

BOARD of COMMISSIONERS

COUNTY OF CARBON • STATE OF MONTANA

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October 1, 2019

Director Mike Tooley
Montana Department of Transportation
PO Box 201001
Helena MT 59620-1001

Dear Director Tooley,

We are writing to formally request the Montana Department of Transportation to reconsider the timeline for the completion of the Northbound lanes on Highway 212/310 from Rockvale to Laurel. Currently the projection is to complete the project in the year 2022.

Only paving portions of the northbound road in 2019 has been met with plenty of negative feedback from taxpayers and travelers. The changing from 4 lanes to 2 lanes back to 4 lanes, back to 2 lanes and lastly back to 4 lanes has been widely unpopular and a topic of discussion in our communities.

If one were to observe the traffic patterns, you will find that there is large percentage of commuters still using Clark's River Road (Old highway 212/310) for the sole purpose of avoiding the new highway. The main reason people are choosing Clark's River Road is because they feel it is safer than all of the merging of lanes in addition to the high speeds in those merging areas. We believe if the northbound lanes are completed people will be more likely stay on the new highway and both roads will certainly be safer.

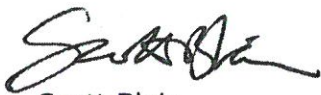
Our first responders have most recently had two crashes within hours of each other on the new highway. Obviously not all crashes can be avoided and in the case of this week one would have happened anywhere as a truck blew a tire. The other crash was just past one of the merging back into 2 lanes areas and someone made a bad pass into oncoming traffic. One could easily argue that the driver that caused that crash could have caused it anywhere as well. However, if the road was 4 lane the whole distance, without a doubt that specific incident would not have occurred. Some of the people signing this request were on scene for this crash and many would comment it was one

of the worst crashes they have been on in terms of vehicle damage and the challenges presented in extraction of those involved.

That corridor is well traveled by local commuters, interstate traffic from Wyoming and tourists visiting our county. We implore the Montana Department of Transportation to prioritize the completion of this project.

Accompanying the signatures of all County Commissioners are other elected officials and local community leaders that believe this project should be completed as quickly as possible...certainly before 2022. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Scott Blain
Joliet-District #2
Commissioner



Bill E. Bullock
Red Lodge-District #3
Commissioner



Robert "Pits" DeArmond
Bridger-District #1
Commissioner

NAME

TITLE/OCCUPATION

ADDRESS

NAME	TITLE/OCCUPATION	ADDRESS
Malvin Hofer	Joliet Fire Chief	Joliet, MT
Christine J. Stovall	Clerk & Recorder	Boyd, MT
Roseell Loring	Clerk of District Court	Roberts, MT
Jay Gray	Mayor Joliet	Joliet, MT
Ch. P. C. J.	Superintendent	Joliet, MT
Wish Ek	Joliet Community Development	Joliet, MT
Coop Bertelino	Bear Tooth RCD	Joliet, MT
Karin Harper	Joliet EMS President	Boyd, MT
Josh M. Phillips	Carbon County Sheriff	Joliet, MT