

LINCOLN COUNTY

STATE OF MONTANA

MARK PECK, COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT NO. 1, LIBBY

JERRY BENNETT, COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT NO. 2, TROY

JOSH LETCHER, COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT NO. 3, EUREKA

ROBIN A. BENSON
CLERK OF THE BOARD AND COUNTY RECORDER

February 5, 2020

Dear Highway Commission,

Thank you for completing the speed study on Hwy 93 North of Eureka, and your consideration of a speed reduction from 45 to 35 mph on the section of Pipe creek noted in your report. We also agree that a reduction in speed limit is necessary on Hwy 37 north of Eureka, though object that the reduction to 60 mph from 1888+00 to 2010+00 is enough.

Please consider a further reduction to 45 mph from the intersection of Hwy 37, north to Lindsay Road. There has been a lot of business growth all along this section with more planned for the future and the Eureka Community Sports Park being constructed on Boundary Street. In addition, this entire stretch of highway is a perennial elk crossing, which can lead to major crashes and potential fatalities.

In addition, please consider the removal of the passing zone from East View Drive to Britton Way. Lindsey Road and the entrance to Rural Propane are on the west side of the Highway. Linsey Road is one of the busier county roads in North Lincoln County. Cars are often turning left onto these roads when a driver (impatient to get to higher speeds) tries to pass the slower moving cars and nearly collides with the car that turning. It's a situation that plays out over and over.

Also, the map is missing several roads between East View and Britton way on the East side of the highway. The loop roads accessing the Indian Springs RV Park (Kingfisher Loop and Cattle Run) and the Chips and Critters of the Red Barn store. Both entities generate a lot of traffic.

We would also like to disagree with the speed limit status quo from Ksanka View Road - North to the Canadian border. There is a forty-some lot RV park, Saloon, Animal Shelter, Gym, arena, and multiple major subdivisions currently being built, and new businesses constructed. The Kooconusa Arena is currently for sale and could be re-opened under new management. Most development is currently taking place on Velvet Grove, Acres Lane, Arrowhead lane, Independence Way, Three Elk Ridge, Arena View Road, Esker Lane, Tanner lane, Drumlin Lane, Scenic Hills Drive, Scenic Drive, Ridge Road, Border View, and Airport Road. Most of the development is in a mile-long stretch intermingled with the RV park, Saloon, Animal Shelter, Gym, and arena.

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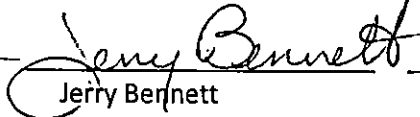
Regarding the section of River Road approximately 3.5 miles outside Libby (Secondary 508), we disagree with your conclusion that a reduction is not warranted. There have been several fatality crashes in the past and conditions often warrant slower speeds, not only in inclement weather but also due to 3 driveways turning off through the curve. The concern is that vehicles traveling through the curve past these driveways or in wet or icy conditions with a steep drop-off to the river combine to increase the probability of severe accidents and drivers should be slowed down.

In conclusion we would plead that the Highway Commission reduce the speed limit to 45 mph from HWY 37 to Lindsey Road and 55 mph North to the Canadian Border. Also please eliminate the passing zone at the intersection of Lindsay Road. In addition, a reduction of speed to 45 mph through the S-curve section of River road near Libby would be favorable.

Best regards,



Mark Peck, Chair



Jerry Bennett



Josh Letcher