

Memorandum

To: Mayor and Council
From: Tom Baker, Town Administrator
Date: October 18, 2016
Re: RFMBA Request for Letter of Support and Funding for Partner Match

Purpose: The purpose of this item is two-fold: First, to seek authorization for the Mayor to sign the attached letter of support for the South Canyon Trail Plan – construction of phase 1. Additionally, RFMBA is seeking a partnership match of \$5,000 from the Town of New Castle.

Background and Discussion: The Town of New Castle, New Castle Trail and the Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association (RFMBA) have mutually benefited from the collaboration we have all undertaken with the development of the BLM trails, soft trails in town, and the Pump Track. The Council and staff are aware of the economic, health, and quality of life benefits that are derived from having a trail system available to the community – literally at our doorstep.

This summer the Town of New Castle submitted a CDOT TAP grant to fund planning for the LOVA trail from South Canyon to Canyon Creek. In order for us to successfully submit that grant we needed a partnership to build matching funds and to show regional importance and collaboration. Greg Russi wrote the TAP grant and recruited a regional partnership for both funding (\$5,000 from each partner) and collaboration – LiveWell, RFTA, GarCo, Glenwood Springs, New Castle.

RFMBA is bringing New Castle another opportunity to participate in creating trails for our future. As you may know, a coalition of entities have been planning the South Canyon Trail network and are now prepared to begin construction of phase 1. While not yet directly connected to New Castle, South Canyon trails will complement our BLM trail network once the LOVA trail is complete between GWS and NC. RFMBA is submitting a Colorado Parks and Wildlife grant for \$188,000. They have grant partners as follows:

- City of Glenwood Springs \$30,000
- Garfield County \$15,000
- Alpine Bank \$10,000
- RFMBA \$10,000

RFMBA is requesting the Town of New Castle become a partner and provide \$5,000 toward this grant.

Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of the letter of support and the \$5,000 partner match. The funding for the partner match can be taken from the Conservation Trust Fund.

Note: RFMBA and NCT will come to the November 1st Council meeting and update Council on the BLM trails work, Pump Track work, and South Canyon trail network.

**Town of New Castle**

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October 18, 2016

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Division Trails Program
13787 S. Hwy 85
Littleton, CO 80125

Re: South Canyon Trails Plan - Support for State Trails Grant

To Whom It May Concern:

Over the past years, the Town of New Castle has benefited from the knowledge sharing and volunteer coordination efforts of The Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association (RFMBA). RFMBA has coordinated a Better Living Through Trails presentation and Trail Building School for our community and has been an instrumental partner in addressing the future of high quality trails on public lands in and adjacent to New Castle. Given our ongoing support for planning of the Lower Valley (LoVa) regional trail system, we are now pleased to support RFMBA's efforts to develop the South Canyon Trails Plan. The paved LoVa Trail will one day connect New Castle directly to the planned soft surface trails in South Canyon. In the meantime, New Castle residents will be able to access South Canyon by just a short drive on I-70.

In recognition of the value that this trail system will provide to our immediate region, New Castle supports RFMBA's efforts to fund and manage the initial phase of construction for the trail system. The future value of this trails system will be to the benefit of our community's overall health and wellness via increased high quality recreation opportunities. The proposed South Canyon Trail System will be seen as a positive development, and even a deciding factor, for those future residents and businesses that decide to move to New Castle.

The Town of New Castle is pleased to support this project in concert with RFMBA, Glenwood Springs, and Garfield County. We are committing \$5,000 of matching funds towards this grant, and will also look forward to assisting with future phase development of the South Canyon Trails Plan. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Art Riddle
Town of New Castle, Town Council, Mayor