

From: [Carol Whittle](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fw: Failure Notice
Date: Sunday, December 21, 2025 12:16:13 PM



----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "mailer-daemon@aol.com" <mailer-daemon@aol.com>
To: "cawves@aol.com" <cawves@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 21, 2025 at 12:13:37 PM MST
Subject: Failure Notice

Sorry, we were unable to deliver your message to the following address.

<citycouncil@billingsmt.gov>:

550: Invalid Recipient - <https://community.mimecast.com/docs/DOC-1369#550>
[4u09oNM7OMmgVnSf0qNKbQ.us124]

----- Forwarded message -----

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Carol Whittle <cawves@aol.com>
To: council@billingsmontana.gov <council@billingsmontana.gov>
Sent: Sunday, December 21, 2025 at 12:11:41 PM MST
Subject: Intersection at 36 Street Wes and Monad

I moved into my house at 3612 Mammoth Cave Dr. in October 2024. Since then I have noticed a number of motor vehicle accidents at the intersection of 36th and Monad. I have spoken to other neighbors who have lived here since the neighborhood was constructed; they share similar concerns about safety of this intersection. Some of the accidents occur during midday when there are no hazards such as rain or snow.

Could this intersection be made into a four-way stop? Carol Whittle

From: [jay ettleman](#)
To: [Council](#); [Rupsis, Tom](#); [Meling, Debi](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] 36th and Monad 4 way stop
Date: Sunday, December 21, 2025 1:48:44 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)



Debi Meling and Tom Rupsis, you were misinformed by someone in the city telling you there isn't a problem at the intersection of 36th St W and Monad Rd. Here is a picture of the 5th accident since mid-October. This one resulted in someone taken to the hospital in an ambulance. City Council and Mayor, the information being provided to all of you is incorrect.

Thank you Councilman Rupis for responding to my email about the stop signs at Zoo Drive and Shiloh Rd. Thank you for going there and seeing for yourself.

My neighborhood has been pleading for years to get a 4 way stop at 36th St W and Monad Road. Today I asked the investigating officer, who is an excellent officer, to start another traffic watch at this intersection. This would be the 7th requested.

The City Council and Mayor work for the taxpayers of the City of Billings, for the taxpayers of Parkland West, Granger, and Olympic Subdivisions. The traffic is only increasing in this area.

First repose from Tom Rupsis 12/19/2025 9:23 pm

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

Second response 12/20/2025 5:06 pm

"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."

Council members, are city employees misinforming you? Talk with the Police Department. They have been talking to who ever is in charge for at least 5 years. Bill Kennedy and TJ backed that up over a phone conversation.

Every Police Officer and Community officer I have spoken to are tired of coming out this intersection. Since just May there have been 7 accidents, but when you look up on Billings reporting, it says we only had 1 accident in 2025. Why the discrepancy in reporting?

After this accident, my neighbors and I are **demanding** a minimum a 4 way stop. It takes just a \$30.00 piece of metal (found the same post at Home Depot, same ones being used around all neighborhoods) and a \$30.00 Stop Sign and a several hours labor to put up 2 more signs. As you see in the pictures on the "temporary 4 -way for the lights" the city invested around \$30,000.00 for the drilling, mapping the utilities which Debi confirmed did happen. But look at the fresh paint, the Zoo didn't request or is doing any work to require this expensive mapping.

We are all to be served universally, that is why we pay taxes. It seems that the Zoo, Meadowlark Brewing Pierce, TSC, Office 360 and possibly Costco gets preferential treatment. I understand they bring business to the area but citizens deserve to have their needs met as well.

I worked for 30 years with the USPS, and if a person mailed .79 cents letter and big business mailed \$1 million letters in one day, we gave each letter the same treatment.

Our neighborhood and the people injured at this intersection are not going to stop pressing for our safety. One day, a child trying to cross Monad off 36th St. will be standing on the corner and be injured or killed because of this intersection. How will that be explained to the parents? We don't want to wait until someone is killed, like on Virginia Lane and Rimrock Road before the city takes action.

By erecting a 4 way stop, it will support our BPD to be able to focus on our crime issue and not accidents that could be prevented. The amount of money to do this can come from the safety mill levies that our neighborhood voted for.

Sincerely

Jay Ettleman
3665 Mammoth Cave Drive
Billings MT 59102
Ettleman@msn.com
406-850-3213

From: jay ettleman <ettleman@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, December 19, 2025 2:38 PM
To: Meling, Debi <melingd@billingsmt.gov>; Rupsis, Tom <rupsist@billingsmt.gov>
Cc: Council <council@billingsmt.gov>; Boyett, Mike <boyettm@billingsmt.gov>; Kukulski, Chris <kukulskic@billingsmt.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] 36th and Monad 4 way stop

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 36th 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 36th 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 36th 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 32nd going over 90 mph, when one biker trying to avoid a car in front of him, we kill on 38th 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, 36th and King, to get that light, a motorcyclist was killed, on Rimrock and Virgina, 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

From: Meling, Debi <melingd@billingsmt.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 19, 2025 12:38 PM
To: Rupsis, Tom <rupsist@billingsmt.gov>; jay ettleman <ettleman@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

Good afternoon,

This message was forwarded to me so I could look into the situation. We talked with MDT and they confirmed that this was requested by the Zoo for the Christmas lights event only. They did not approve a permanent installation and they do have concerns with some of the implementation. They are working with the zoo to address the issues.

MDT has a process for road modifications, and it takes significant effort and warrants must be met for approval. From our understanding, this location does not meet the warrants necessary for a four way stop.

Regarding Monad and 36th, the warrants have not been met for that location and with the significantly higher volume on Monad versus 36th, a four way stop is not likely to be warranted. We will review the recent accident history to ascertain the causes and see if improvements can be made at the intersection to address any issues that are found. Mr. Ettleman, our traffic engineer is Dakota Martonen and his email is martonend@billingsmt.gov. He is aware of this email and will communicate with you but you can certainly reach out to him.

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. While it is not our jurisdiction in this case, we certainly want to ensure the safety of our traveling public and can coordinate with our counterparts at the state.

Debi



Debi Meling, P.E.
Public Works Director
melingd@billingsmt.gov

EXCELLENCE INNOVATION INTEGRITY

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From: Rupsis, Tom <rupsist@billingsmt.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 19, 2025 9:59 AM
To: jay ettlemann <ettlemann@msn.com>
Cc: Council <council@billingsmt.gov>; Boyett, Mike <boyettm@billingsmt.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] 36th and Monad 4 way stop

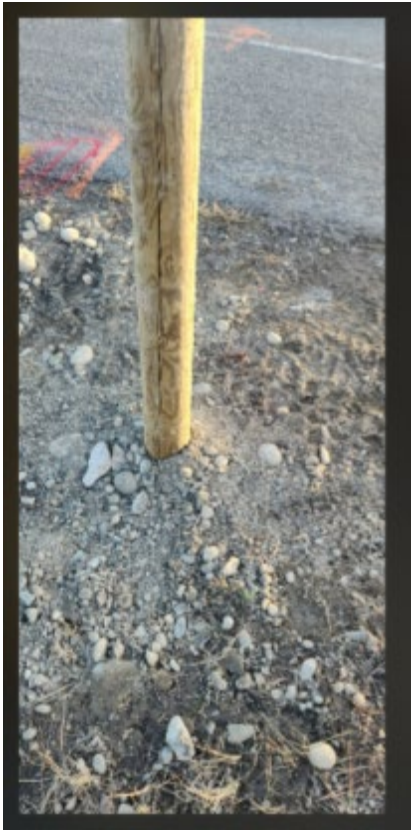
Mr. Ettlemann -

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

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

On Dec 19, 2025 9:06 AM, jay ettlemann <ettlemann@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 stop signs are cheap metal posts (I can get the same post as Home Depot for \$30.00, why didn't you use those.











From: jay ettelman <ettelman@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

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

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

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406-850-3213