

**From:** [Robert Farrell](#)  
**To:** [Council](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Reconsider Removal of Trail Projects from the CIP  
**Date:** Friday, December 19, 2025 8:43:24 PM

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Dear Billings City Council Members,

I am concerned about the December 8, 2025 vote (7-4) to remove these trail projects from the five-year CIP:

- 25th Street Bridge
- Alkali Creek Trail Connection
- Downtown Heights Trail Connection
- Yellowjacket Trail
- Trail connector from King Avenue West to TransTech Center

These trails are essential for safe, accessible routes, community connectivity, and quality of life. I urge the Council to reconsider this decision and prioritize these projects in future planning.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Bob Farrell

**From:** [Yellowstone River Parks Association](#)  
**To:** [Yellowstone River Parks Association](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] You're Invited! January 21st.  
**Date:** Friday, December 19, 2025 3:11:09 PM  
**Attachments:** [Untitled design \(1\).png](#)

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It's been another year of fun and hard work for YRPA-ers. We're inviting one and all to catch up with friends and celebrate what we've done together!

YRPA Annual Party  
January 21st  
Drinks 5:00 / Dinner 6:00  
Red Door, 3875 Grand Ave, Billings  
Cash Bar  
Dinner Provided / Donations Appreciated

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)



[www.yrpa.org](http://www.yrpa.org)  
406-255-7619

Join us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

*Our Mission: to improve public access along the  
Yellowstone River by developing parks and trails.*

**From:** [Maddox, Wynnette](#)  
**To:** [.MayorAndCouncil](#); [.Leadership Team](#)  
**Cc:** [Greg Burns](#)  
**Subject:** CA Weekly Report  
**Date:** Friday, December 19, 2025 2:59:00 PM

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Good afternoon.

The December 19, 2025, Weekly Report is available at the following link:

<https://www.billingsmt.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/19190>

Thanks.

	<i>wynnette Maddox</i> Executive Secretary <a href="mailto:maddoxw@billingsmt.gov">maddoxw@billingsmt.gov</a>
<a href="http://billingsmt.gov">billingsmt.gov</a>	P.O. Box 1178 • Billings, MT 59103 P 406.657.8433 F 406.657.8390

City of Billings email messages and attachments are subject to the Right to Know provisions of Montana's Constitution (Art. II, Sec. 9) and may be considered a "public record" pursuant to Title 2, Chapter 6, Montana Code Annotated. As such, this email, its sender and receiver, and the contents may be available for public disclosure and will be retained pursuant to the City's record retention policies. Emails that contain confidential information such as information related to individual privacy may be protected from disclosure under law. This message is intended for the use of the individual or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient of this transmission, please notify the sender immediately, do not forward the message to anyone, and delete all copies. Thank you.

*My hours are Monday – Thursday 7 AM – 5 PM*

**From:** [Bohlman, Denise](#)  
**To:** [Council](#); [Kukulski, Chris](#); [Friday, Wyeth](#)  
**Subject:** Letter received today from Mr. Bass  
**Date:** Friday, December 19, 2025 5:02:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [2479\\_001.pdf](#)

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Good evening!

Please see the attached letter from Laverne Fred Bass. Mr. Bass asked that you I forward this information to you.

Thank you.



**Denise R. Bohlman**  
City Clerk, CMC  
[bohlmand@billingsmt.gov](mailto:bohlmand@billingsmt.gov)

[billingsmt.gov](http://billingsmt.gov)

316 N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 1178 • Billings, MT 59103  
P 406.657.8210 F 406.657.8390

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2012 Virginia Lane  
Billings, MT 59102-2563  
December 19, 2025

Mayor  
City Council members  
City Administrator  
Wyeth Friday

Re: My hearing on February 24, 2025

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I write to you today to ask for a refund of the fee you told me would be waived on the day of my presence before you. At least that seemed to be the consensus when I departed that evening. But two days later I received in the mail a new charge on my property taxes for a demolition. There was no demolition except for my stuff being crushed in the garbage truck.

I waited over an hour to speak before you. I did not do that to lie. I told the truth, Tina and Marshall (not Russell as I mistakenly called him in my letter of February 24<sup>th</sup>) were the ones practicing deception back in September 2024 and on that day of my hearing. Their posted sign said one date in red ink when they posted it – the date we had agreed to when Tina, Marshall, myself, and my two housemates met on the back deck. But, Tina and Marshall broke their word of September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024! They changed the sign using black ink (for no apparent reason) without telling any of us with a note on the door or a phone call. They came a day early. If they had come with their crew on the date originally agreed to, or a later day, no abatement would have been required, and no fee.

I wish a refund of my \$332.39 and \$400.00 for my property taken and destroyed. That is a total of \$732.39. I also would like an apology. It is my belief that both Marshall and Tina should be reprimanded by Mr. Friday.

Sincerely,

  
La Verne Fred Bass 12/19/25

Tina Hoeger

Code Enforcement Division Manager

Planning and Community Services Department

P.O. Box 1178

Billings MT 59103

Re: Invoice # 242603570 \$337.39 of 11/08/2024

La Verne Fred Bass Revocable Trust

2012 Virginia Lane

Billings, Montana 59102-2563

Ms. Hoeger, City Manager, Mayor, City Council members:

My name is La Verne Fred Bass and I am the sole trustee of my Revocable Trust; thus the property owner. I have been the owner since January 1994, and have lived there for 31 years; paying taxes all those years.

I am highly incensed by the unnecessary, nonsensical, and incompetent manner by which your Code Enforcement Division employees implemented the judge's order of abatement on Tuesday, October 22, 2024. On Tuesday, September 3, 2024, we (the members of the household at that time: me, and 3 tenants: Gail Asper, Steven Graves, and Mitchell Clawson) had a meeting on the back deck of the residence concerning the pending abatement. Directing the abatement for the city was your employee Russell and his female assistant director (whose name I cannot recall). We discussed in detail which items must be removed from around the outside of the residence and the non-detached garage. A mutual understanding seemed to be reached by all six of us.

Unfortunately, subsequent to that meeting, as the weather cooled off, we had a mice invasion of the residence and both garages. Our two cats have been doing their best, but we still had to remove a considerable number of items from the two garages (both the double attached and non-attached), the upper level of the residence, and the lower level (especially the "great" room and the storage/furnace room)) of my home. The majority of these items were owned by Gail Asper (who is writing a separate

communication), but some were owned by me (a list is attached). (The fight against the mice continues even to this evening (Saturday, February 22, 2025) right here in my living room.

In mid-October 2024, Russell came by the residence, put up his sign (which had a date of Wednesday, October 23, 2024, (all in red ink) for the execution of the abatement. This was the day and date which Russell had given us on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, and he again gave us his word that abatement would be on Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. He also stated that we could hold a yard sale on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (October 18<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup>) if we wished to do so.

This what we did. Mitchell, Steven and Gail put a tremendous effort into the sale, displaying items on the north, east and west side of the house, including on a makeshift table. But the weather was against us; for it rained all three days. We only made a couple of hundred bucks even though both east and north yards were full of items for sale. Plus, everything had to be covered with tarps and it was quite a struggle.

On Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, Steven and Gail filled an 8' x 12' trailer with items; they even extended the rails vertically by 8 feet. They pulled that to the landfill (dump). Many other items went back into the garages, but we still struggled with the rain and wetness. Because of that, we had to leave several of the most valuable items on the driveway, including our makeshift table. But, we removed all items from the grass, both on the north and east side of the house. We all believe that Russell observed that immense effort on that Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Our plan (and intention) was to fill the trailer with 2 more loads for the landfill (dump) and put the remaining valuable items into the garages and the house (hopefully, after they dried off).

Instead, all four of us were awoken early the next day, Tuesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October when the abatement directors showed up a day early with a crew and garbage truck. I asked Russell why they were a day early. He answered he had a court date tomorrow, Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> – the original scheduled date, so he had to make a unilateral change of the day and date. He, and the crew and dump truck, could have come a day late on the 24<sup>th</sup> Thursday, but NO, they decided to come early without informing any of us in any manner (visit, telephone, or letter). This despite they knew we were making progress and that abatement removal would probably not be necessary at all. They just did not care, or think.

Your crew just did not care if they inconvenienced us, or how much stuff of our possessions was abated. Basically the thought was "tough, too bad".

Sometime during the week since Russell gave his word (A SECOND TIME) that the abatement removal would be on Wednesday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October, he had come by the house and altered his sign to read the 22<sup>nd</sup> (in black ink), whereas it had been in red ink previously, just as was the entire sign.

I nearly called the police because of the rudeness, intensity, and especially because of the broken promise on the day of execution. I was so incensed; I probably should have. There were only four of us, plus about eight of your crew and the two directors. And, they refused to listen to us or abide by any requests we made. In fact, most of the items on the concrete driveway, which were the most valuable and covered by tarps to stay dry, were already placed in the dump truck hoist before we even got dressed and got outside to observe and discuss what was occurring.

After everything that they (Code Enforcement Division) PUT US THROUGH, I was very surprised and angered to receive your invoice for \$337.39. And the absolute gall of your threat to add it to my already exorbitant property taxes (that shot this past year) and bring it to the city council is "almost too much and over the top"!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "La Verne Fred Bass". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

La Verne Fred Bass

Trustee

02/24/2025

My stuff taken by the City of Billings to the landfill on October 22, 2024:

1 small refrigerator

3 boxes of outdoor Christmas lights

1 refrigerator (plastic) drawer for produce for my big stainless steel refrigerator

2 Bissell vacuum cleaners

1 yellow exercise bike with an automated speed register

2 white exercise bikes

1 wheelbarrow axle (crazy. They left the wheel and the broken barrow, which I had already purchased new replacement handles for)

1 wheelbarrow axle mounting bracket

1 oil pan (steel 18" diameter)

1 "brand new " custom made" window screen with animal resistant screening with the invoice still attached

1 three foot high blue wooden chest of drawers

1 rolling chair (wood with tan upholstery) to a set of 6 (still have the other 5)

1 4'x8' sheet of ¾" plywood that we had used for our makeshift table (left the two saw horses)

1 wide broom used to clean garages and concrete driveway

6 pallets that we cut up and burn for firewood for woodstove and 2 fireplaces

**From:** [Rupsis, Tom](#)  
**To:** [jay ettleman](#)  
**Cc:** [Council](#); [Boyett, Mike](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] 36th and Monad 4 way stop  
**Date:** Friday, December 19, 2025 9:59:35 AM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)  
[image.png](#)  
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Mr. Ettleman -

I should have been more careful with my words. I should have said that I had heard that a temporary stop sign was being put in to help with the Holiday Lights traffic. I just drove by and it does indeed look like a permanent installation. I just hope they take the black covers off the stop signs before everyone starts walking across Shiloh to get to the zoo tonight.

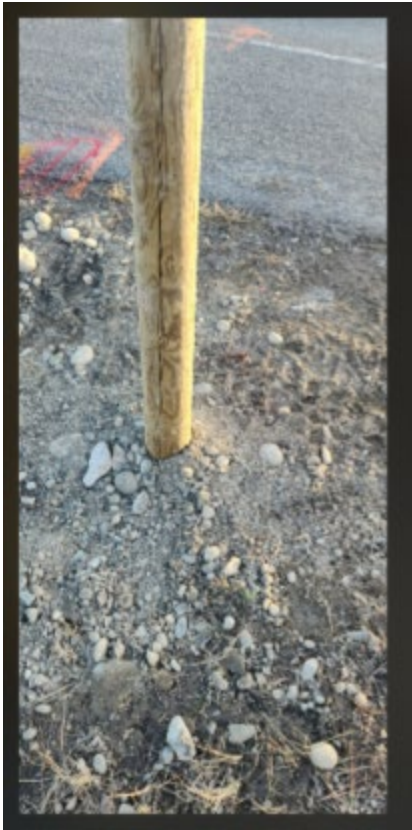
Tom

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Tom Rupsis  
City Council - Ward 5  
[rupsist@billingsmt.gov](mailto:rupsist@billingsmt.gov)  
406-545-0701

On Dec 19, 2025 9:06 AM, jay ettleman <[ettleman@msn.com](mailto:ettleman@msn.com)> wrote:





This sure looks permanent not temporary when you drill deep, reason I know is you all the utilities marked. You sure would mark utilities if you were only going temporary like you did out on King and 42 near the apartments, you had sandbags hold up the stop signs. The other when you start to approach the roundabout heading south, there is a big neon sign saying stop ahead, again during summer you didn't have that sign on King. There is an old saying, don't pee on my leg and call it rain. Again, if these are temporary, it was a big waste of taxpayer money. Heck, at the intersection where I live, those stops signs are cheap meatal posts (I can get the same post as Home Depot for \$30.00, why didn't you use those.













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**From:** jay ettlemann <ettlemann@msn.com>

**Sent:** Friday, December 19, 2025 8:29 AM

**To:** Rupsis, Tom <rupsist@billingsmt.gov>; council@billingsmt.gov <council@billingsmt.gov>

**Cc:** Boyett, Mike <boyettm@billingsmt.gov>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] 36th and Monad 4 way stop

Tom Rupsis,

Tell me when has a temporary 4 way stop as you say, gets drilled into the ground approximately 36 inches and concrete? This is no temporary; there was a whole crew drilling these signs into the ground. I will be following this because if the signs are not down at the Zoo, after the Christmas stuff at the zoo is done it means you are not a person of your word. In the past, there never has been a 4 way for this, why all of a sudden. I will be watching, because that is a lot of taxpayer money was spent to just put up for something temporary. Like I said, I will be watching.

Sincerely

Jay Ettleman

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**From:** Rupsis, Tom <rupsist@billingsmt.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 18, 2025 7:46 PM  
**To:** jay ettleman <ettleman@msn.com>  
**Cc:** Boyett, Mike <boyettm@billingsmt.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] 36th and Monad 4 way stop

Mr Ettleman -

The 4-way stop at the zoo is temporarily being installed because of the holiday lights event at the zoo. The volume of people going there means many people park over at Meadowlark and walk across Shiloh. For a night event, this is obviously a serious safety concern and I'm sure you'd agree that a temporary installation is reasonable.

Tom

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Tom Rupsis  
City Council - Ward 5  
rupsist@billingsmt.gov  
406-545-0701

On Dec 18, 2025 5:46 PM, jay ettleman <ettleman@msn.com> wrote:  
Dear City Council and Mayor

Today, I cannot believe this, while running an errand, on Shiloh by the Zoo, Pierce Parkway, Meadowlark Brewing, a 4-way stop was being installed. Why a 4 way there? When the intersection at Hawthorn in the heights and the intersection at 36th Street West and Monad

have been pleading for almost 10 plus years for a 4 way stop sign because of the accidents due to speed divers drive (both areas are 35 mph, and they are both only 2 way stop). The accidents happen because people speed and blow the stop signs and we are told a 4 way is not going to help or we (we are a neighborhood) are not considered a priority. BUT because you have the Zoo, Pierce, and Meadowlark Brewing Company now TSC and the very poor design of the street around Costco, they get a 4-way stop, and to my knowledge they don't have high speed accidents (average 2-3 a month). Hmmm, I guess our city council don't give a crap about neighborhood traffic safety. On 9/12/2025 I emailed Mike Boyett, and the response that he got was no kids cross Monad to go to Big Sky, but they must cross to use the park in Olympic subdivision from Parkland west subdivision. On 9/25, the reason I wrote was there was a 3-car pileup, then in October there were 2 more accidents here and a nasty one in Hawthorne (both were on KTVQ) and still the city has not responded. What got me mad, I messaged KTVQ and offered up a response that the city gave me in October, but KTVQ never called back. Thank you, City Council of Billings, for standing up for citizens, I guess since we are just taxpayers (people near Hawthorne and Parkland West) are just low on the pole, but corporate business and the Zoo get priority over us.

In the accident of September, I talked to the 3 investigating officers, and they are tired of investigating accidents on the 36th and Monad. At that time one officer said he had already had 4 studies done and he said he would start another study because I asked and the officers were so professional, I am proud of them. Since that time, there have been 2 more accidents (one I witnessed and the other was on KTVQ, just one week after the one I witnessed. The one I witnessed, people driving east and west on Monad, would not even observe the Community Officers that responded (the Green Lettered cars with officers). A Cadillac, being driven by a very old man almost hit the officer, she was screaming loudly and he responded well how am I going to get by with there is 2 vehicles totaled and debris all over.

When Mike responded back, it was also said to him that the traffic is not that bad. We have a Mormon Steak House and a Jehovah Witness chapel, and do you know what traffic is like in the mornings at the Mormon church 6 am to 7:30 am and then Wednesday at the Jehovah then we have Sunday. It is horrible.

What is it going to take? It was 3 weeks after a motorcycle driver got kill on 36th Street West and King that a traffic light was put up? Is it going to take a death to just invest \$1000.00 or less to put up 2 more signs, to make it all way stop? Also, from Shiloh to 32nd Street West, at times, speeds of vehicles hit 50 plus. I think it was 2 years ago, a motorcyclist was killed because he and another motorcyclist were racing and it was estimated the biker that got killed was doing 90 mph. Hawthorne and us we have been screaming for years, years to get a 4 way stop. By doing this, it will create safety (man, I pay enough in the safety mill levies I voted for, and I am not seeing one bit of safety). Also, the police have better things to do than to be dispatched to these areas when there is far worse crime happening in the city than to deal with.

I am a Billings native of 65 years of age. I was born, raised, lived, worked, paid taxes, etc. Now I am retired. I also have lived on Mammoth Cave (off of 36th and Monad) for 30 years now.

Jay Ettleman

3665 Mammoth Cave Drive

Billings MT 59102

Ettleman@msn.com

406-850-3213



**From:** [jay ettleman](#)  
**To:** [Rupsis, Tom](#); [Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Boyett, Mike](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] 36th and Monad 4 way stop  
**Date:** Friday, December 19, 2025 8:30:07 AM

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**Cc:** Boyett, Mike <boyettm@billingsmt.gov>  
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City Council - Ward 5  
rupsist@billingsmt.gov  
406-545-0701

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3665 Mammoth Cave Drive  
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Ettleman@msn.com  
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**From:** [jay ettleman](#)  
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**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] 36th and Monad 4 way stop  
**Date:** Friday, December 19, 2025 9:06:14 AM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)  
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**Cc:** Boyett, Mike <boyettm@billingsmt.gov>



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Jay Ettleman

3665 Mammoth Cave Drive

Billings MT 59102

Ettleman@msn.com

406-850-3213

**From:** [Meling, Debi](#)  
**To:** [Rupsis, Tom](#); [jay ettleman](#)  
**Cc:** [Council](#); [Boyett, Mike](#); [Kukulski, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] 36th and Monad 4 way stop  
**Date:** Friday, December 19, 2025 12:38:15 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
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[image007.png](#)  
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[image009.png](#)  
[image010.png](#)  
[image011.png](#)  
[image012.png](#)

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	<b>Debi Meling, P.E.</b> Public Works Director <a href="mailto:melingd@billingsmt.gov">melingd@billingsmt.gov</a>  EXCELLENCE INNOVATION INTEGRITY
<a href="http://billingsmtpublicworks.gov">billingsmtpublicworks.gov</a> <a href="https://facebook.com/billingsmtpublicworks">facebook@billingsmtpublicworks</a>	ADMINISTRATION 316 N. 26th St Billings, MT 59101

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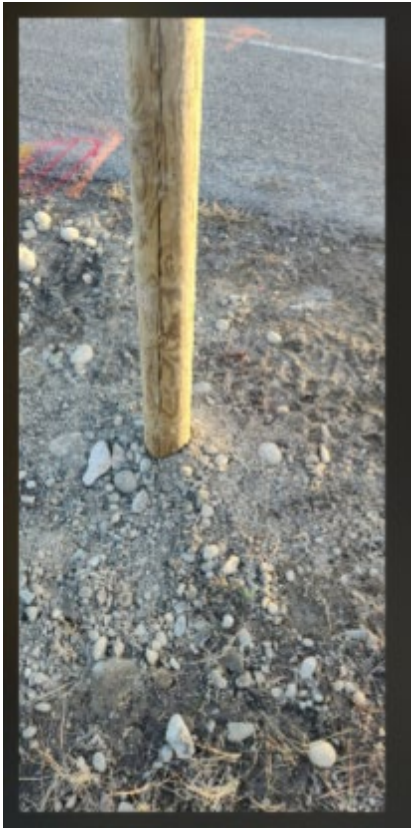
City Council - Ward 5

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**To:** [Meling, Debi](#); [Rupsis, Tom](#)  
**Cc:** [Council](#); [Boyett, Mike](#); [Kukulski, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] 36th and Monad 4 way stop  
**Date:** Friday, December 19, 2025 2:39:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
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[image012.png](#)

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Thank you for getting back, Debi. My concern is that in 4 weeks (mid-October to mid-November); we had 3 major accidents. The volume running down 36th street is terrible. You saw my address; I have lived here since 1995. When my sons were going to Big Sky (got a response saying kids do go Big Sky but to Central Heights, and to their recollection, it's always been that way), that was wrong, all of my sons risked their lives crossing Monad because no one yield to pedestrians. Plus, during that time, the Principle of Big Sky couldn't get a crossing guard to work because they said it was too dangerous to put a crossing guard. So the Principle of Big Sky covered for a while then stopped.

We 2 churches on this intersection, on Sundays, there I times we cannot get out of our neighborhood because of the church crowds.

The accidents we have at this intersection are high speed accidents. Traffic heading east and west on Monad average 45 to 50 mph. Also, the average speed on 36<sup>th</sup> is 40-45 mph, both speed limits are 35 mph. Sure, when they see police presents, they don't speed down Monad. If you read social media, it's a joke that people say, just do the speed limit when you see a police cruiser. There were times, BPD would just park a vehicle and slowed down.

At one of the accidents in October, I talked to all the officers that responded, and they are tired of coming out here, when they could be battling crime. 2 years ago, Officer Stovall, was investigating an accident when a speeder on Monad hit him.

2 years ago in July, at 9:30 pm, major accident where a ¾ ton Dodge lifted pickup heading north on 36<sup>th</sup> blew the stop sign and t-boning a Cadillac head west on Monad (she had the right of way). It was her and her 5-year-old son. Both vehicles were totaled. Here is what ticked us off, I and 4 other neighbors called the police, and we could not get an officer out there because they were all dispatched to assault calls. For 50 minutes, I and 4 other neighbors had beer bottles, garbage, and slurs yelled at us to ensure these idiots did hit the

vehicles in the intersection. Finally, someone called the fire department (don't know 911 dispatch did not do this) and said what are we supposed to do with a vehicle leaking gas and oil (both the pickup and Cadillac were leaking gas and oil) within 5 minutes a fire truck showed up.

You can come out and interview us all who live just right off 36<sup>th</sup> and Monad, we will tell you the same, we are tired of the accidents because a two way isn't working but a 4 way will reduce speed. 2 years ago, two motorcycles were racing from 32<sup>nd</sup> going over 90 mph, when one biker trying to avoid a car in front of him, we kill on 38<sup>th</sup> street and Monad. If there was a stop sign for traffic on Monad (east and west) he maybe alive to this day.

So, I am keeping all this data, and the day someone dies, I am going to share it with the victim. It may not be a car accident, it maybe a pedestrian, but city is going to have to live with death that could have been avoided.

From my many years working with the US Government for good 5 years in an admirative position and HR position, we had workplace violence training. The statistic on a scale of 1 to 10, when does management get involved in workplace violence safety. The answer is nowhere between 1 to 10, it's 11, after the fact. What am reading from the response from Billings (I was born and raised here, 65 years now), when someone gets killed at this intersection, that is the 11, when this city gets involved. Seen it at Gable, took a woman from Columbus to be killed in an accident to get a light, 36<sup>th</sup> and King, to get that light, a motorcyclist was killed, on Rimrock and Virginia, again, to get a light a death.

So, you can see what it will take a death to respond. Also, what took the decision to put a 4 way by the zoo when all these years, there have been no 4 ways? Looked up, there has been only one accident in MONTHS, where we had 3 in 4 weeks? Was it because of TSC, Montana Brewery, and the Zoo? Also, as I told Tom Rupsis, and he had to back track, he told me this was not permanent 4 way he back tracked with I said don't pee on my leg and call it rain, he said it is permanent, you can look it was surveyed where possible lines are because they were using a bobcat tractor with a 60 inch bore ground bit to plant those signs, I don't like being lied to. You, as city employees on my tax dollar, don't lie because that is your integrity. Right now, that is all I am hearing.

Sorry, I am not going to let this rest.

Sincerely

Jay Ettleman



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**Sent:** Friday, December 19, 2025 12:38 PM  
**To:** Rupsis, Tom <rupsist@billingsmt.gov>; jay ettlemann <ettlemann@msn.com>  
**Cc:** Council <council@billingsmt.gov>; Boyett, Mike <boyettm@billingsmt.gov>; Kukulski, Chris <kukulskic@billingsmt.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] 36th and Monad 4 way stop

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EXCELLENCE INNOVATION INTEGRITY

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ADMINISTRATION  
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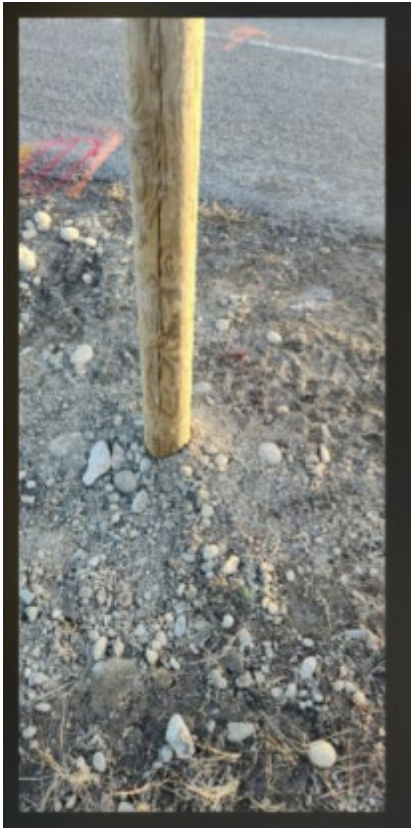
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