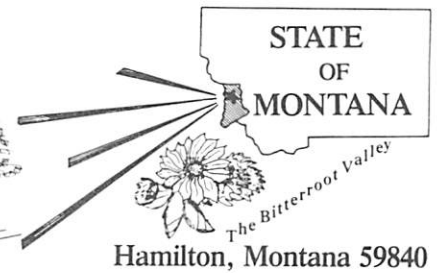
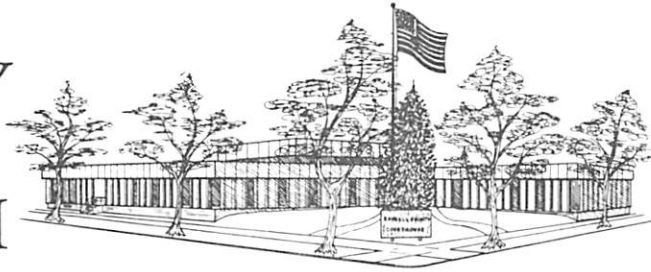


COUNTY OF RAVALLI



Ravalli County Commissioners
215 S. 4th Street, Suite A
Hamilton, Montana 59840
406-375-6500
commissioners@rc.mt.gov

September 25, 2018

Steve Felix, Maintenance Chief
Department of Transportation
2100 West Broadway
Missoula, MT 59801

RE: Woodside Cutoff Road – Montana State Highway 373

Dear Mr. Felix,

As you may remember, in January of this year we requested a traffic and engineering study of Montana State Highway 373 (Woodside Cutoff Road) for the purpose of reducing the posted speed limit on a portion of that roadway.

On April 25 we received a copy of the completed report and the conclusions and recommendations which supported a reduction of 5 miles per hour, from 60 mph to 55 mph, in the 1.4 miles east from U.S. Highway 93.

While we very much appreciate the department's attention to our request, we strongly disagree with the conclusion that a reduction to 45 mph would amount to "an arbitrary restrictive speed limit" or that it would be "counterproductive to safety." To the contrary, we believe that considering all conditions existent on this stretch of roadway, and given the limited solutions currently available to address safety concerns, a 45 mph speed limit is absolutely appropriate.

On Tuesday September 11, the Board of County Commissioners held a public meeting on this subject at the request of numerous residents, civic groups, and representatives of the Corvallis School District. All parties who testified in front of the board have requested that we request that the speed limit in this stretch be reduced to 45 miles per hour.

Given the nature of the roadway, the narrow bridge, the high-use fishing/river access just east of the bridge, the high number of driveway approaches, and the bicycle path which includes two crosswalks within the 60 mph zone, to name but a few items of concern, the Board of County Commissioners unanimously requests that MDOT reduce the speed limit to 45 mph beginning at

the intersection with US 93 and continuing east to station 74+00, an approximate distance of 1.4-
miles as described in your report.

Sincerely,

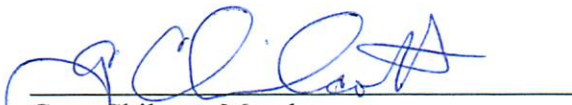
BOARD OF RAVALLI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



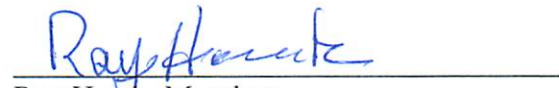
Jeff Burrows, Chairman



Chris Hoffman, Member



Greg Chilcott, Member



Ray Hawk, Member



Doug Schallenberger, Member