

## Chris Taggart

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**From:** Todd Steuben <Steubs6971@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 3, 2022 2:31 PM  
**To:** Chris Taggart; Dan Huls; Greg Chilcott; Jeff Burrows  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Deadly Hwy. 93 from Florence, MT to Lolo, MT  
**Attachments:** BIL\_overview\_update\_2022-3-6.pdf

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing regarding the increasingly and deadly road conditions on Hwy 93 from Lolo, MT to Florence, MT. In the past few years our population has been growing exponentially in the Bitterroot and the traffic has more than doubled since 1990. I am reaching out to our Montana Department of Transportation hoping I can reach the hearts of the ones who run the show in this department and get a passing lane put in from Lolo, MT to Florence, MT.

Let me introduce myself. My name is Todd Steuben, I was born in Butte, MT and moved to the Bitterroot Valley with my family in 1989. I have since then created a family of my own and invested into property on HWY 93. I have two young boys ages 2 & 9, I also have a beautiful wife whose name is Mika Steuben. I work in Missoula, MT at Neptune Aviation and have been with Neptune for approximately fifteen years. I have been driving from Florence to Missoula on HWY 93 for many more years than that.

In the past 33 years in the Bitterroot on the stretch of HWY 93 between Florence and Lolo there has been more than a dozen fatalities and even more crashes. Recently I was part of one of those crashes. I was turning left into my property on HWY 93 coming from Florence heading North into Lolo at 5701 Hwy 93 North Florence with my eldest son in the truck when I was sitting in the middle of the road (NO TURN LANE) because of oncoming traffic waiting to turn, some individual was not paying attention and nearly slammed into the back of me. The driver had to swerve across both lanes and into the ditch to avoid smashing into my son and I which if he would have hit us, we would have been pushed into the oncoming traffic heading south and more than likely became one of those sad stories you hear about on this stretch of highway.

One of the main reasons that I am also writing this letter is because a couple of years ago our community suffered a great loss pertaining to a like story above. My neighbor just a few blocks north of me on Highway 93 had just gone to the local grocery store and on her way home she was in the middle of the Hwy (NO TURN LANE) trying to turn left into her residence when she was rear ended and was pushed into oncoming traffic which resulted in a multiple car collision. Her car was so mangled and destroyed that it had caught fire with her in it and she literally burned to death in her own driveway. As I stated above there are many sad stories like my neighbors that have occurred on the stretch of Highway from Florence, MT to Lolo, MT.

As a parent of two boys that will be driving sooner than one likes to admit, I am deathly afraid of them becoming one of those sad stories on this stretch of highway just because there is something as easy as a turn lane missing from our ever so growing community. I know that it would take a LOT of planning, hard work and also a bit of tax money to put in a turn lane from Florence to Lolo, but for the sake of my family and my communities families I hope this reaches someone who is willing to make a lifesaving decision that they could really feel good about and know that they have done a VERY good service to the families of the Bitterroot

Sincerely,

Todd, Mika, Tanner, Kyler Steuben

(Note) I have reached out to all major representatives of Montana and I have had a couple of responses Via email and phone calls. Please see attached emails below.

Good afternoon Todd,

Included is a summary of new programs available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Federal Highway Administration. You should share the attached to your local county government.

Please let me know if you have any questions. (see attachment)

Regards.

Zach Ringsak

Field Representative

Senator Jon Tester

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Hello Mr. Steuben,

I hope you are well. Thank you so much for your email regarding US Hwy 93 Florence to Lolo. I work on behalf of the Montana Department of Transportation. Specifically, I am part of the project team completing the Lolo to Florence Corridor Study. Please note, your email has been passed to the project leadership team so they are aware of your concerns. A study is taking place in 2022 and 2023 to determine solutions for the corridor.

I am so sorry for the experiences your family and neighbors have faced. We appreciate you taking the time to share with us. The information you have provided is vital for our team to be aware of as we complete traffic and crash analyses, meet with stakeholders and determine potential solutions for this stretch of roadway.

Would you like to be added to our communications database to receive updates on the project? In addition, in the coming weeks, we are reaching out to businesses and residents to conduct meetings with the project team. If you are interested in connecting via email, phone or in-person, our team would be glad to meet with you to chat through these concerns. Please feel welcome to send neighbors my way as well. We would like to hear from as many residents as possible.

Have a wonderful weekend. Thanks again for reaching out and providing your feedback.

Please let me know if you have questions!

Take care,

Becca

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**Becca MacLean** *(she/her/hers)*

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