startup](http://laws.leg.mt.gov/laws09/law0203w$.startup) . Type in resolution # SJ17.

GalleEP received assistance in gathering grassroots support for this resolution from the Equine Land Conservation Resource of Lexington, KY, the Montana Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen and the Montana Horse Sanctuary. The approved resolution has been sent to Montana Department of Transportation for its consideration and to the Montana League of Cities and Towns and the Montana Association of Counties for distribution to their members.

For more information about the Montana resolution, visit www.GalleEPmt.org or email gallepmt@yahoo.com. If you would like to pursue a similar resolution in your state, contact ELCR at www.ELCR.org or email info@ELCR.org

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About the Equine Land Conservation Resource:

The Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR), the only national not-for-profit organization advancing the conservation of land for horse-related activity, serves as a clearinghouse and educational resource on issues related to land conservation, land stewardship, comprehensive land use planning, and trails. For more information, visit www.ELCR.org or email info@ELCR.org

About Gallatin Equestrian Partnership (GalleP):

GalleP is helping to safeguard Gallatin Valley's western heritage by restoring their vanishing equestrian landscape. Their mission is to serve as advocates to educate and unite equestrians and the community to enhance opportunities for equestrian activities. They are working to establish equestrian trails through cooperative efforts with government agencies, other non-profits, and landowners and to create an equestrian park serving diverse equestrian needs in the Gallatin Valley and the larger region.