



CORVALLIS CIVIC CLUB

P.O. Box 321
Corvallis, MT 59828

Ravalli County Commissioners
215 S. 4th Street
Hamilton, MT 59840

January 28, 2018

Dear Commissioners:

The Corvallis Civic Club would like to add its voice to the effort by the Ravalli County Fish & Wildlife Association, the Teller Wildlife Refuge, and local residents to establish a lower speed limit on SR 373 (the Woodside Cut-Off Rd.) between U.S. Highway 93 and the Eastside Highway. The Civic Club has long been concerned about safety along this stretch of road and has spearheaded efforts to construct a separated pedestrian/bikepath along the Woodside Cut-Off Road (2003), to construct a safe pedestrian/bicycle crossing of the Bitterroot River at Woodside (selected in 2014 for TA funding and pending), and to improve the safety of the pedestrian/bicycle crossing at Old Corvallis Road (selected in 2016 for TA funding and pending).

As the population of the Corvallis area has increased, neither the physical infrastructure nor the speed limit regulations for the Woodside Cut-Off Rd have kept up with growing vehicular and non-motorized traffic along this stretch of road. This use will only increase as the community continues to grow. A recent major subdivision proposed for property adjacent to SR 373 on the western edge of Corvallis is a prime example of this growth. In addition, the popular Woodside fishing access site and a trail on the Teller Wildlife Refuge are accessed from the Cut-off Road, which also crosses the Bitterroot River on a narrow bridge.

As is clearly pointed out in the January 8 letter sent to the Montana Department of Transportation by the groups and individuals mentioned above, the current 60 mph speed limit that applies to approximately 1.4 miles of the length of SR 373 is much higher than the 45 mph limit on other roads in the area, including Willow Creek Rd., Dutch Hill Road, and Old Corvallis Road. Quite frankly it makes no sense for vehicles to be reaching a maximum 60 mph acceleration right at the intersection with Old Corvallis Road and at the very point at which the pedestrian/bikepath crosses SR 373.

We urge you to work with the Montana Department of Transportation to establish a reasonable 45 mph speed limit for the Woodside Cut-Off Road.

Sincerely,

Tonia Bloom
Secretary, Corvallis Civic Club

Cc: Montana Department of Transportation
Ravalli County Fish & Wildlife Association
Teller Wildlife Refuge
Corvallis School District