



City of Hamilton
223 South Second Street
Hamilton, MT 59840

December 17, 2020

Stanton Brelin
Traffic Operations Section Supervisor
Montana Department of Transportation Traffic & Safety Bureau
2701 Prospect Avenue
PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001

Subject: Traffic Signal Warrant Study S-269 & Kurtz Lane - Hamilton, MT

Dear Mr. Brelin,

The City of Hamilton, Ravalli County, and the Hamilton School District appreciate the time MDT staff took to conduct the traffic signal warrant study at S-269 (Marcus Street) & Kurtz Lane in Hamilton. As we understand it from the attached memo, the recommendation is for a four-way stop with modified intersection geometry.

While we recognize the need for added traffic control at this intersection, we are concerned a four-way stop will increase queuing and delay, particularly during the A.M. and P.M. peak periods and during school release at Hamilton High School. Our concern is that this will result in diversions onto local streets, particularly in the Arbors subdivision, which will only get worse as more development occurs in this area of Hamilton.

As noted in the attached memo, a roundabout was considered but not recommended due to the need to accommodate large trucks and the potential need for additional right-of-way on the northeast corner of the intersection that is currently the site of baseball fields owned by the Hamilton School District. We recognize the design constraints that this intersection presents when looking at the potential for a roundabout. However, we feel the roundabout option will provide a longer lasting alternative and improve safety and throughput, without adversely impacting neighboring local streets. With that in mind we respectfully ask that a roundabout be given additional consideration by MDT in consultation with local staff and elected officials.

Please coordinate scoping efforts with Donny Ramer and Matthew Rohrbach with Hamilton's Public Works and Planning Departments. They can be reached at (406) 363-6717; or dpw@cityofhamilton.net & mrohrbach@cityofhamilton.net.

Sincerely,

Dominic Farrenkopf
Mayor
City of Hamilton

Chris Hoffman
Chairman
Ravalli County Commissioners

Tom Korst
Superintendent,
Hamilton School District

Cc: Patricia Burke, MDT Safety Management Engineer
Bob Vosen, MDT Missoula District Administrator
Glen Cameron, MDT Missoula District Traffic Engineer