I would love to see the bike trail initiative pass in our wonderful community. These trails would enrich an already wonderful landscape and bring many opportunities to the town of Mena. These benefits from the implementation are both extrinsic and intrinsic. I would like to highlight the main benefits that we, the people of Mena, see as the most important:

1. Economic Growth: The project will increase revenue through property taxes, attracting tourists and new residents to Mena, thus boosting local businesses.
2. Physical Health: Access to these trails will encourage outdoor activities, promoting physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle among our students and families.
3. Mental Well-being: Spending time in nature has been proven to reduce stress, improve mood, and enhance overall mental health.
4. Community Engagement: The trails will offer a space for families and community members to engage in recreational activities together, strengthening community bonds.
5. Educational Opportunities: The trails can serve as an outdoor classroom, offering unique learning experiences for students in subjects such as environmental science, biology, and physical education.
6. Environmental Stewardship: Developing and maintaining the trails can promote conservation efforts and a deeper appreciation for the natural environment among residents and visitors.
7. Tourism and Local Business Support: Attracting tourists for biking can lead to increased patronage of local hotels, restaurants, and shops, providing a significant boost to the local economy.
8. Youth Engagement: The trails can provide a constructive outlet for youth, promoting positive recreational activities and reducing the likelihood of engaging in harmful behaviors.
9. Event Hosting: The trails can become a venue for regional and national biking events, further increasing Mena's visibility and reputation as a destination for outdoor activities.
10. Accessibility: Creating bike trails can encourage more inclusive outdoor activities, ensuring that people of all ages and abilities have access to recreational opportunities.
11. Property Values: Proximity to well-maintained recreational amenities can enhance property values in the surrounding areas.
12. Volunteer and Community Service Opportunities: Building and maintaining the trails can create opportunities for community members to get involved in volunteer projects, fostering a sense of ownership and pride.

I truly hope that you see the trails as a worthwhile asset as well. I appreciate your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

**Tamara Smart**