



Evan Rosenberg emrosenberg25@gmail.com

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to bcarey, mlandquist, jcurtiss, groberts, skilcrease, sludlow, edickson, lyellowrobe, sstack, jeff.key, poherren, bcc: me

Dear Missoula County Commissioners:

I live on Edward Avenue in close proximity to the current Maclay bridge location and would like to comment on the Mcclay Bridge planning study. I have reviewed both the environmental assessment completed in 1994 and recent environmental scan. I believe that the preferred alternative identified in 1994 running a new two lane bridge from south avenue connecting to River Pines Rd continues to be the most sensible plan for a Maclay bridge replacement, which is of the utmost importance to this neighborhood and our County. The current location at North Ave, diverts traffic into a neighborhood not equipped for the level of traffic that is currently using the bridge. It is an inefficient route for drivers, uses more gas and is bad for the environment, and causes traffic hazards on side roads. For example, North Avenue mailboxes are all located on the south side of North Ave leading up to Maclay bridge. This means anyone living on the north side of North Avenue must walk across North to get their mail - a hazard with no crosswalks and increasing traffic that goes up North only to use Maclay bridge. South Ave is the main road running from Reserve and connecting the Target Range area with the rest of Missoula. It would be much more practical to have South be the primary road connecting those on the west side of the river and eliminate the detour traffic must take to cross the river.

In addition, the 90 degree turn on River Pines Road leading to Maclay bridge is extremely dangerous, especially in winter. Many accidents have occurred at this spot and this issue could be eliminated by rerouting the bridge to South Ave. The current bridge location also makes it incredibly difficult to safely turn left from Edward Ave onto North Ave. One cannot see oncoming traffic coming off of the bridge from the intersection of Edward and North.

The current bridge is obsolete and poses a potential safety hazard. It's been used well beyond its intended life and there are currently load limits on the bridge meaning it cannot handle heavier fire trucks. It's unclear how much longer it could continue to handle school buses and fire trucks and it is imperative that it is replaced preventively before a major issue occurs.

The current location of the bridge has also created a myriad of issues with people jumping off the bridge, hanging out and loitering under the bridge and engaging in all types of unsafe behavior on the sand bar under the bridge. People actually climb to the top of the bridge structure, I watched it the other day, and jump off from the very top. This is illegal, extremely unsafe, and I imagine a potential liability issue for the County given that the County is aware this occurs. Those hanging out under the bridge are also polluting the river with all of the trash left behind under the bridge, not to mention leaving trash all over our neighborhood. And I am certain there is a great deal of underage drinking occurring underneath the bridge. Moving the bridge to the proposed location would eliminate this unsafe use at the current location and the new location

and new type of bridge would not lend itself to the same type of issues since there would be no sandbar at the South Ave bridge location.

Finally, as the parent of a two year old daughter, I do not want her growing up witnessing this type of unsafe and reckless behavior. Regardless of the bridge replacement decision, it would be much appreciated if there could be a greater police presence to enforce the no parking laws, the underage drinking, and the illegal bridge jumping that has occurred on a daily basis throughout the month of July and I imagine will continue throughout August.

Thanks for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Evan Rosenberg