

## Chris Taggart

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**From:** Jeff Burrows  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 7, 2022 2:31 PM  
**To:** sbrelin@mt.gov; jzody@mt.gov; jasmith@mt.gov; rvozen@mt.gov; gcameron@mt.gov  
**Cc:** Ravalli County Commissioners Office; bobl@ravallielectric.com; Mark Grotbo  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Bell Crossing and HWY 93

Good afternoon,

I am following up on the Bell Crossing intersection on Hwy 93. It has been about a year since our last correspondence with MDoT and I know we have all been busy and this went to the back burner. The intersection has gotten busier and more dangerous since we last discussed. After discussion, we do not support a roundabout and feel a traffic signal would be a better solution at this intersection.

Please let me know the status of the intersection. Look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks,  
Jeff

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**From:** B Lee <bobl@ravallielectric.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 7, 2022 12:36 PM  
**To:** Jeff Burrows <jburrows@rc.mt.gov>  
**Cc:** B Lee <bobl@ravallielectric.com>  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Bell Crossing and HWY 93

Jeff,

Thanks for taking the time today to discuss Highway 93 / Bell Crossing traffic concerns.

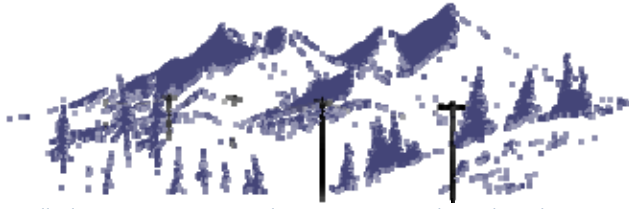
The confluence of traffic across and through this busy collective intersection has only gotten worse since MDOT conducted their 2021 traffic study. While the final results of the traffic study are unknown to the residents and business owners that utilize this intersection, the memory & history of collisions and near misses are ever present to those drivers positioning for a spot on or off Highway 93.

Our hope is to support the County and MDOT for a common sense solution to a known and present traffic problem that continues to worsen with the valley's population growth.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Regards,  
Bob Lee  
(forwarded emails below)  
**Bob Lee**  
Director of Support Services  
[bobl@ravallielectric.com](mailto:bobl@ravallielectric.com)  
Office: 406.961.3001  
Direct: 406.642.8711  
Cell: 406-381-0175

# Ravalli Electric Co-op



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**From:** Mark Grotbo <[mgrotbo@ravallielectric.com](mailto:mgrotbo@ravallielectric.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 24, 2022 10:34 AM  
**To:** Bob Lee <[bobl@ravallielectric.com](mailto:bobl@ravallielectric.com)>  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Bell Crossing and HWY 93

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**From:** Brelin, Stanton <[sbrelin@mt.gov](mailto:sbrelin@mt.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2021 8:13 AM  
**To:** Mark Grotbo <[mgrotbo@ravallielectric.com](mailto:mgrotbo@ravallielectric.com)>; Zody, Joe <[jzody@mt.gov](mailto:jzody@mt.gov)>  
**Cc:** [gchilcott@rc.mt.gov](mailto:gchilcott@rc.mt.gov); [dhuls@rc.mt.gov](mailto:dhuls@rc.mt.gov); Jeff Burrows <[jburrows@rc.mt.gov](mailto:jburrows@rc.mt.gov)>; Vosen, Bob <[rvosen@mt.gov](mailto:rvosen@mt.gov)>; Smith, Jacquelyn <[jasmith@mt.gov](mailto:jasmith@mt.gov)>; Cameron, Glen <[gcameron@mt.gov](mailto:gcameron@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Bell Crossing and HWY 93

Good morning Mark

As of right now we met with the Missoula District and presented our report. We could support either a roundabout or a traffic signal option. Those discussions resulted in choosing the roundabout as the preferred option at this time. The result is still considered preliminary as site conditions that were not able to be determined (examples are right-of-way, utilities, drainage, and environmental issues to name a few) during the traffic study may impact the ultimate build option. We are finalizing that report as we speak. Our recommendation will be sent to the District. The District will review funding options and District priorities as that is within their authority. I have copied Missoula District folks in case they have further information to share at this time.

Stan

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**From:** Mark Grotbo <[mgrotbo@ravallielectric.com](mailto:mgrotbo@ravallielectric.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 25, 2021 11:59 AM  
**To:** Brelin, Stanton <[sbrelin@mt.gov](mailto:sbrelin@mt.gov)>; Zody, Joe <[jzody@mt.gov](mailto:jzody@mt.gov)>  
**Cc:** [gchilcott@rc.mt.gov](mailto:gchilcott@rc.mt.gov); [dhuls@rc.mt.gov](mailto:dhuls@rc.mt.gov); Jeff Burrows <[jburrows@rc.mt.gov](mailto:jburrows@rc.mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Bell Crossing and HWY 93

Good Afternoon Stan,

I am following up to see when MDOT will be able to present the traffic options for HWY 93 and Bell Xing to the Ravalli Commissioners. If there is something I can do to help facilitate this meeting please let me know.

Thanks,

Mark Grotbo

Ravalli Electric Cooperative

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**From:** Brelin, Stanton <[sbrelin@mt.gov](mailto:sbrelin@mt.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 1, 2021 8:18 AM

**To:** Mark Grotbo <[mgrotbo@ravallielectric.com](mailto:mgrotbo@ravallielectric.com)>; Zody, Joe <[jjody@mt.gov](mailto:jjody@mt.gov)>  
**Cc:** Jeff Burrows <[jburrows@rc.mt.gov](mailto:jburrows@rc.mt.gov)>; [gchilcott@rc.mt.gov](mailto:gchilcott@rc.mt.gov); [dhuls@rc.mt.gov](mailto:dhuls@rc.mt.gov)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Bell Crossing and HWY 93

Mark

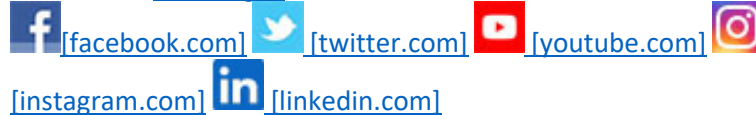
I have forwarded this request to our District staff. They'll reach out to Ravalli County folks to discuss the next steps. As Joe mentioned a large part of this project is the funding package that is outside of Traffic Operations but I am aware that Missoula District staff is looking at all funding options and project priorities right now based on our report.



**Stanton Ewing Brelin II**

*Traffic Operations Engineer* | Engineering Division  
Montana Department of Transportation  
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Helena, MT 59620  
406-444-6135 | [sbrelin@mt.gov](mailto:sbrelin@mt.gov)

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**From:** Mark Grotbo <[mgrotbo@ravallielectric.com](mailto:mgrotbo@ravallielectric.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2021 1:56 PM  
**To:** Zody, Joe <[jjody@mt.gov](mailto:jjody@mt.gov)>  
**Cc:** Jeff Burrows <[jburrows@rc.mt.gov](mailto:jburrows@rc.mt.gov)>; [gchilcott@rc.mt.gov](mailto:gchilcott@rc.mt.gov); [dhuls@rc.mt.gov](mailto:dhuls@rc.mt.gov); Brelin, Stanton <[sbrelin@mt.gov](mailto:sbrelin@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Bell Crossing and HWY 93

Joe,  
Good Afternoon.

Earlier in the week I was visiting with one of Ravalli County Commissioners with regards to sending a letter of support to help pursue the signal project on Bell Xing and Hwy 93. His request was to invite you or someone from your office to present to the Ravalli Commissioners the findings of this traffic study. They would like to understand your finds so they are able to answer questions later if they are posed. Would it be possible for you to reach out to the Ravalli Commissioners to coordinate getting the results to the commission and work with them on a suitable method to present the findings?

If there is something I could do to assist with facilitating this please let me know. My number is 406-642-8701.

Sincerely,  
Mark Grotbo  
General Manager  
Ravalli Electric Cooperative

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**From:** Zody, Joe <[jjody@mt.gov](mailto:jjody@mt.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 3:47 PM  
**To:** Mark Grotbo <[mgrotbo@ravallielectric.com](mailto:mgrotbo@ravallielectric.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Bell Crossing and HWY 93

Mark,

The study concluded that the best form of traffic control at this time would be a traffic signal, although the round about option fared well also. The biggest downside with the roundabout is the right-of-way it would require to construct. As far as funding from the safety standpoint goes, it sounds like there could be a possibility of some funding assistance for it. However this project would then have to compete with all safety funded projects statewide (instead of district) and those are categorized by a benefit cost analysis and this would fall on the lower end of that group. In short if we want this done sooner rather than later it will be up to the Missoula District to program this into their project budget. We are going to have a meeting within the next few weeks to finalize all comments and have the final report done by the end of the month and hopefully District will have a good idea of when to expect the project to come. Bob Vosen is the district Administrator and would be the best bet to start communications with about an estimated construction date.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

Joe Zody, P.E.  
Traffic Operations & Analysis Engineer  
Traffic & Safety Bureau  
Montana Department of Transportation  
Phone: 406-444-7295



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**From:** Mark Grotbo <[mgrotbo@ravallielectric.com](mailto:mgrotbo@ravallielectric.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:36 AM  
**To:** Zody, Joe <[jzody@mt.gov](mailto:jzody@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Bell Crossing and HWY 93

Joe,  
Thanks for the call on 3/26. You mentioned you were getting the study finalized and signed off on that day.

With your study, what did the study show needs to be completed at the intersection?

Also you mentioned you were sending it over to Safety to see if there was funding? Was that successful?

Last question, once the traffic study is complete, would you direct me to who is placed in charge for the project going forward?

Thanks,  
Mark Grotbo  
Ravalli Electric Cooperative  
406-682-8701

“In any given moment we have two options: to step forward into growth or step back into safety.”  
Abraham Maslow

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