

May 7, 2024

Transportation Interim Committee
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620

Public comment re: U.S. 93 Roundabout at Bell Crossing

Madam Chairwoman and Council Members,

I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to write to you today to express my views concerning the proposed U.S. 93 Roundabout at Bell Crossing.

First and foremost, I am against the very thought of a roundabout at that location for several reasons.

1. Every other intersection for the entire length of U.S. 93 that has been deemed to be a problem is controlled by a lighted traffic device. Some even include intelligent features like flashing yellow lights to warn that the signal is about or is red. Why is there such a huge push to force a roundabout at this location?
2. The length of a tractor trailer driven by a professional is difficult enough to navigate a roundabout, much less so for an amateur weekender driving a pick-up truck and trailing a fifth wheel rv/trailer and boat. Both find it extremely difficult to maintain a chosen lane, much less so if curves are introduced.
3. To cause vehicles of all kinds to slow down from 70 mph to 15 mph just to continue going straight (north or south) is extremely impractical and ineffective
4. From time to time throughout the Bitterroot Valley extreme dense fog develops that would make a sudden and inexplicable decrease in speed and road direction changes disastrous for people who are not from the Bell Crossing area and unfamiliar with potential changes in the configuration of the roadway.

I live very near the Florence roundabout and have used others throughout the state. Even though, by state law, the speed limit when transiting a roundabout is a mere 15 mph; there are people who accept the self imposed challenge of seeing how fast they go to get through them. Speeds of 45-50 mph are not unheard of. This fact renders them useless and even dangerous.

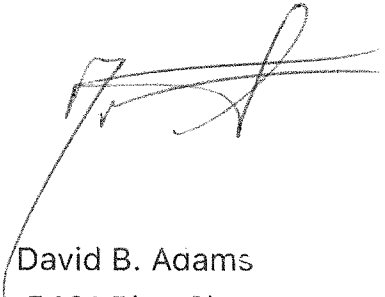
The installation of a four way signal would solve all of the issues that currently exist.

Finally, and again. Why is there such a push for a roundabout at this locations?

As part of a federal highway U.S. 95 by its very designation is U.S., federal. Are they pushing for a roundabout or is this the wishful thinking of someone within the state?

Again, thank you for allowing me to express my feelings.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David B. Adams', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David B. Adams
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