

**From:** [Nicholas Monaco](#)  
**To:** [Ravalli County Commissioners Office; John Horat](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Sweeney Creek  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 24, 2022 9:06:11 PM

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Greetings,

This email comes to you after my taking of a 24-hour "cooling off" period that allowed me a clearer head in which to communicate my sheer ire with the mismanagement of Sweeney Creek Road. It is difficult to express in just these few words, the negative impact you have imposed upon our daily lives.

In the days prior, you placed a readerboard that indicated road work would begin on Sweeney Creek on 04/25/2022. Albeit the only thus far, thank you for the communication. During that week, you pulverized the Sweeney Creek pavement and turned the once-road into a diabolical hazard. Now at first, my neighbors and we were excited, but as it has gone neglected and unattended-to for almost a month, I phoned the road department yesterday inquiring into the plan for the road paving.

I was told, in so few words, there really was no plan. I was told the county was still soliciting bids and the county's position was that it was merely hopeful to have the road re-paved by the end of the summer or fall. I cannot express to you in this email my utter shock and ire with this unofficial, haphazard, lack of a plan.

I am asking for a reply to put this to logic; perhaps a correction to what I was told, and ultimately, the specific performance of re-paving the roadway. We moved here with paved access. While I understand a dirt road is not critical to some, it is absolutely paramount to several of my neighbors and me. Since your directing of the pulverization of Sweeney Creek, everything in our life is covered in dust; including our vehicles, new home materials, paved driveway, equipment, trees, landscaping, garage interior, windows, our hair, our teeth, our lungs, etc. Furthermore, simple mowing of the lawn is now a health hazard of dust and an exponential compounding of allergies. You have made no attempt to mitigate it with dust abatement or otherwise. Additionally, the speed limit on Sweeney Creek is 45 MPH! It has been our opinion that 45 MPH is way too fast for this narrow roadway when it was a paved roadway. This is the same speed limit as Missoula's Reserve Street and Ravalli's Woodside Crossing. Post-pulverization, the speed limit has remained, there is no signage, no abatement, a new elevated shoulder, and I'm estimating road traffic is as at an all-time high with the influx of new residents and construction traffic. Something must be done.

Please understand, we are a reasonable class of people, but why was the road pulverized into dust with no plan for re-paving? John told me they planned to pave Sweeney Creek last year; a whole year delay and this?! We are understandable the road must be ground up before it can be replaced, but how do you ethically expect us to endure this all summer?! Please, please, make this a priority. Offer us some consoling, some rationale, some relief. We cannot even sit on our patio without being subjected to a constant cloud of dust with a thin layer atop an iced tea. This is a frequently traveled roadway with several residents making several trips up-and-down daily.

Without diving too deep into the political weeds and your unpopular and very-public opinion of pulverizing paved roadways, I cannot tell you how much we disagree with taking these colossal steps backward. Paved roads, and the maintenance of such, is absolutely paramount and the most basic of public infrastructure that most citizens expect for their tax dollar.

This reckless management of this roadway and others will absolutely affect my neighbors and my voting decisions in the coming future, but mostly we are just disappointed with your negative impact on our quality of life this summer.

I'm a big believer in offering a solution to hot buttons that I find adverse. Please do what you can to right this wrong. If, at this point, we are broken beyond repair, please do what you can in the way of dust abatement, speed reduction, or signage, at a minimum. I look forward to your reply and I'm hopeful you will agree; this is a wrong you're obligated to rectify, sooner than later.

Respectful regards,

Nick Monaco  
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