

CORVALLIS CIVIC CLUB

P.O. Box 321

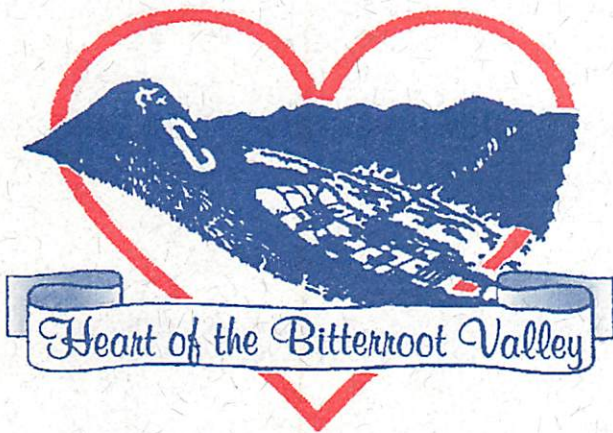
RECEIVED Corvallis, MT 59828

JUN 12 2018

June 12, 2018

Ravalli County Commissioners

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

Dear Commissioners:

The Corvallis Civic Club would like to offer the following comments on the conclusions contained in the recent speed study completed on the Woodside Cut-Off Road by the Montana Department of Transportation.

We understand the standard methodology of such studies is to recommend a speed limit at the observed 85th percentile speed of traffic. However, we would like to point out that the Civic Club supported the establishment of a 45 mph speed limit in its letter of January 28 not because we believed that vehicles were currently traveling at a low speed. We supported lowering the speed limit because we know that vehicles now travel that stretch at a speed that is too fast for pedestrian safety, as well as for prevention of animal/vehicle conflicts. The study merely confirms what we already know. A 55 mph limit will not significantly improve the situation.

Specifically, we believe the recommendation does not adequately take into account the hazards where the pedestrian/bike path crosses SR 373 at Old Corvallis Road. In 2019, a pedestrian activated crossing signal is scheduled to be installed. Vehicle compliance with the crossing signal will be much greater at lower speeds. We also believe the recommendation does not adequately take into account the increased traffic that will result from the major subdivision that is currently being constructed immediately west of Corvallis. It is likely that the increased entry traffic from that development will warrant the extension to the west of the current 35 mph and 45 mph zones. The study mentions that compliance is just now improving in the short 45 mph zone on the outskirts of Corvallis. We would suggest that compliance at that point would undoubtedly be better if traffic approached the zone at a slower rate of speed. Finally, we would like to point out that the timing of the study in early April during the work and school week certainly resulted in an undercount of the recreational use along the bikepath and at the Bitterroot River.

We continue to urge the Ravalli County Commission to work to lower the speed limit along SR 373 to 45 mph in conformance with the speed limit on other two-lane roads in the area.

Sincerely,

Tonia Bloom, Secretary

Cc: Ravalli County Fish & Wildlife Association
Teller Wildlife Refuge
Corvallis School District

