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June 1, 2020

To: Ketchum Mayor Bradshaw & City Council members

RE: Opening Fourth Street for People

Dear Mayor Bradshaw and members of the Ketchum City Council,

The Idaho Walk Bike Alliance, Idaho's statewide advocacy group for walking and bicycling safety, strongly supports the City of Ketchum closing Fourth Street between Walnut and Leadville Avenues to motor vehicles and opening it to people. By opening the street to people walking and bicycling, you follow CDC guidelines of remaining six feet apart from one another which means avoiding overcrowded areas. This includes trails, parks, pathways and even sidewalks where overcrowding occurs quickly with narrow spaces.

As you know, Governor Little has encouraged Idahoans to continue to exercise outdoors and at the same time remain at least six feet from each other. As our weather heats up, people will seek more ways to be outside. While we all need to take personal responsibility for our behavior, the infrastructure dictates our ability to do so as people look for ways to be outside. Many trails will quickly become congested with bikers and walkers, allowing little space to maintain six feet. Because so much public land in Idaho's communities is roadways, Ketchum is presented with a great opportunity to help us achieve Governor Little's goal of staying six feet apart.

Communities all over the world have opened streets to people who desperately want to be outdoors during this unusual time for physical, emotional and spiritual health. For example, in [Edmonds, WA](#) the city opened Sunset Avenue for pedestrians to use. [Charlotte, NC](#) closed streets to motor vehicles in order to create Shared Streets, as did [Des Moines, IA](#). For a complete list, please visit this [website](#).

We believe that social distancing will be the norm for a long time; [according to Governor Little, social distancing is here to stay](#). This is the perfect time for you to be seen as a leader in bicycle and pedestrian safety and accessibility throughout Idaho.

We applaud your effort.

Best Regards,

Cynthia Gibson
Executive Director

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