

Roberts Hwy 212 Improvement and Safety Committee

Minutes for Meeting #1

Tuesday, November 12th at 7:00 PM

Roberts Fire Hall

- A. There were 26 people of the Roberts community in attendance.
- B. Summary of introductory comments:
 - 1. It is important that we show a united front.
 - 2. All committee meetings will be advertised and open to the public.
 - 3. This first meeting was advertised in the following ways: flyers were posted in local businesses, in the post office, and at the school. Flyers were hand-delivered to most homes and businesses. A message was displayed on the Roberts school marquee.
- C. The following people (in alphabetical order) were unanimously approved as official committee members: Alex Ator, Michael Gebhardt (Chair), Frank Jarvenpaa, Steve Keebler, Sanford Langager, Jon Miligan, Dale Marie Muller, and Chris White.
- D. The following **Mission Statement** was unanimously approved.
To collect the opinions of the Roberts community regarding the improvement and safety of the Hwy 212 corridor project through Roberts, and to represent those opinions to county, state, and MDT officials.
- E. The following **Construction Change Requests**, including all bullets, were discussed at length until unanimous consensus was reached.
 - 1. **The center turning lane should not be drawn.**
 - A center lane would push traffic closer to the edges of the road.
 - ...closer to homes and businesses.
 - ...closer to pedestrians.
 - ...closer to Amish buggies driving along the shoulder.

Construction Change Requests continued

2. The speed limit should be lowered to 35 MPH with a gradual reduction: 70, 55, 45, 35.

- Slower speeds are safer for pedestrians.
- ...safer for children crossing the highway.
- ...safer for Amish buggies driving along the shoulder.

3. Both sides of the road should be lined by curb and gutter. The ditches should be replaced by culvert and covered by grass or sidewalk. There should be designated areas along the curbs for parked cars.

- The steep, deep, and unmowable ditches would be unsightly.
- ...filled with trash.
- ...filled with weeds.
- ...unsafe for pedestrians.
- ...unsafe for Amish buggies.
- No room to access/maintain Veteran memorials.
- More difficult to pull vehicles out of steep ditches.
- Prior meeting in 2014 that voted against sidewalk was not well advertised. The loss of curb and gutters was never discussed.
- The ditches as they have been dug are steeper than the design specified and need to be made safer for this winter.

4. The storm water should be routed along Hwy 212 to Rock Creek rather than into private irrigation ditches.

- The irrigation ditches are not big enough to handle storm-level capacity and would overrun causing localized flooding.
- Rushing storm water would wash out fields on private property.
- Who is responsible for property damage in the event that the current design is insufficient?

5. We need clarification for timeline and location of crosswalks and signage.