

# Roberts Hwy 212 Improvement and Safety Committee

## Minutes for Meeting #3

Tuesday, December 3th, 2019 at 3:30 PM

Roberts Fire Hall

- There were 10 people (total) of the Roberts community in attendance= 8 committee members: Michael Gebhardt( Chair), Frank Jarvenpaa, Steve Keebler, Alex Ator, Sanford Langager, Jon Miligan, Dale Marie Muller & Chris White and 2 walk ins: Marco Larowe & Holli Krizek, along with 5 visiting officials: Glenn Oppel, Public Involvement Lead for Strategies 360 Kirk Spalding, Design Engineer for Sanderson Stewart Bill Felton, MDT Project Manager Ted Thronson, MDT District Construction Engineer Bill Bullock, County Commissioner
  - Committee members briefly introduced themselves and shared a concern(s) to be addressed.
  - Mike started out by asking MDT about their willingness to have another meeting in the near future that would be open to the broader public as a followup to this meeting. They were open to the idea, but could not commit to an exact date at this time. Bill Felton and Ted Thronson need time to converse with their district administrators. Most likely, the next meeting wouldn't be until January or February of next year.
1. Glenn Oppel opened the discussion about Public Involvement Efforts. Our disappointment about the many miscommunications and lack of communications were taken into account.
  2. Kirk Spalding gave an overview of Project Development and Design Process. The origin of the Roberts project began back in 2000. He explained the many transformations that have happened and some background on how and why these changes were made.
  3. Kirk Spalding began walking through the details of MDT's responses to all of RISC's requests based on the minutes from the November 12th meeting.

**-Center Turning Lane Removal-** MDT expressed a firmness about retaining the center lane as designed due to safety issues and crash history analysis. Frank and others replied with contrasting opinions on the necessity of the turning lane, especially if the speed limit successfully gets decreased from 45 to 35 mph. The committee plans to further consider the options on this change request. MDT may reassess the the turning lane after it has been in operation and the community has worn it on for size for awhile, with MDT's suggestion of around one year.

**-Speed Limit Should Be Lowered-** a speed study can be done by MDT when the project is completed if the community chooses with the Carbon County Commission's consent. An alternative option is to request a speed limit reduction from the Montana Transportation Commission, which would bypass the need for a lengthy speed study. Speed signs are to be installed inside town limits in the near future, standard 45 mph speed signs and two powered school district 40 mph speed signs that will be lit only during school hours, which MDT recommended 8 am- 4 pm, Monday - Friday, not Sat or Sun. The committee is going to look into extended the time frame for the powered signs. Ted Thronson is going to look into why the installment of the signs has been behind schedule. Enforcement of speed is critical and the presence of additional law enforcement would be to our benefit.

**-Curb And Gutter With Possible Parking, Ditches Should Be Replaced By Culvert, Grass And Sidewalk-** Kirk stressed that the current designed ditches are the most effective solution to Robert's past and potential future flood issues. Curb and gutter were not considered to be the best solution and were dismissed. MDT does not want or encourage parking on a state highway. Alex shared heartfelt thoughts about town pride and the aesthetic of the ditches is not adequate enough near the school. He expressed his concern about the difficult maintenance that they arise, as well. Sanford asked that they please reconsider and give us something 'to be proud of'. Ted agreed that the ditches at this time are 'not pretty', but asked us to be patient because they will be 'straightened up'. It usually takes one or two growing seasons before they can seed them properly. He said that DOT plans to pick up trash and trim weeds in the meantime. Alex asked if we could revisit the ditch issue. Bill Bullock suggested to let the contract come to completion and then keep an open door with MDT for the possibility of Roberts improvement request to happen within one of the next Hwy 212 construction phases. Steve, Alex and Marco expressed their passion to be able to continue installing the veteran memorials such that permanent receptacles for crosses can be installed and pedestrian traffic can be accommodated for both normal pedestrian traffic and observation of the memorial crosses. Their request is going to be considered.

**-Stormwater Should Be Routed Along 212 to Rock Creek-** Sanford and Marco expressed their serious concerns about their properties being affected. Seems that there is an open ongoing conversation with Bill and Ted and they are working with them and being cooperative.

**-Crosswalks And Signage-** Major work will not resume until April 2020. Speed signs will be installed in the near future.

- Frank again asked for MDT's commitment to come back and address the community at large. MDT agreed once a suitable time is established.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM