Dear {{FirstName,DefaultTo=Supporter}},

Wyoming Pathways hopes all of you are enjoying a wonderful holiday season, with time to get outside with friends and family for your favorite active fun in the snow. We wanted to take a moment to thank you again for your support, and summarize the work your donations enable us to do. With the start of 2020 just around the corner, it’s also a good time to look ahead at our projects planned in the New Year.

On behalf of the board and staff, wishing you a very Happy New Year, filled with great walks, long hikes and many fun bike rides, and most of all our hopes for active healthy lives for all in Wyoming.

Tim Young, Executive Director

Thanks for Your Support - There's Still Time for Year-End Giving!

The financial support we receive from you is critical for Wyoming Pathways to continue to be your statewide advocate for better biking and walking policies and infrastructure in Wyoming communities.

There are still a few days left to make a gift to our organization that will help propel us to even greater heights in 2020. Even if you cannot make a financial gift, please consider supporting us as a Facebook follower, sign up for our email list, or simply by letting your friends and family know about Wyoming Pathways and what we do for Wyoming.

We literally cannot do what we do without your help, both financially and by taking action at critical times. By making your voice heard on important bike-walk-trail issues in your community and statewide, you help us improve Wyoming for everyone.

Please consider donating before the end of the year. We have big plans for 2020 (see below) and the dollars you entrust to Wyoming Pathways will be well-spent toward making the state a better place to live and recreate in.
To support Wyoming Pathways in a general way, you can do so here: https://www.wyopath.org/become-a-wyoming-pathways-member-or-partner/. If you want to provide support directly to the Pole Mountain Trails Project, you can do so here: https://www.wyopath.org/our-work/pathways-projects/pole-mountain-trail-project/.

Select 2019 Highlights:

Legislature. Wyoming Pathways helped explain and support Senate File 81, the E-Bike Bill, which the Wyoming Legislature passed and was signed into law. The statute defines e-bike classes, gives communities tools to manage the use, and generally treats users of electric-assist bikes in the same way as a standard bicycle. E-bike use is increasing around Wyoming for practical transportation and recreation trips.

DC Support. March is always the National Bike Summit in Washington DC, when bike advocates from around the country visit their representatives. Director Tim Young made the trip to visit with the Wyoming Delegation, to convey current issues and needs facing Wyoming communities, and discuss options to improve federal support for biking and walking.

Wyoming Pathways commends U.S. Senator John Barrasso, Chairman of the EPW Committee, on his success in moving a major Transportation Bill with a bipartisan 21-0 vote - well done! The bill contains important increases in funding for biking and walking and trail facilities for Wyoming. Congress’ work on the Transportation bill will continue in 2020.

Training Engineers. Wyoming Pathways secured a FHWA grant and partnered with UW Technology Transfer Center to host a Bicycle and Pedestrian Design training for engineers and professionals. Toole Design led the class with best practices in design for 80 attendees from WYDOT and cities around Wyoming.

Community Trail Planning. In April, Wyoming Pathways and partner UW Ruckleshaus Institute hosted the Lander Trail Charrette, a day and a half of meetings to gather public input and share land agency updates on trails both current and possible. The planning recommendations will help guide future work to improve Lander’s close-to-home trail networks.

Trail Building! Wyoming Pathways Trail Building Partnership Program continued to expand, with three major trail projects undertaken. Partnering with the Laramie Ranger District, one mile of the Aspen Trail on Pole Mountain Trails was restored, and volunteers continued to support enhanced trails. On Togwotee Pass, we helped the Shoshone with starting construction on a brand-new section of the famous Continental Divide Trail that will offer a great new hiking/biking trail experience just west of Dubois. The third project was building the Brewers Trail Bridge in Sinks Canyon to span the swift Enterprise Ditch.

Looking Ahead to 2020:
Wyoming Pathways plans to keep the “people-powered” momentum going forward into the new decade. We plan to continue our partnerships around the state, with ongoing projects like the Pole Mountain Trail Project, the Togwotee Pass CDT, plus new family-friendly trails at Johnny Behind the Rocks for the Lander BLM, continued work on the Greater Yellowstone Trail and much more. Working with our partners and friends throughout the state, here are a few of the things we have on our plate for 2020:

**SAVE THE DATE** - June 17-18 in Casper, WY for the 2020 Wyoming Active Transportation/Bike Walk Trails Statewide Summit. Wyoming Pathways and Platte River Trails will again host a gathering of bicycle and community advocates from around the state to network and learn from national experts on best practices to create active healthy communities. This is Wyoming’s premier event to promote active transportation and people-powered outdoor recreation. As always, our aim is to bring together Wyoming Elected Leaders, Transportation & Recreation Leaders, Public Health Practitioners, Tourism Professionals, Engineers, Biking, Walking, & Trail Advocates and all those interested in learning how active transportation and people-powered outdoor recreation can help Wyoming communities prosper. Be on the lookout for details about the Summit in the coming weeks on our Facebook pages and websites, and we hope you can attend and participate.

**2020 Wyoming Legislative Session** - Wyoming Pathways will be watching the session and helping promote bills that are helpful to biking and walking issues, working so that legislators understand the value that improved policies can bring to Wyoming. This being an even-numbered year, the Legislature will be convening a Budget Session beginning on the second Monday of February, the 10th. Two bills we’ll be following this session include a proposed $0.03 fuel tax increase, which we see as critical for WYDOT to continue to keep our roads maintained, including for bicycle use. The second bill of interest would create a Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund, and provide for private contributions to build up the fund. While there is not state funding being considered at this time, eventually an Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund would present funding opportunities for nonmotorized trails and access. We will do our best to keep you advised and ask for your input on any legislation that could impact biking and walking throughout the session.

**Trail Building 2020 = Four improved trails and a new Thermopolis Plan!**

**The 2020 Pole Mountain Trail Project** – Building on three years completed on the award-winning Pole Mountain Trail Project, we look forward to a big 2020, hopefully to finish the Aspen Trail reroutes and complete major repairs to the Haunted Forest Trail. Wyoming Pathways is seeking a $50,000 Recreational Trails Project (RTP) Grant for 2020 and if successful we’ll contract with a professional trail builder and the Wyoming Conservation Corps to continue to improve the trails at Pole Mountain. This partnership project with the Laramie Ranger District project envisions a world-class trail system serving people in Laramie, Cheyenne and travelers visiting Wyoming. You can keep up with the latest on the Pole Mountain Trail Project on the project page on our website: [https://www.wyopath.org/our-work/pathways-projects/pole-mountain-trail-project/](https://www.wyopath.org/our-work/pathways-projects/pole-mountain-trail-project/)
**New Togwotee Pass Continental Divide Trail Section** – Wyoming Pathways jumped at the chance to assist the Shoshone National Forest to help with a new section of the famous Continental Divide Trail near Togwotee Pass. The new trail will follow a much more scenic route from Togwotee Pass over Sublette Pass, with big views to Brooks Lake and the Pinnacles. Wyoming Pathways helped to lay out the revised trail section in 2019 and start construction. We plan to return next summer with a professional trail crew to complete this awesome addition to the CDT. You will be able to stay updated on the project in 2020 on our website: [https://www.wyopath.org/our-work/pathways-projects/togwotee-pass-continental-divide-trail-project/](https://www.wyopath.org/our-work/pathways-projects/togwotee-pass-continental-divide-trail-project/)

**Johnny Behind the Rocks Trail Expansion** – In 2018, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the managing agency for the iconic Johnny Behind the Rocks (JBR) trail system near Lander, WY, approved a plan for a future 60+ miles of trails there. Our local partner, Lander Cycling has been busy improving the trails at JBR for many years and Wyoming Pathways hopes to work even more closely with them and the Lander BLM on a partnership project in 2020 to build a family-friendly beginner trail. As soon as we have additional information about the new trail, we will post information on our website, so please check regularly for details.

**Upper Brewer's Trail Bridge** - The bridge across the Enterprise Ditch along the Upper Brewer's Trail in Sinks Canyon was installed this past October, but a bit of finishing work remains to be done. We will be working with the US Forest Service and a local contractor to add ramps to each end of the bridge to make it a more useful resource for trail users. The Upper Brewer's Trail has become a gem of the Sinks Canyon trail system and is now a must hike/ride for all trail users visiting the area. You can keep up with the latest on the Upper Brewer's Trail Bridge Project on our website at: [https://www.wyopath.org/our-work/pathways-projects/lander-sinks-canyon-brewers-trail-extension-project/](https://www.wyopath.org/our-work/pathways-projects/lander-sinks-canyon-brewers-trail-extension-project/)

**Thermopolis Trail Plan**. Along with world-famous hot springs, Thermopolis envisions creating a trail system to offer visitors the option to stay an extra day to mountain bike and hike on a well-designed trail system. Wyoming Pathways is partnering with the City leaders and seeking a grant to fund a professional community trail assessment to map out the options and priorities.

**Ride the Greater Yellowstone Trail (GYT)** - The GYT is becoming a 180-mile regional trail gem and a cycling tourism destination that benefits the Wyoming, Idaho and Montana communities it passes through. Wyoming Pathways and the City of Driggs hosted a stakeholders meeting this past October to share updates and support for the project sections underway. Several sections of the GYT will move forward in 2020. On the north end, West Yellowstone will reconnect a rail-trail along the old Yellowstone Rail line from downtown West to the Idaho
border. Pathway construction will finally get started on the Teton Pass section between Wilson and Victor, a project Wyoming Pathways has been helping with for years. There remains more miles of pathway to be built and Wyoming Pathways will continue its commitment to moving this project forward and keeping you appraised of the progress. You can keep up with the latest on the GYT project on our website at: https://www.wyopath.org/our-work/pathways-projects/greater-yellowstone-trail/

**New Projects TBD -** Part of Wyoming Pathways’ mission is to help communities become better, healthier and safer places to live through improving and promoting biking and walking. We are constantly on the lookout for opportunities to do that, and we can use your help to reach out and keep us informed and tell us how we can help. If you have questions about biking and walking and trails, pathways and safe streets in your community, please be sure to contact us. You can do so by email (info@wyopath.org), by using the contact form on our website or contacting us on Facebook. We will always get back to you and do our best to help.

...and of particular interest to those of you who want to see Wyoming be the best biking and walking state it can be, this should be a call to action:

**The League of American Bicyclists Releases 2019 Bicycle Friendly State Progress Report.**

The new report on all states gives last place to Wyoming. It’s not pretty, but is a strong reminder that there is more work to be done to realize the many benefits of biking and walking.

The 2019 ranking by the 139-year old nationwide advocacy group gave Wyoming a D- in infrastructure and funding, a D+ for policies and programs, C- for both education and planning and a C+ for legislation and enforcement.

The Report shows that Wyoming has not consistently shown a commitment to improving bicycling, a point reinforced by the trend over the past decade.

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<th>Bicycle Friendly State Report – Wyoming Ranking past Decade</th>
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This does not mean that progress is not being made to make Wyoming a more bicycle friendly state, but rather that it has dropped behind other states’ efforts.

On the positive side, the Wyoming State Legislature’s Bicycle and Pedestrian System Report outlines significant benefits that can be realized by Wyoming communities by enhancing walking and bicycling options. Wyoming Pathways is committed to working with the Wyoming Department of Transportation to support implementing the recommendations in the report, which would go a long way toward improving Wyoming’s ranking.

To realize these economic, health, quality of life, and safety benefits, the Report recommends the state invest $10 million annually in statewide infrastructure for active transportation and recreation, as well as a slew of ideas meant to boost the economic and physical health of communities across Wyoming. The report is available at www.wyomingbusiness.org/bicycle.
The Bicycle Friendly States ranking is based on a comprehensive survey completed by state departments of transportation and state bicycling advocates. For more information, visit bikeleague.org/states.

What's Happening with our Partners - Some of our partner organizations have recently released newsletters/articles that may be of interest to you as well:

Cheyenne Mountain Bike Club - Website
Common Outdoor Ground - Website
Friends of Pathways - Blog
IMBA - Press
Keep It Public, Wyoming - Website
Laramie BikeNet - Website
Mountain Bike the Tetons - Website, Facebook, Newsletter Archive
NCBW - Newsletter Archive
Park County Pedalers - Website
People For Bikes - Blog
Platte River Trails - Website
Rails to Trails Conservancy - Blog
Safe Routes to School - Blog, Blog Archive, E-News Archive
Sheridan Community Land Trust - Website, Newsletters
Sweetwater Mountain Bike Association - Website

We hope that you find this information useful and will take action to make Wyoming a better and safer place to bike and walk. If you have any suggestions for improvement, please be sure to contact us and please also consider becoming a Wyoming Pathways member or partner.

Sincerely,

Tim Young
Executive Director
Wyoming Pathways

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