Kristin Anderson kristinmanderson1@gmail.com

Jul 26 (6 days ago)

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

To Whom it May Concern,

I live on Edward Avenue close to the Maclay Bridge. I understand that a study is currently underway to determine the best place for a safer bridge because the current one is considered obsolete. My concerns are as follows:

1. Traffic inefficiency: The current location seems very discordant with traffic flow. North Ave is not a through street to Reserve. Therefore, the traffic must divert from South to North in order to cross the bridge. In the westbound direction it then takes a turn that is very inefficient. Making the bridge an extension of South Ave. would make travel in both directions more straightforward and decrease pollution.

2. Traffic safety: The left turn from Edward Ave to North is very unsafe. It is logical to assume that traffic volume will only increase over the Maclay Bridge over time, especially if it becomes a two lane bridge, therefore increasing the danger of this turn unless other measures would be taken such as a light, etc.

3. Public health safety: The current bridge is located in a place that attracts sunbathers and swimmers, some of whom jump from the bridge which could lead to serious injury or death. The current bridge with the deep pool underneath is a risky attraction people clearly cannot resist. The signs about parking restrictions are ignored. I understand people want to enjoy themselves during the summer time, but the volume of people on and around the bridge is unsafe. I would be suprised if under age drinking and risky behavior isn't occuring there, and I believe Missoula County is obligated to take steps to reduce the risks involved.

It is understandable that such a change sparks high emotion. However, there are compelling reasons to situate a more functional bridge in a more functional location. Thank you for your consideration of the above.

Sincerely,

Kristin Anderson, MD, MPH