

Benefits of a Path from Belgrade to Bozeman

The proposed paved, multi-use path connecting the cities of Belgrade and Bozeman along Frontage Road has numerous advantages for the community, creating non-motorized transportation options and recreation opportunities. View the full report for complete methods and analysis:

<https://headwaterseconomics.org/economic-development/trails-pathways/benefits-of-a-frontage-path>

✓Public Health & Safety

\$21,930,000

A separated, shared-use path will improve safety for bicyclists and pedestrians, avoiding an estimated 18 crashes involving pedestrians and bicyclists on Frontage Road in the first 20 years. The path would also improve health from increased physical activity of residents.

✓Economic Benefits

qualitative

Numerous studies show that proximity to trails can increase private property values by 5-10%. Businesses also find trails have positive impacts on shopper traffic and spending. Bike routes to airports are also an increasing trend for workers and travelers.

✓Environmental Sustainability

\$978,000

Creating a safe, scenic non-motorized transportation option and commuter route for residents in Belgrade and Bozeman will eliminate an estimated 34,450 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions during the next 20 years, the equivalent of removing around 1,700 cars.

✓Quality of Life

\$81,000

Research shows that residents who live near trails highly value opportunities to meet neighbors, recreate with families outdoors, and engage in social interaction. By connecting Belgrade and Bozeman, we estimate that bicycle and pedestrian use of the route will increase by approximately 3,200 new users per year.

✓Community Planning Priorities

qualitative

Community transportation and trail planning documents for Gallatin County, City of Belgrade, City of Bozeman, and Montana Department of Transportation all explicitly rank the proposed pathway as a high priority.

Total Monetary Value

\$22.9 Million +

This figure likely underestimates the proposed path's total value, since many benefits are unquantifiable, but greatly impact community safety, access, and socioeconomic opportunities.



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[Headwaters Economics](https://headwaterseconomics.org) is an independent, nonprofit research group whose mission is to improve community development and land management decisions.

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