

Comments Regarding US12 Between Ipswich and Mina

From: bakersd@midco.net
To: [Voeltz, Dave](#)
Subject: 4 lane hi-way west of Aberdeen
Date: Wednesday, December 09, 2015 3:13:43 PM

Mr. Voeltz,

I am writing to request that funding be appropriated for the creation of a 4-lane hi-way between Aberdeen and Ipswich for safety reasons. That stretch of hi-way has a tremendous amount of traffic. When the hi-way was designed, the amount of traffic it saw was only a fraction of what it is today. Today, that hi-way is carrying students to and from school, wind tower traffic, ethanol plant traffic, manufactured housing and oil patch traffic, a constant flow of traffic to and from the Missouri river for camping and fishing, and soon will add traffic to and from the new beef plant in Aberdeen. Add to all that traffic, the elderly people who drive to and from Aberdeen for shopping and medical appointments from Leola, Long Lake, Eureka, Roscoe, Bowdle, Hosmer, Faulkton, Cresbard and Ipswich, who drive that stretch of road at 50-55mph (which is understandably their comfort level), you have created an extreme safety issue. Truckers and other drivers become impatient. Due to the curves and hills on this stretch of hi-way it is nearly impossible to pass vehicles that are going well below the speed limit. One day last winter on my way from Ipswich to Aberdeen, I personally counted 57 vehicles in the oncoming lane in the first 5 miles east of Ipswich. I haven't been able to find anyone who can/will give me traffic study numbers between Aberdeen and Ipswich so I can't know what the traffic is in a 24 hour period. I can only relate what I witness as a frequent traveler on that hi-way. I am confident that there is equal, if not more, traffic between Ipswich and Aberdeen than there is between Groton and I-29.

Yesterday along Hi-way 12 from Mina to Ipswich I counted 10 "Why Die" signs and that does not include the 6 deaths that occurred in the last 6 weeks. That is only 12 miles with 16 deaths. How many people have to die on that stretch of road before the state acts to improve the situation? I realize turning lanes have been added in some areas recently but, it doesn't seem to make much difference in the flow of traffic.

Now, ideally, we would have a 4-lane hi-way all the way from Aberdeen to Mobridge. It makes sense for safety and tourism reasons. I don't know if the traffic numbers would justify a 4-lane all the way to Mobridge or not. We have to start somewhere. I think starting the process between Aberdeen and Ipswich is an absolute necessary first step for safety reasons.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Time is of the essence to save lives. I would appreciate hearing from you regarding this matter.

Charlotte Baker
605-426-6103

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Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Time is of the essence to save lives. I would appreciate hearing from you regarding this matter.

Charlotte Baker
605-426-6103

Chelsea Weig
Ipswich Public Schools
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Cw3878@k12.sd.us
December 10, 2015

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I am an Ipswich high schooler that travels the section of Highway 12 between Mina and Ipswich every day. I not only have encountered some scary occurrences, but have also had many family and friends come upon difficult situations. The occurrences happened from error of another driver which are very hard to avoid with minimum space and several other drivers around you. Mistakes happen all the time but on Highway 12 there is not room for error with the added amount of traffic, grain terminals, and vehicles exiting and entering the roadway.

I am one hundred percent for a four lane highway from Aberdeen to Ipswich. I know the talk has been about being from Aberdeen to Mobridge but personally I do not see that as necessary at this time. The most deadly accidents, or just accidents to begin with happen within the stretch from Aberdeen to Ipswich. Yes, these additional lanes will cost a lot of money. But how many lives can we continue to take with the increased amount of traffic on this road?

There are four major grain terminals, three of which added in recent years, being Cargill, Glacial Lakes Energy and the Sylte bin site, all of which border this section of Highway 12. Plus two more between Roscoe and Bowdle. These aren't just normal sized cars, these are fully loaded semi-trailers traveling at full speed and sometimes pulling an additional loaded trailer. The truck traffic is every day, it is not only around harvesting time. The semi-trailers that are entering the highway are not entering at 65 miles per hour. This is also another hazard that causes a lot of traffic error. Just today a car pulled out in front of a semi that was going at full speed. The semi swerved out of the way and put other travelers at risk. Granted this was a mistake of the driver who pulled out in front of the semi but either way errors cannot be made on this highway due to lack of room and a large amount of traffic. The area between Aberdeen and Ipswich is a very farm oriented area. Along with the semis there is also the addition of tractors and slow moving vehicles that causes buildup of traffic, also decreasing the room for error. There is a gas station being added to the Mina area which is a very common spots for accidents already. This will also add to more vehicles entering and exiting the highway which will add an increase in the amount of errors that may happen, also leading to more accidents.

Darin Bergquist
December 10, 2015
Page 2

A change to the curves near Andover has also been brought up. The two accidents that have happened in that last two years have involved alcohol. The several accidents near Ipswich and Mina have not involved any alcohol.

Many people may argue that many teenagers make the commute to Ipswich, and that their careless driving is the reason for that accidents. The people involved in these accidents were older than 20.

Accidents that continue to happen affect not only the families but also the friends and surrounding communities. I have not had a family member involved in one of the accidents on Highway 12 but I know the hurt and sorrow that may come from a deadly accident. My uncle was killed in an accident 30 years ago and my family remembers that day like it was yesterday. I have two younger brothers, a mom, a dad, grandparents and many friends and family that travel Highway 12 every day. I, just like any other human being would be devastated if anything happened to one of my close friends or family.

There are many great reasons as to why the highway should be changed. Money will always be an issue but when it comes down to it, it's either money or several lives being taken. We need to make the obvious decision here.

On my way home I turn off Highway 12 onto Nesbitt Drive of Mina Lake. My turn off is also a very dangerous spot. The new gas station is now placed there which will also add a large amount of traffic in that area. There is a short side lane that is located near my turn that is used for passing cars. Not many cars are aware that is what the lane is for. There is also no sign there to let drivers know that that lane is used for passing. This could result in a rear-ended vehicle especially when cars are coming down off of the over pass.

The recent changes to Highway 12 haven't made enough changes. The turning lanes are not near long enough for the semi-trailers to turn, let alone a car. Also the turning lanes that have been added are being illegally used for passing lanes to pass slower cars.

In a recent Aberdeen American News article it stated that the road from Groton to Interstate 29 is a four lane and that their traffic count is under 5,000. Also the area Groton to Webster has a traffic count of 2,960 to 3,220 vehicles per day. The area between Aberdeen to Ipswich is not listed on the website. As you can see before the survey has been taken Edmunds Country is already getting the short end of the stick. I would just like to know why the traffic count has to be 8,000 now instead of 5,000?

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Weig

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Benjamin Pond
PO Box 306
510 2nd Ave.
Ipswich, SD 57451
Friday December 11, 2015

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Mr. Bergquist:

Over the past six years, there have been at least fourteen people injured in a crash each year on U.S. Highway 12. Over that time, there also have been ten fatal crashes. Of those accidents, five of them were in the same area. The stretch of road between Mina and Ipswich. Now, each crash had its own circumstances and they weren't in exactly the same spot, but all of these fatal crashes were in the same area and that should be looked into.

I think that an improvement to this road is necessary. That road is frequently used by cars driving through and by semi-trucks hauling to the Glacial Lakes Energy plant one mile west of Mina. That road is also used almost every day by students who go to my school. It is used very much each day so some kind of improvement to prevent more crashes would benefit many people in the area and those who are just traveling through.

A possible solution to this problem would be widening the shoulders of the road. All five of the fatal accidents in this area of the highway were caused by someone crossing the center lane. A wider shoulder would give more room for the other driver to evade before having to go into the ditch to avoid colliding.

Perhaps lowering the speed limit on the overpass near Mina would help too. Lowering the speed limit would make traveling on it safer, and it would keep drivers going slow until they got past most of the places people turn off at to get to Mina Lake. Also, drivers would be going slower when they got to the Glacial Lakes Energy plant where semi-trucks would be turning at. This might give drivers of semis and cars time to see each other and react to the other driver.

Please consider evaluating this stretch of U.S. Highway 12 and making some improvement to this road. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Pond

Macy Heinz
215 3rd Street
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December 11, 2015

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DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

Over the years, there have been numerous accidents on U.S. Highway 12. However, as of lately, there has been an extreme amount of fatalities on the U.S. Highway stretch between Ipswich and Aberdeen, South Dakota. Unfortunately, a highway with long time safety concerns is now being brought to light with the recent extremities.

I feel that the biggest safety issue on U.S. Highway 12 is the amount of traffic. On the highway between Ipswich and Aberdeen, there are two ethanol plants and four grain elevators. This accounts for much of the traffic, as well as multiple semis and other large vehicles on the road. Large vehicles often travel below the speed limit. On a two-lane highway, this leads to much more passing. Doing so on a highway with excessive amounts of traffic is very unsafe.

As a solution, I feel that a four-lane highway would be most beneficial to drivers on U.S. Highway 12. It would reduce the back up of traffic due to large and slow moving vehicles. It would also allow cars to pass more safely, and separate the large amounts of traffic with a median.

In conclusion, the safety of drivers along U.S. Highway 12 would be greatly benefited with a four-lane highway. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Macy Heinz

EMMA Graves
Ipswich Public Schools
P.O. Box 306
Ipswich, SD 57451

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Trans.
Becker
700 E Broadway Ave
Pierre SD 57501

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DEC 14 2013
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TRANSPORTATION

Dear Darin Bergquist

I am Emma Graves a 16 year old high school student in Ipswich, SD. As you probably know our highway has been a large issue in our community lately. I do understand that there are probably other places where you express your concern but I urge you to consider helping us to fix our community by making our roadway safer. I do know much about highways and what can be done to change them but I do know that these roads to be a change. As someone who regularly commutes the high way from Ipswich to Aberdeen I see the large amounts of traffic personally. Although it may not look like a lot in the scene of things, such as soundbats there is still a large amount of cars for this area. Another factor is that the cars are not just small vehicles, they are large trucks, trailers occasionally and cement trucks. Between the trucks getting to their locations, the student coming home to Minn, and people coming back from work there is a large amount of traffic between the hours three and seven.

We are a small community and almost everyone in our community has been impacted by the numerous accidents along highway 12 lately. We would all greatly appreciate any effort on your part to help us out and to save lives by fixing our highway problem.

Riley Gilbert
101 Rays Lane
Ipswich, SD 57451
605-252-0930
RG3281@k12.sd.us
December 10, 2015

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
South Dakota Department of Transportation
700 E Broadway Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Mr. Bergquist,

Hello my name is Riley Gilbert. I am 17 years old and I am a junior at Ipswich High School. I am writing to you about US Highway 12 from the stretch of Mobridge to Aberdeen. I would first like to express my discontent regarding the recent crashes by Mina. Aberdeen is a big part of our little town of Ipswich. I know this because, my family attends church almost every Sunday in Aberdeen. My friends and I love to go to Aberdeen to view a movie or hang out. Many people from Ipswich commute to Aberdeen for work and many other things. Aberdeen is a very big part of our little community. I think something needs to be done, before more car crashes happen and more people are killed.

I think the 4 lane highway is a great idea to ponder on for the future. We all know that this will take many of years to complete, but I think that it at least needs to be considered. You may argue that it is too much money, but this is only factor until something happens to somebody you hold closely and dear. You may not think that the 4 lane highway may not be the best option, but something needs to be done.

You know that we are all human and that we will do dumb things. You know that sooner or later, human error will claim more lives on this highway. Something needs to be done before another live is claimed, maybe even my own. Yes the highway would cost a lot of money, but human safety should be your number one priority. If money plays a bigger role than the life of a human being you share this live with, then you may need to re-evaluate your decision. Many people are tired of hearing about fatal crashes that happen along US Highway 12. Not to mention the injury crashes that have happened and that have been very close to claiming lives.

I hope that with all of the concern about this that you at least consider something. Please do something before this highway claims more lives, and more people are upset that something is not being done. Please consider all of the factors, but I hope the largest factor is the lives that this highway is taking. I pray that you will do your job to protect the people of the wonderful state of South Dakota. I pray that you will see that even though this might be very costly, that it will help out the people of Ipswich. Our community shares a very good bond. We hate hearing about another live being taken by such a brutal way.

Darin Bergquist
December 10, 2015
Page 2

I will leave you with this. Please consider the 4 lane highway. Please consider at least improving the highway a little bit. Please do something to protect the people around our area. Before it is too late and more lives are claimed. Lives that are important to our community. Lives that are dear to us.

Sincerely,

Riley Gilbert

Andrew Fuhrmann
PO Box 306
Ipswich SD 57471
December 10, 2015

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E Broadway Ave
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

My name is Andrew I'm 16 years old and I've lived on the same farm right off of US highway twelve around Roscoe SD. Every school day I travel to Ipswich to go to school, and not just school trips but I also do errands for our farm. I'm concerned for the safety of travelers on highway twelve, some days especially during the busy times of the year such as harvest or planting time. Basically I'm suggesting that more safety features need to be applied on the road. Whether it be a 4 lane, rumble strips or wider shoulders. Obviously lives have been lost and I think it would be in the best interest to try to stop these accidents. Please look into it.

Andrew Fuhrmann

Tanner Moore
Ipswich Public School P.O Box 306
Ipswich, SD 57451
605-377-4403
Tannermoore.132@gmail.com
December 11, 2015

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DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building 700 E. Broadway Ave
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I am writing you because our English teacher is requiring us to make you a letter stating how we feel about the whole highway 12 situation, honestly I think the setup we have right now is absolutely fine and works for me, the only suggestion I would I have to throw out would be to put a minimum speed limit up of at least 50 or 55 to encourage people to stay focused on the road and keep about the speed limit, after all the driving I've done people driving too slow have been the biggest problem starters. The reason they are the problem is because after a long day of work people coming home don't want to horse around and go 40-45 in a 65 so they get impatient and they pass the car recklessly and around 5- 5:30 when people are driving home especially in the winter time it is dark and not everyone has their lights on yet and that could cause an accident, but like I said before if nothing changes and stays the way it is I won't be upset.

Sincerely,

Tanner Moore

Bryce Charlton
P.O. Box 306
Ipswich, SD 57451
December 10, 2015

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SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E Broadway Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I am a long-time resident of our city, and I am writing to express my concern about recent discussion and the pending decision to make Highway 45 into a four lane highway. I understand that the decision is being considered to enable street widening that will accommodate increasingly heavier traffic.

However, I do not believe that the benefits of widening Highway 12 for more traffic. It would seem that widening our roads would stop more crashes from happening, but however a four-lane highway would be more than capable of dealing with traffic with about 8,000. However, considering that from Groton to Aberdeen has a four-lane, but has less traffic than we do over here around Ipswich and Mina. Traffic, on Highway 45 can be dangerous, considering some people use the turning lanes as passing lanes, this could be stopped by people using another lane, that we could gain with the building of a four-lane.

I understand that the building of a four-lane would take a lot of money and time, especially since the money that would be used would be coming from the Federal Government.

I am expressing my concern because recently I had lost a friend and co-worker that was once a very close acquaintance of mine. The loss wasn't as bad for me but for some people I know it was very hard. I also drive on the highway and sometimes some of the drivers get angry and sometimes drive reckless. I find this annoying and don't feel safe sometimes while I'm driving.

I am looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Bryce Charlton

Max Maldonado
Ipswich Public School
PO Box 306
Ipswich, SD 57451
Nofatchx19@yahoo.com
December 10, 2015

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 East Broadway Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I don't think that having a four lane highway is going to change anything. You could think about adding rumble strips to the center line to warn drivers when they are crossing the center line. There is a lot of properties between Ipswich and Aberdeen that are right next to the highway. Adding more lanes is not going to stop deer from crossing it. I drive on that highway nearly every day. At certain times of the day, the highway does tend to get a little bit busy, but nothing to serious. A two lane highway can support up to 8,000 vehicles per day. We only get about roughly one to two thousand vehicles per day. I think that people should just learn to drive more safely rather than being in a rush all the time. We get a lot of truck traffic around here with the Ethanol Plant and Farmers Elevator. It will cost too much time and money to turn it into a four lane highway. All of the fatal accidents that have happened since 2010 have been mostly people over the age of 40. I think that us teens are not the high risk drivers. A senior citizen is more likely than a younger driver to be at fault in an accident in which they are involved. Thank you and I hope that you consider.

Sincerely,

Max Maldonado

[Your Name]
Ipswich Public school P. O Box 306
Ipswich SD 57451

tanneranglin@icloud.com
December 11, 2015

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DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin bergquist
Secretary of transportation
SD department of transportation
Becker- Hansen Building 700 E. Broadway Ave
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Darin bergquist:

Highway 12 has a lot of traffic but I do not agree with the four lane because if people would just pay attention this head on accident wouldn't happen. Driving should not be a game it should be serious. This crashes have opened many peoples eyes including my dad who drives the highway every day. Some people blame it on the big truck and tractors but I don't think that has anything to do with it. It is because people are to busy on there phones. If anything is to be done it is to put a rumble strip in the middle. That will help with crossing the center line.

Sincerely, Tanner Anglin

Haylee Kilber
Ipswich Public Schools
PO Box 306
Ipswich, SD 57451
hk3233@k12.sd.us
December 10, 2015

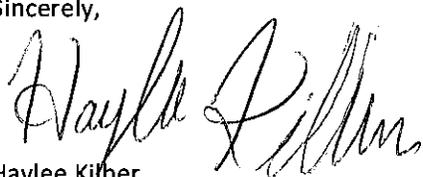
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Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I am writing to you as a concerned individual from Ipswich, South Dakota about Highway US-12. Talk about the highway needing a revamp has been a large topic of discussion in Edmunds and Brown County. As a student at Ipswich High School I have many friends/classmates that travel US-12 every day to school and back. Currently the highway is a very hazardous road to travel. With increased traffic within the last five years due to Glacial Lakes Energy, The North Central Farmers Elevator Craven terminal, Sylte's Grain terminal, and the Sun Terminal there is a ton of heavy duty equipment and semis that travel the road daily. It is frustrating as a community member to hear that the state has no statistics from this year about how many people even travel on Highway US-12 that runs right through the town of Ipswich. I want to encourage you to evaluate different options to improve the safety and traffic flow up and down Highway 12. The death toll is already too high. I see the pain of having had friends lose family members and seeing the somber look on my dad's face after returning home from responding to the accident calls. Please make a sincere effort to improve the situation on highway 12.

Sincerely,


Haylee Kilber

Chase Wagner
December 10, 2015

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building 700E Broadway Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

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TRANSPORTATION

Dear Darin Bergquist:

Being someone that drives Highway 12 multiple times a week, I must say I am terrified to drive the road. I have lost friends that were making the drive from Ipswich to Aberdeen. I don't agree with people that the highway needs to be a four lane, I believe it will cost too much time and money to do. I do however think that their needs to be something done to the road, whether its rumble strips in the center of the highway or the road being wider. I deeply hope you will consider doing something to help make this highway safer.

Sincerely,

Chase Wagner

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DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Jacob Charlton
508 Alma Ave.
Ipswich, 57451
6052528068
Jacobcharlton1998@gmail.com
December 10, 2015

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of transportation
SD Department of Transportation
700 E Broadway Ave.
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

Hello my name is Jacob Charlton and I live in Ipswich South Dakota. My parents and my brothers drive the long road from Mobridge to Aberdeen. There has been a lot of recent accidents on Highway 12 near the Mina and Aberdeen area. I have lost my old boss from the Wakeside Bar and Grill restaurant in Mina. I really liked him. His name was Chris McCoy and he was a friend.

I'm a High school student and wish for these things to stop happening. I haven't gotten my license yet but when I do I would like to know that I am safe when I drive to and from my house or my girlfriend's house.

Sincerely, Jacob Charlton

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DEC 14 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Darin Bergquist

There have been a ton of deaths lately around our small town.

Although I do believe a change to the road is necessary, a four lane would be the only answer, there are precautions that should be taken starting now. I feel like even though so many people want a 4 lane (which I see it could help) it will take up too much land, and more people will complain about the construction. Either way people will be unhappy. To be honest I'm conflicted on this topic like you guys are, but I do see the point.

There would be more room for cars to go in rush hours. Reading an article of all the deaths kind of brought me to the 4 lane side. However I am also a farmer's kid and know the land will be taken away, even if it wouldn't take farmer's land it could still delay the farmer's work.

Highway 12 has been dangerous and something has to be done. If not a 4 lane than what? Mumble sticks or however they call it is smaller but not as safe. More so if it's on the side. Maybe a 4 lane isn't possible but there are more options. Starting this letter I was conflicted, but reading the "Local news across area cause concern" made me think about it more.

No matter what you decide to do think about the people who got injured, who died, and who's at risk. If a four lane cannot be done with the proper investigation done do something

else I drive home on that highway everyday to get home, and I've seen really bad accidents on my way there. Too many people have been hurt by this.

Please consider every letter, and every option.

Thank you for your time reading this. I hope you get something out of it.

- from Megan Klein Sasser

Kaylee Braun
13571 368th Avenue
Mina SD, 57451
December 10, 2015

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DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E Broadway Ave
Pierre SD, 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist.

I am Kaylee Braun, and this letter is written with the hope of change. I understand that you have been receiving many letters and emails about the current situation of Highway 12 between Ipswich and Aberdeen. I live on a farm between these two towns and have seen my fair share of crashes. The latest crash resulting in the death of three happened right at the turn off on my country road. I understand this may not seem like a big deal to you since it isn't currently affecting you. By a quick glance, it may seem like there isn't a lot of traffic. The thing is Mr. Bergquist, the accidents don't usually happen when there is an overload of cars. It happens on the long stretches when you think you are the only one on the road, and take your eyes off for a second. It happens to the people who believe the small shoulders make an acceptable passing lane. I'm writing this letter, not only for the others who have lost loved ones, but because I have lost a loved one on the same highway I drive every day. This same stretch of highway, in less than three miles, that has taken nine lives. It's a funny thing, since highways can't cause a crash, but it's the lack of safety measures taken to ensure that crashes will not happen. Between the years 2011 and 2015, there have been fifteen deaths. I believe it is time for a change. I'm not asking for your department to install a large four lane road that will take a long time to finish and back up traffic. I am asking for a few measures to be taken such as larger shoulders and rumble strips in the center to allow more room for driver error.

The changes that are needed aren't only for the people that have died, but the ones that have been injured as well. Between Mobridge and Aberdeen, one hundred and six people have been injured. I know that you cannot protect everyone, but by implementing some safety measures, we can sure try.

Darin Bergquist
December 10, 2015
Page 2

I would like to thank you as well. I am thanking you because you are an important part of keeping South Dakota running and have the ability to ensure it runs smoothly. It's not every day you get the power to change the future for others.

Sincerely,
Kaylee Braun

Dylan McQuarie
Ipswich Public Schools
Ipswich, SD 57451
1-605-377-3315
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December 10, 2015

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TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I am a resident of the city of Mina, and I am writing to express my mind about Highway 12 and the four lane highway. I'm mostly against this idea mostly because it would take a lot of money and time. Also how is the company supposed to make a four lane highway over the Mina Bridge? And my step father works at the Glacier Lakes ethanol plant. That involves him having to find another job until they either replace it or put it somewhere else. I will agree there has been more traffic on this highway but I drive it almost every day and I have been in some scary positions. I still believe that if you drive safely and pay attention to the road than you'll be fine. Maybe we could add some lanes for where semis can catch up to speed and then join the main lane. That may help a little bit.

I am looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dylan McQuarie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Dylan McQuarie

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DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Garytt Tostenson
Ipswich Public Schools PO Box 306
Ipswich SD 57451
December 10, 2015

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building 7000 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I haven't lived around here for very long. It has only been about for years, but that has been plenty of time for me to figure out that something needs to be changed. There have been too many accidents and deaths on highway twelve.

Sincerely,

Garytt Tostenson

Rachel Henderson
Ipswich Public Schools
PO Box 306
Ipswich, SD 57451
December 10, 2015

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I am writing to express my concern for the amount of fatal crashes that have happened between Mobridge and Aberdeen. Something needs to be changed and here are a few suggestions. There has been a lot of talk about a four-lane divided highway and I think that would help cut down on the amount of crashes. Another suggestion would be to widen the shoulders along the highway. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Rachel Henderson

Dear, Darin Bergquist

There has been a lot of talk about highway 12. There have been a lot of incidents some fatal and hundreds non-fatal. Some have been suggesting that the highway is to be widened to a four lane instead of a 2 lane. This will not take only more than 10 years to complete from Aberdeen to Mobridge, but will also cost hundreds of millions of dollars. The highway in my opinion has very little to do with the accidents. The crashes another wards have little to do with the highway and a lot to do with the driver. Many of the hundreds of incidents actually had drunk drivers included, so I do not believe that we need to spend the time nor money to widen the highway just drive more cautiously and sober.

Sincerely: Kevin Larson

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

December 9, 2015

To whom it may concern;

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DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

I am writing in reference to all the fatal accidents that have occurred on highway 12 between Aberdeen and Ipswich. Something has to be done with this highway before there are more fatalities. The amount of traffic has increased greatly with the addition of the ethanol plant just west of Mina.

The road either needs to be widened or there needs to be a four lane highway constructed.

Thank you for your consideration in this.

Concerned Edmunds County citizen,

Carolyn Burgod

Carolyn Burgod

Michelle Sihrer
PO Box 306
Ipswich SD 57451
605-426-6571
Michelle.Sihrer@k12.sd.us
December 11, 2015

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
S.D. Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I am the English language arts teacher at Ipswich High School. I live in Aberdeen, and I drive on Highway 12 every day to get to school. There have been many crashes, some fatal on this stretch of road. Something needs to be done to improve the safety of this road.

Recently, three people died in a car crash not far from Ipswich. In the past year, there have been six fatalities on this stretch of road. All of these crashes have one thing in common: a vehicle crossed the center line causing a head-on collision. If this road were four lanes instead of two lanes, those crashes would not have happened. How many more crashes will result in fatalities on this road? If by improving this road, we prevent just one death, doesn't that make the expense worth it?

My family, who lives in Aberdeen, is so concerned for my safety on this road that every day I have to call them when I get to school and when I get home to let them know nothing happened. Every student who uses that road, every staff member who uses that road every day has someone at home worried about him or her. Life is too precious to not do anything about what is an obvious safety hazard.

Students at Ipswich High School recently saw a presentation from the S.D. Highway Patrol and the Edmunds County Sheriff's Office about driving safely. At the presentation, students asked about making Highway 12 safer, and decided that they wanted to send letters to ask for changes. Every student in my classes had the opportunity to write a letter, and so did staff members. Enclosed in this envelope is the responses I received. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Michelle Sihrer

12-14-2015

Secretary Darin Bergquist,

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DEC 18 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

In the interest of public safety, we are asking that you consider a 4 lane, divided highway on US Highway 12, from the divided west of Aberdeen to highway 45 south in Ipswich. It would be nice if it could go all the way to Mobridge!

This has become a very dangerous road!

When you leave the divide road west of Aberdeen the first thing you come to is the Continental Grain terminal. The next bad turn is Nesbitt Dr. to Mina lake. Next is the overpass. At the west end of the overpass is another turn to Mina Lake on 371st Ave. This has a turning lane which is used by many to pass the traffic on the highway. A mile west of there on 370th Ave is the Glacial Lakes Energy Plant. Our next bad turn is the Farmers Elevator at Craven Corner on 363rd ave. Next is the Farmers Elevator Sun Terminal. This is located between 361st Ave. and 362nd Ave. From there we come to the Glacial Lakes Terminal located at Sytle Farms near 360th Ave. There is also traffic onto highway 12 from highway 45 north.

A lot of truck traffic then comes into Ipswich on Highway 45 from the south. They either go west on highway 12 to the two large terminals at Roscoe or Bowdle, or east on highway 12 to the a fore mentioned terminals.

The traffic in the past was small farm trucks. Now must farmers have semi's and many pull pups.

We requested that something be done about the turn to Craven Elevator about 5 years ago. We asked if they could at least move the signs on the west corner of 363rd Ave. a little bit south so the trucks don't have to move into the north highway 12 lane to make the corner. "No problem, we can do that" the state highway man in the Aberdeen office said. It has never been done!

This highway has been a major concern of ours for a long time. Way too many people have been killed on this road and the traffic just keeps getting more all the time.

In the interest of safety, we need your help and are asking for it!

Concerned Citizens,

Loren and Sophie Leitzke

Loren & Sophie

December 3, 2015

SD Dept. of Transportation
700 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Sirs:

I'm responding to an Aberdeen American News article in regards to highway 12.

I live in Ipswich and can't believe how the traffic has grown from here to Aberdeen. It's so bad sometimes you can't even pass. We have 4 elevators and an Ethanol Plant on this highway. Because of that, we have had many fatalities and accidents. That is sad!!

It's time you do something about this and build all of us a 4 lane highway, so we can feel safe traveling. We are concerned citizens of Ipswich and Edmunds County.

Sincerely,

Rudy Lepka

Mary Jane Opsahl

Gerald Kilber

Janice Keeber

CC:
Governor Daugaard
Senator John Thune
Representative Kristi Noem
Senator Mike Rounds

RECEIVED

DEC 07 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dec. 11, 2015

Dear S.D. Transportation,

I am writing about our family & students traveling from our home in Spruick to Aberdeen on Highway 12 and back.

I (~~love~~) believe the warning track along the outside white lines are way to close to the white line. When I drive and vary just 2" outside the lines that horrible warning alerts me I am out of the lane but the semi-coming head-on is so wide I need those couple of inches so we can go our opposite directions without touching rear view mirrors.

Hitting that warning track sure startles me. I wonder how many people overcorrect their steering because of it, but have no room to vary their correction.

Please consider moving the warning track on Highway 12.

Mrs. Mower
Teacher and Parent

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Darin Bergquist,

I am writing you for a concern of the stretch of Highway 12 from Aberdeen to Mobridge. I feel as if it should be a four lane highway for safety reasons. I live in Ipswich and I drive on Highway 12 very often. Since 2010, there have been 10 fatal crashes from Mobridge to Aberdeen. One of the latest crashes that happened between Ipswich to Mina took the life of someone very close to my family. With all of the fatal crashes that occur, it scares me to drive because one day that could be me. The way I see it, a four lane highway would eliminate some, not all, crashes that occur. Rumble strips might be beneficial, but it wouldn't help as much as a four lane highway would. Thank you for your time in reading my letter and taking it into consideration.

Allison Severson
Sophomore at Ipswich
allison.severson

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dylan Northrop

Mina SD 57451
December 11, 2015

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Department of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist :

I live in Mina and go to Ipswich High school. I understand that you probably are getting a lot of complaints about highway twelve from Ipswich to Aberdeen, but I would like to explain how I feel about the topic. I feel as if we need a four lane highway from Ipswich to Aberdeen or even Mobridge to Aberdeen. There has been so many accidents in this area in just the last three months. I feel as if a four lane would fix these crashes because these accidents have been where cars have traveled across the center line. Another alternative to this problem would be placing rumble strips by the center line on both sides. I still think that this could prevent some accident also. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Pavin Berquist

You might be hearing a lot of information about US Highway 12. I live in Ipswich, and I don't think that Highway ever does. I do believe that something should change though. From the year 2010 to the present day, there have been 10 fatal crashes. 1.4% of all fatal crashes in SD. 18 people have died on US Highway 12 within 6 years. So 50% of the fatal crashes happen by Minn. 2% in 2014 crashes were fatal. So even if we don't have a four lane from Ipswich to Aberdeen, there should at least be white strips between the two lanes to tell people you are going out of your lane. This is why I believe there should at least have white strips. There doesn't need to be a four lane. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelli Bonhardt

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Colton Weeldreyer
P.O. Box 306
Ipswich, SD 57451
December 9, 2015

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E Broadway Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I am a resident of the city of Ipswich, and I am writing to express my concern about a recent discussion and the pending decision to make the highway between Ipswich and Aberdeen a four-lane road. I understand that the decision is being considered to enable highway widening that will accommodate increasingly heavier traffic.

I do not believe you need more enforcement on that highway, just a four-lane road, and a larger median with rumble strips.

Thank you for your consideration and your time to read my letter

Sincerely,

Colton Weeldreyer

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DEC 14 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Darin Bergquist,

My name is Grace Bakken from Ipswich. I would like to address the problem on Highway 12 from Ipswich to Aberdeen. I think the highway should be a four lane road. It is a long stretch of road and there are always a lot of cars on it. Highway 12 is often driven on by many people between Ipswich and Aberdeen. There are always a lot of trucks on Highway 12 as well. Between Ipswich and Aberdeen there is Sun Terminal, Craven, the Ethanol Plant and Concord Grain and during harvest there are trucks everywhere.

There have been 10 fatal crashes on Highway 12 between Ipswich and Aberdeen from 2010 till now. The crashes on this highway make up 1.4% of all fatal crashes in all of South Dakota. Many people drive under the speed limit and there is never time to pass them because of the amount of cars coming from the other way. If the road was a four lane road, people could pass without driving into oncoming traffic. A four lane road won't stop all of the crashes; however, it can prevent a majority of the crashes because it will allow the flow of traffic to keep moving.

18 people have died on Highway 12 in the last 6 years. On average 3 people die on Highway 12 every year. At this rate, 3 families lose a family member every year. In small towns like Ipswich and Mina, the first people to the site of an accident are local firefighters, ambulance, and police. These people in the crashes are fathers, friends, sons, mothers, daughters, family to many people in a small town. In Ipswich it's hard to go around town without knowing most people. So to have someone that you know get killed in a car crash and being the first one there to see it, has to be very hard and terrifying.

A four lane obviously wouldn't make the road crash free because they will still happen. I am just hoping that a four lane will help prevent as many crashes as possible. If it can be prevented, then why not try to fix it. I also do realize that it will take away farmers' land, cost a lot of money, and take a long time to construct; however, I think it would be worth it. A four lane can prevent more crashes and that is potentially saving people's lives. Thank you for your time and the consideration of a four lane road on Highway 12 from Ipswich to Aberdeen.

Sincerely,

Grace Bakken, Ipswich, SD

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Ipswich Public Schools
PO Box 306
Ipswich, SD 57451

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E. Broadway Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I live in Ipswich, SD and drive U.S. Highway 12 on a weekly basis. It is pretty obvious that U.S. Highway 12 has become a danger zone for everyone driving on it. Parents, especially mine, are constantly worried about their children driving this road and fear the worst is yet to come. Lives have been altered tremendously from crashes along this highway, whether it's head-on collisions or swerving to miss one. Something needs to change along U.S. Highway 12, perhaps four lanes going from Aberdeen to Mobridge.

From the start of 2010 to now, there have been 10 fatal crashes within the 100 miles between Aberdeen and Mobridge, according to the State Department of Public Safety. This represents 1.4 percent of the 663 accidents along U.S. Highway 12. If you ask me, 18 deaths on Highway 12 in the last 6 years is far too many. How would you like to be the policeman who has to walk up to someone's house and inform them that their family member has been killed in a car crash? Then, to make matters even worse, having to tell them it was along U.S. Highway 12.

I understand that I am only a sophomore and my voice isn't very strong, but I would greatly appreciate if you took my thoughts into consideration. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Shaunay M. Jones

Abby Noltner
Ipswich Public School
P.O.Box 306
510 2nd Avenue
Ipswich, SD 57451
(605)-426-6571
December 9, 2015

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
700 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I live in Mina, SD and I drive on Highway 12 every day to go to school in Ipswich and to go to work in Aberdeen. I'm sure that you are getting many comments about making Highway 12 a four-lane. I believe that we should NOT make the road a four-lane, because it would make farmers lose some of their land. If you look back at the accidents it is not the road's fault for the accidents, it is the driver's faults. The drivers are either on their phone or falling asleep and they are crossing the lines. Maybe if you put rumble strips might help to give the drivers a notice about them crossing the lines. Thank you for your time and I hope you take my letter in consideration.

Sincerely,



Abby Noltner

Elena Andreo
510 2nd Ave.
P.O. Box 306
Ipswich, SD 57451
Phone: (605) 428-6571
December 9, 2015

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Daring Bergguist
Secretary of Transportation
South Dakota Dept. of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E Broadway Ave
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Daring Bergguist:

I am writing you because I am very worried about the situation of the section of the Highway 12 that goes from Aberdeen to Mobridge, especially between Aberdeen and Ipswich, at Mina. The 50% of the fatal crashes that happen in this highway happen in that section by Mina. As an exchange student from Spain I have heard a lot about the problems with this road, people that lives in here is really worried about it because they are losing their families, friends, neighbors...Personally I don't think that the fault is of the road, I think that this is happening because people don't accomplish the law, they text while they are driving, a very unsafe action that kill a lot of people, not even in that spot of highway 12, IN South Dakota or even in the United States; it happen all over the world. Also people speed, they overpass the limit of speed; they mustn't, but they do. Speed limits exist for a reason, your safety, and your life and if you speed you are risking not only your life, the life of the people that is in the car with you, everybody else on the road, their families, yours...

I think that we could fix this problems having higher fines for using the phone while you are driving and speeding and have more police on the roads, checking that people accomplish those laws.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Elena Andreo.

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Darin Berquist,

I am writing to you because of my great concern about Highway 12. Every single time I hear the sirens I get extremely nervous. All of my relatives drive on this highway between Ipswich to Aberdeen every day. In the last 6 years 18 people have died. I don't know if that's just me, but that is alarming. It's also very scary considering I myself and my friends and family travel on it almost every day. I realize that it equals out to 3 deaths every year. This may seem small but let's remember: this is 3 people's lives taken in a 25 mile stretch! That is crazy and that can happen to anybody. I could just ignore the fact because I haven't been directly affected, but I don't want to be affected and I don't believe anybody does. This is why I strongly think there should be a four-lane highway between Ipswich to Aberdeen. I don't think high speed is a factor, it's low speed. People driving slow backs up traffic and people try to pass at any opportunity. Also I believe the rumble strips are at a very bad place. As a young

driver. I realize how important it is to not overcorrect. So why would there be rumble strips literally next to the white line. If you accidentally hit them and overcorrect that is dangerous and could be fatal. We need the rumble strips to be right before the ditch. I really hope money isn't a factor because no amount of money is worth someone's life.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jennia Vetch
Saphmore at Ipswich High School
PO Box 306
Ipswich SD 57451
Phone: (605) 426-6571

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

**SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION**

David Lage

Ipswich Public Schools PO Box 306

Ipswich, SD, 57451

12/09/2015

Darin Bergquist

Secretary of Transportation

SD Department of Transportation

Becker-Hansen Building 700 E Broadway Ave

Pierre, SD, 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I am an exchange student from Brazil and I've been living north of Craven Corner for a few months and I have to pass through Highway 12 every day to go to Ipswich or Aberdeen. The road is good, you should keep it the way it is because the problem is the drivers. I think cell phones should be completely prohibited while driving and if someone is caught on their phone they should pay a fine. I also think that you should put speed cameras in the road to prevent drivers from speeding.

Thanks for the attention.

Sincerely, *David Lage*

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Darin Bergquist,

I have lived in Ipswich, South Dakota all my life. I always hear about the accidents that have happened between Ipswich and Aberdeen, and I personally don't want to hear about fatal and bad accidents any more. There are so many cars and semi's on U.S. Highway 12. That, I feel that it should be a four lane highway. This would give drivers more room for error and more room to swerve out of the way of deer.

I got my drivers license last year and I am seeing how many people go over into the other lane and this concerns me for my safty and how many people are speeding. With my sister getting her license soon I don't want her to be at risk of drivers going 10-30 miles per hour over the speed limit. I think that we should also have more patrols to take care of this speeding problem.

Thank you for listening to my concerns and for your time.

Sincerely,
Josie Sylte

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Darin Bergquist

I think that Highway 12 from Aberdeen to Ipswich should become a 4-lane highway. I know it won't get changed for 12 years, even if you decide to make it a 2-lane. I travel Ipswich to Mina once or twice a week. I think a 4-lane will keep me and the people close to me safer.

Thank you for reading this letter.

Sincerely

~~Bob~~ Byers

Asa

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

Dear Darin Bergquist:

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

I have only lived here for 2 years
but since I have been here there has been
several fatal crashes around Mina.

I do have a license and a car so I know
how dangerous it is around that area.

To help this I believe, is that the highway
from Aberdeen to Ipswich should be
turned into a 4 lane highway. This would
prevent crashes on the road.

sincerely, Asa Bobler
10th grade student

Department of Transportation:

I am writing you this letter as a concerned citizen of Aberdeen, SD. I teach in Ipswich, SD. I love the job that I have, and this is my eleventh year at the public school. However, there is one major concern that I have with my job, and that is driving to and from work every day.

In the time that I have taught here, there have been many fatal accidents on Highway 12. One was a student of ours, and that was a very hard loss. In the past few years, there has been at least one fatal crash a year, and it seems in recent years, it has been multiple fatalities.

I am asking you to please look into a solution for this problem. I think a four lane highway would definitely be something worth looking into. How many more people need to lose their lives before something changes? I do not think that I, or many others that travel to work on a daily basis, should have to fear for their lives while traveling. Please consider changes to make this a safer road.

Sincerely,

Angela Shimitz

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Jacob Anglin
PO Box 306
Ipswich, SD, 57451
December 11, 2015

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre, SD, 57451

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I am a student at Ipswich High School, and I drive Highway 12. Many people think that the highway should be made into a four lane road. I think that the highway should stay a two lane. The drivers are at fault. Most crashes are caused by people who are distracted while driving. An option that would be reasonable and not cost as many resources would be rumble strips in the center. If a driver gets distracted and begins to turn into the other lane then the rumble strips will make them realize that they need to move back. There are multiple options to make a road safer other than expanding the road.

Sincerely,

Jacob Anglin

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Joshua Burgod
Ipswich Public School
P.O. Box 306

December 11, 2015

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
700 E. Broadway Ave.

Dear Darin Bergquist,

I am writing today about the stretch of highway 12 that goes from Ipswich to Aberdeen. I believe there shouldn't be a four lane added to the road. If it was added it would be too close to some of the houses and grain elevators off of the highway. It would also be hard for farmers to drive equipment down the highway and turn on a four lane highway. There would be more accidents that would happen. Since there has been out of accidents near Mina, SD, I think there should be a no passing zone put in in that stretch of highway so no one would pass through that stretch.

Sincerely,



Joshua Burgod

Wyatt Haux
510 2nd Ave.
P.O. Box 306 | Ipswich, SD 57451
December 9, 2015

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
700E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre SD 5750

Dear Darin Bergquist :

I live in Mina, and I drive on U.S. Highway 12 every day. I feel that the road is safe in its current state. The highway is not the problem, it is the drivers on it. There should be a minimum speed limit. Slow drivers build up traffic which is not safe.

Sincerely,

Wyatt Haux

Hunter Graham

Darin Bergquist
4 lane highway
SD Department of Transportation
700 E Broadway
Pierre SD 57501

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I believe the road is fine. I don't think that the problem is the drivers. It is a lack of common sense and distraction. I drive highway 12 2-4 times a day and I have seen so many people speeding, driving recklessly. If you really want the road to be safer, put more police enforcement and patrol on the road. I think that the 4 lane highway is a waste time and resources, because it's the drivers that make the road dangerous. Thank you for your time and consideration on this topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hunter Graham", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Katherine Tsang
Ipswich Public School
P.O. Box 806
Ipswich, SD 57457
605.426.6571

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E Broadway Ave
Aerre SD 57057

Dear Bergquist,

I am an exchange student from Hong Kong, live in Ipswich, South Dakota. There has been much discussion about Highway 12, I think some changes are needed to make the Highway 12 better. I am writing this letter to ask you if you could talk to the state government for building another 2 lanes, which means 4 lanes of total, then, I believe some accident could be avoided by people. Second of all, I think the Highway patrols have to deal with those people rigorously that get caught of using phone and speeding up, therefore, people will not do that again. I feel like those are the serious problems of not paying attentions to drive. Thank you for reading my letter. I am looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Katherine Tsang
Katherine Tsang

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Mr Bergquist,

I am sure lately there has been a lot of discussion about the expansion of highway 12. I think that expanding the road would be much safer for traveling cars. With all the truck traffic on that road, people have to be more cautious at intersections. I very rarely drive to Aberdeen anymore because of careless drivers on the road.

I know that it would be a lot of work to expand the road. But I think that some measures should be taken to increase safety.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Bethany Lunge

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Darin Bergquest,

Lately there has been a lot more talk about US Highway 12. Specifically the stretch of highway between Aberdeen and Ipswich. Personally, I think that it would be very beneficial for the highway to turn into a four lane. Maybe not the entire highway from Aberdeen to Moberly, but at least from Aberdeen to Ipswich. I don't understand why but it seems that that stretch of highways is really dangerous. The traffic from Aberdeen to Ipswich is a lot heavier than it is past Ipswich. Just in the 15 miles I drive home from school in Ipswich to my home in Mina, I encounter at least 50-60 cars and that's not even counting the ones behind me. There has been 10 fatal accidents between Aberdeen and Moberly. 5 of those were between Mina and Ipswich. 50% of those fatal accidents happened in a 15 mile stretch and the other 50% happened between an 80 mile stretch. With a four lane, the amount of accidents would greatly decrease. I've already lost two loved ones on that highway and God forbid I'll have to go through losing any other loved ones due to a traffic accident in that 15 mile stretch from Mina to Ipswich.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Taylor Chandler

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Darin Bergquist,

My name is Megan Wagner, a student from Ipswich Public High School, and I would like to give my thoughts on a four-lane highway rather than having a two-lane highway. We have had 6 deaths in the past two months just on HWY 12 around Ipswich/Leola. Some very near and dear to us and others that still did not need their lives taken away from them at such young ages. At the time of these crashes there was no ice on the ground to blame it on, and our last crash on Highway 12 happened because a pickup traveling west was struck by a car that was eastbound and crossed the center line.

Now, Highway 12 is honestly a very busy HWY. There are parents that are driving to and from work every day from Ipswich to Aberdeen or vice-versa, teenagers/young adults that are driving from their home in the country to school every morning, bus drivers with 30+ children on the bus, and teenagers/young adults that live in Leola have to drive not only down that two-lane Highway, but then have to go straight to Highway 12 and have to do it there. Being a teenager myself, I am exhausted in the morning. I have nothing on my mind other than going back home and falling asleep, and sometimes even after school am I still exhausted. It would be so easy for any of us to slowly cross the center line in the morning while were half awake and after school when everyone is in a rush to go home or get to practice.

A believe a four-lane Highway would be so beneficial to us. We are tired of losing more and more people we love and care about and for the others that we don't know, we want them to be safe as well and get them home to their parents or children.

Sincerely, Megan Wagner

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

**SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION**

Dear Darin Bergquist,

Hello, I think the road should be a four lane highway. Because people are getting into accidents, and if you have one, then comes another, and another. There has been more accidents lately rather than in the last few years. And if there are more lanes, we will be able to see the wildlife running into the road and have time to react without getting into the accident.

Sincerely, Aaron Legate

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

Dear Mr. Bergquist,

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

I am sure you have heard of the recent issues of highway 12 from Aberdeen to Mobridge and how many people have lost their lives from fatal accidents on this stretch of highway, especially near the area of Mina. Many people in my community and school has been affected by the past 2 accidents which have occurred on November 21st and September 27th, 2015. Both accidents occurred BECAUSE of someone crossing the center line. I believe that something should be done to get that stretch of highway expanded into a four lane to allow more room for error. Even if the road cost \$2 million, wouldn't that be worth saving someones life? What if that someones life is your family and friends? Would it be worth it?

Sincerely,
Amelia Nestas
AMELIA NESTAS

Chelsea Weig
Ipswich Public Schools
PO Box 306
Ipswich SD 57451
(605) 216-2833
Cw3878@k12.sd.us
December 10, 2015

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I am an Ipswich high schooler that travels the section of Highway 12 between Mina and Ipswich every day. I not only have encountered some scary occurrences, but have also had many family and friends come upon difficult situations. The occurrences happened from error of another driver which are very hard to avoid with minimum space and several other drivers around you. Mistakes happen all the time but on Highway 12 there is not room for error with the added amount of traffic, grain terminals, and vehicles exiting and entering the roadway.

I am one hundred percent for a four lane highway from Aberdeen to Ipswich. I know the talk has been about being from Aberdeen to Mobridge but personally I do not see that as necessary at this time. The most deadly accidents, or just accidents to begin with happen within the stretch from Aberdeen to Ipswich. Yes, these additional lanes will cost a lot of money. But how many lives can we continue to take with the increased amount of traffic on this road?

There are four major grain terminals, three of which added in recent years, being Cargill, Glacial Lakes Energy and the Sylte bin site, all of which border this section of Highway 12. Plus two more between Roscoe and Bowdle. These aren't just normal sized cars, these are fully loaded semi-trailers traveling at full speed and sometimes pulling an additional loaded trailer. The truck traffic is every day, it is not only around harvesting time. The semi-trailers that are entering the highway are not entering at 65 miles per hour. This is also another hazard that causes a lot of traffic error. Just today a car pulled out in front of a semi that was going at full speed. The semi swerved out of the way and put other travelers at risk. Granted this was a mistake of the driver who pulled out in front of the semi but either way errors cannot be made on this highway due to lack of room and a large amount of traffic. The area between Aberdeen and Ipswich is a very farm oriented area. Along with the semis there is also the addition of tractors and slow moving vehicles that causes buildup of traffic, also decreasing the room for error. There is a gas station being added to the Mina area which is a very common spots for accidents already. This will also add to more vehicles entering and exiting the highway which will add an increase in the amount of errors that may happen, also leading to more accidents.

Darin Bergquist
December 10, 2015
Page 2

A change to the curves near Andover has also been brought up. The two accidents that have happened in that last two years have involved alcohol. The several accidents near Ipswich and Mina have not involved any alcohol.

Many people may argue that many teenagers make the commute to Ipswich, and that their careless driving is the reason for that accidents. The people involved in these accidents were older than 20.

Accidents that continue to happen affect not only the families but also the friends and surrounding communities. I have not had a family member involved in one of the accidents on Highway 12 but I know the hurt and sorrow that may come from a deadly accident. My uncle was killed in an accident 30 years ago and my family remembers that day like it was yesterday. I have two younger brothers, a mom, a dad, grandparents and many friends and family that travel Highway 12 every day. I, just like any other human being would be devastated if anything happened to one of my close friends or family.

There are many great reasons as to why the highway should be changed. Money will always be an issue but when it comes down to it, it's either money or several lives being taken. We need to make the obvious decision here.

On my way home I turn off Highway 12 onto Nesbitt Drive of Mina Lake. My turn off is also a very dangerous spot. The new gas station is now placed there which will also add a large amount of traffic in that area. There is a short side lane that is located near my turn that is used for passing cars. Not many cars are aware that is what the lane is for. There is also no sign there to let drivers know that that lane is used for passing. This could result in a rear-ended vehicle especially when cars are coming down off of the over pass.

The recent changes to Highway 12 haven't made enough changes. The turning lanes are not near long enough for the semi-trailers to turn, let alone a car. Also the turning lanes that have been added are being illegally used for passing lanes to pass slower cars.

In a recent Aberdeen American News article it stated that the road from Groton to Interstate 29 is a four lane and that their traffic count is under 5,000. Also the area Groton to Webster has a traffic count of 2,960 to 3,220 vehicles per day. The area between Aberdeen to Ipswich is not listed on the website. As you can see before the survey has been taken Edmunds Country is already getting the short end of the stick. I would just like to know why the traffic count has to be 8,000 now instead of 5,000?

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Weig

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Benjamin Pond

PO Box 306

510 2nd Ave.

Ipswich, SD 57451

Friday December 11, 2015

Darin Bergquist

Secretary of Transportation

SD Department of Transportation

Becker-Hansen Building

700 E. Broadway Ave.

Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Mr. Bergquist:

Over the past six years, there have been at least fourteen people injured in a crash each year on U.S. Highway 12. Over that time, there also have been ten fatal crashes. Of those accidents, five of them were in the same area. The stretch of road between Mina and Ipswich. Now, each crash had its own circumstances and they weren't in exactly the same spot, but all of these fatal crashes were in the same area and that should be looked into.

I think that an improvement to this road is necessary. That road is frequently used by cars driving through and by semi-trucks hauling to the Glacial Lakes Energy plant one mile west of Mina. That road is also used almost every day by students who go to my school. It is used very much each day so some kind of improvement to prevent more crashes would benefit many people in the area and those who are just traveling through.

A possible solution to this problem would be widening the shoulders of the road. All five of the fatal accidents in this area of the highway were caused by someone crossing the center lane. A wider shoulder would give more room for the other driver to evade before having to go into the ditch to avoid colliding.

Perhaps lowering the speed limit on the overpass near Mina would help too. Lowering the speed limit would make traveling on it safer, and it would keep drivers going slow until they got past most of the places people turn off at to get to Mina Lake. Also, drivers would be going slower when they got to the Glacial Lakes Energy plant where semi-trucks would be turning at. This might give drivers of semis and cars time to see each other and react to the other driver.

Please consider evaluating this stretch of U.S. Highway 12 and making some improvement to this road. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Pond

Macy Heinz
215 3rd Street
Ipswich SD 57451
(605) 426-6009
Mh4159@k12.sd.us
December 11, 2015

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

Over the years, there have been numerous accidents on U.S. Highway 12. However, as of lately, there has been an extreme amount of fatalities on the U.S. Highway stretch between Ipswich and Aberdeen, South Dakota. Unfortunately, a highway with long time safety concerns is now being brought to light with the recent extremities.

I feel that the biggest safety issue on U.S. Highway 12 is the amount of traffic. On the highway between Ipswich and Aberdeen, there are two ethanol plants and four grain elevators. This accounts for much of the traffic, as well as multiple semis and other large vehicles on the road. Large vehicles often travel below the speed limit. On a two-lane highway, this leads to much more passing. Doing so on a highway with excessive amounts of traffic is very unsafe.

As a solution, I feel that a four-lane highway would be most beneficial to drivers on U.S. Highway 12. It would reduce the back up of traffic due to large and slow moving vehicles. It would also allow cars to pass more safely, and separate the large amounts of traffic with a median.

In conclusion, the safety of drivers along U.S. Highway 12 would be greatly benefited with a four-lane highway. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Macy Heinz

EMMA Graves
Ipswich Public Schools
P.O. Box 306
Ipswich, SD 57451

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Trans.
Becker
700 E Broadway Ave
Pierre SD 57501

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2013
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Darin Bergquist

I am Emma Graves a 16 year old high school student in Ipswich, SD. As you probably know our highway has been a large issue in our community lately. I do understand that there are probably other places where you express your concern but I urge you to consider helping us to fix our community by making our roadway safer. I do know much about highways and what can be done to change them but I do know that these roads to be a change. As someone who regularly commutes the high way from Ipswich to Aberdeen I see the large amounts of traffic personally. Although it may not look like a lot in the scene of things, such as soundbats there is still a large amount of cars for this area. Another factor is that the cars are not just small vehicles, they are large trucks, trailers occasionally and cement trucks. Between the trucks getting to their locations, the student coming home to Minn, and people coming back from work there is a large amount of traffic between the hours three and seven.

We are a small community and almost everyone in our community has been impacted by the numerous accidents along highway 12 lately. We would all greatly appreciate any effort on your part to help us out and to save lives by fixing the highway problem.

Riley Gilbert
101 Rays Lane
Ipswich, SD 57451
605-252-0930
RG3281@k12.sd.us
December 10, 2015

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
South Dakota Department of Transportation
700 E Broadway Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Mr. Bergquist,

Hello my name is Riley Gilbert. I am 17 years old and I am a junior at Ipswich High School. I am writing to you about US Highway 12 from the stretch of Mobridge to Aberdeen. I would first like to express my discontent regarding the recent crashes by Mina. Aberdeen is a big part of our little town of Ipswich. I know this because, my family attends church almost every Sunday in Aberdeen. My friends and I love to go to Aberdeen to view a movie or hang out. Many people from Ipswich commute to Aberdeen for work and many other things. Aberdeen is a very big part of our little community. I think something needs to be done, before more car crashes happen and more people are killed.

I think the 4 lane highway is a great idea to ponder on for the future. We all know that this will take many of years to complete, but I think that it at least needs to be considered. You may argue that it is too much money, but this is only factor until something happens to somebody you hold closely and dear. You may not think that the 4 lane highway may not be the best option, but something needs to be done.

You know that we are all human and that we will do dumb things. You know that sooner or later, human error will claim more lives on this highway. Something needs to be done before another live is claimed, maybe even my own. Yes the highway would cost a lot of money, but human safety should be your number one priority. If money plays a bigger role than the life of a human being you share this live with, then you may need to re-evaluate your decision. Many people are tired of hearing about fatal crashes that happen along US Highway 12. Not to mention the injury crashes that have happened and that have been very close to claiming lives.

I hope that with all of the concern about this that you at least consider something. Please do something before this highway claims more lives, and more people are upset that something is not being done. Please consider all of the factors, but I hope the largest factor is the lives that this highway is taking. I pray that you will do your job to protect the people of the wonderful state of South Dakota. I pray that you will see that even though this might be very costly, that it will help out the people of Ipswich. Our community shares a very good bond. We hate hearing about another live being taken by such a brutal way.

Darin Bergquist
December 10, 2015
Page 2

I will leave you with this. Please consider the 4 lane highway. Please consider at least improving the highway a little bit. Please do something to protect the people around our area. Before it is too late and more lives are claimed. Lives that are important to our community. Lives that are dear to us.

Sincerely,

Riley Gilbert

Andrew Fuhrmann
PO Box 306
Ipswich SD 57471
December 10, 2015

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E Broadway Ave
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

My name is Andrew I'm 16 years old and I've lived on the same farm right off of US highway twelve around Roscoe SD. Every school day I travel to Ipswich to go to school, and not just school trips but I also do errands for our farm. I'm concerned for the safety of travelers on highway twelve, some days especially during the busy times of the year such as harvest or planting time. Basically I'm suggesting that more safety features need to be applied on the road. Whether it be a 4 lane, rumble strips or wider shoulders. Obviously lives have been lost and I think it would be in the best interest to try to stop these accidents. Please look into it.

Andrew Fuhrmann

Tanner Moore
Ipswich Public School P.O Box 306
Ipswich, SD 57451
605-377-4403
Tannermoore.132@gmail.com
December 11, 2015

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building 700 E. Broadway Ave
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I am writing you because our English teacher is requiring us to make you a letter stating how we feel about the whole highway 12 situation, honestly I think the setup we have right now is absolutely fine and works for me, the only suggestion I would I have to throw out would be to put a minimum speed limit up of at least 50 or 55 to encourage people to stay focused on the road and keep about the speed limit, after all the driving I've done people driving too slow have been the biggest problem starters. The reason they are the problem is because after a long day of work people coming home don't want to horse around and go 40-45 in a 65 so they get impatient and they pass the car recklessly and around 5- 5:30 when people are driving home especially in the winter time it is dark and not everyone has their lights on yet and that could cause an accident, but like I said before if nothing changes and stays the way it is I won't be upset.

Sincerely,

Tanner Moore

Bryce Charlton
P.O. Box 306
Ipswich, SD 57451
December 10, 2015

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E Broadway Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I am a long-time resident of our city, and I am writing to express my concern about recent discussion and the pending decision to make Highway 45 into a four lane highway. I understand that the decision is being considered to enable street widening that will accommodate increasingly heavier traffic.

However, I do not believe that the benefits of widening Highway 12 for more traffic. It would seem that widening our roads would stop more crashes from happening, but however a four-lane highway would be more than capable of dealing with traffic with about 8,000. However, considering that from Groton to Aberdeen has a four-lane, but has less traffic than we do over here around Ipswich and Mina. Traffic, on Highway 45 can be dangerous, considering some people use the turning lanes as passing lanes, this could be stopped by people using another lane, that we could gain with the building of a four-lane.

I understand that the building of a four-lane would take a lot of money and time, especially since the money that would be used would be coming from the Federal Government.

I am expressing my concern because recently I had lost a friend and co-worker that was once a very close acquaintance of mine. The loss wasn't as bad for me but for some people I know it was very hard. I also drive on the highway and sometimes some of the drivers get angry and sometimes drive reckless. I find this annoying and don't feel safe sometimes while I'm driving.

I am looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Bryce Charlton

Max Maldonado
Ipswich Public School
PO Box 306
Ipswich, SD 57451
Nofatchx19@yahoo.com
December 10, 2015

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 East Broadway Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I don't think that having a four lane highway is going to change anything. You could think about adding rumble strips to the center line to warn drivers when they are crossing the center line. There is a lot of properties between Ipswich and Aberdeen that are right next to the highway. Adding more lanes is not going to stop deer from crossing it. I drive on that highway nearly every day. At certain times of the day, the highway does tend to get a little bit busy, but nothing to serious. A two lane highway can support up to 8,000 vehicles per day. We only get about roughly one to two thousand vehicles per day. I think that people should just learn to drive more safely rather than being in a rush all the time. We get a lot of truck traffic around here with the Ethanol Plant and Farmers Elevator. It will cost too much time and money to turn it into a four lane highway. All of the fatal accidents that have happened since 2010 have been mostly people over the age of 40. I think that us teens are not the high risk drivers. A senior citizen is more likely than a younger driver to be at fault in an accident in which they are involved. Thank you and I hope that you consider.

Sincerely,

Max Maldonado

[Your Name]
Ipswich Public school P. O Box 306
Ipswich SD 57451

tanneranglin@icloud.com
December 11, 2015

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin bergquist
Secretary of transportation
SD department of transportation
Becker- Hansen Building 700 E. Broadway Ave
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Darin bergquist:

Highway 12 has a lot of traffic but I do not agree with the four lane because if people would just pay attention this head on accident wouldn't happen. Driving should not be a game it should be serious. This crashes have opened many people's eyes including my dad who drives the highway every day. Some people blame it on the big truck and tractors but I don't think that has anything to do with it. It is because people are too busy on their phones. If anything is to be done it is to put a rumble strip in the middle. That will help with crossing the center line.

Sincerely, Tanner Anglin

Haylee Kilber
Ipswich Public Schools
PO Box 306
Ipswich, SD 57451
hk3233@k12.sd.us
December 10, 2015

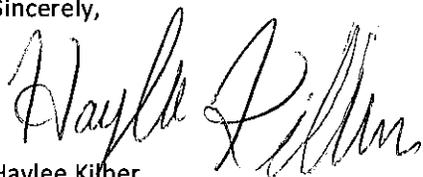
RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I am writing to you as a concerned individual from Ipswich, South Dakota about Highway US-12. Talk about the highway needing a revamp has been a large topic of discussion in Edmunds and Brown County. As a student at Ipswich High School I have many friends/classmates that travel US-12 every day to school and back. Currently the highway is a very hazardous road to travel. With increased traffic within the last five years due to Glacial Lakes Energy, The North Central Farmers Elevator Craven terminal, Sylte's Grain terminal, and the Sun Terminal there is a ton of heavy duty equipment and semis that travel the road daily. It is frustrating as a community member to hear that the state has no statistics from this year about how many people even travel on Highway US-12 that runs right through the town of Ipswich. I want to encourage you to evaluate different options to improve the safety and traffic flow up and down Highway 12. The death toll is already too high. I see the pain of having had friends lose family members and seeing the somber look on my dad's face after returning home from responding to the accident calls. Please make a sincere effort to improve the situation on highway 12.

Sincerely,


Haylee Kilber

Chase Wagner
December 10, 2015

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building 700E Broadway Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Darin Bergquist:

Being someone that drives Highway 12 multiple times a week, I must say I am terrified to drive the road. I have lost friends that were making the drive from Ipswich to Aberdeen. I don't agree with people that the highway needs to be a four lane, I believe it will cost too much time and money to do. I do however think that their needs to be something done to the road, whether its rumble strips in the center of the highway or the road being wider. I deeply hope you will consider doing something to help make this highway safer.

Sincerely,

Chase Wagner

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Jacob Charlton
508 Alma Ave.
Ipswich, 57451
6052528068
Jacobcharlton1998@gmail.com
December 10, 2015

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of transportation
SD Department of Transportation
700 E Broadway Ave.
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

Hello my name is Jacob Charlton and I live in Ipswich South Dakota. My parents and my brothers drive the long road from Mobridge to Aberdeen. There has been a lot of recent accidents on Highway 12 near the Mina and Aberdeen area. I have lost my old boss from the Wakeside Bar and Grill restaurant in Mina. I really liked him. His name was Chris McCoy and he was a friend.

I'm a High school student and wish for these things to stop happening. I haven't gotten my license yet but when I do I would like to know that I am safe when I drive to and from my house or my girlfriend's house.

Sincerely, Jacob Charlton

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Darin Bergquist

There have been a ton of deaths lately around our small town.

Although I do believe a change to the road is necessary a four lane would be the only answer, there are precautions that should be taken starting now. I feel like even though so many people want a 4 lane (which I see it could help) it will take up too much land, and more people will complain about the construction. Either way people will be unhappy. To be honest I'm conflicted on this topic like you guys are, but I do see the point.

There would be more room for cars to go in rush hours. Reading an article of all the deaths kind of brought me to the 4 lane side. However I am also a farmer's kid and know the land will be taken away, even if it wouldn't take farmer's land it could still delay the farmer's work.

Highway 12 has been dangerous and something has to be done. If not a 4 lane than what? Mumble sticks or however they call it is smaller but not as safe. More so if it's on the side. Maybe a 4 lane isn't possible but there are more options. Starting this letter I was conflicted, but reading the "Local news across area cause concern" made me think about it more.

No matter what you decide to do think about the people who got injured, who died, and who's at risk. If a four lane cannot be done with the proper investigation done do something

else I drive home on that highway everyday to get home, and I've seen really bad accidents on my way there. Too many people have been hurt by this.

Please consider every letter, and every option.

Thank you for your time reading this. I hope you get something out of it.

- from Megan Klein Sasser

Kaylee Braun
13571 368th Avenue
Mina SD, 57451
December 10, 2015

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DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E Broadway Ave
Pierre SD, 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist.

I am Kaylee Braun, and this letter is written with the hope of change. I understand that you have been receiving many letters and emails about the current situation of Highway 12 between Ipswich and Aberdeen. I live on a farm between these two towns and have seen my fair share of crashes. The latest crash resulting in the death of three happened right at the turn off on my country road. I understand this may not seem like a big deal to you since it isn't currently affecting you. By a quick glance, it may seem like there isn't a lot of traffic. The thing is Mr. Bergquist, the accidents don't usually happen when there is an overload of cars. It happens on the long stretches when you think you are the only one on the road, and take your eyes off for a second. It happens to the people who believe the small shoulders make an acceptable passing lane. I'm writing this letter, not only for the others who have lost loved ones, but because I have lost a loved one on the same highway I drive every day. This same stretch of highway, in less than three miles, that has taken nine lives. It's a funny thing, since highways can't cause a crash, but it's the lack of safety measures taken to ensure that crashes will not happen. Between the years 2011 and 2015, there have been fifteen deaths. I believe it is time for a change. I'm not asking for your department to install a large four lane road that will take a long time to finish and back up traffic. I am asking for a few measures to be taken such as larger shoulders and rumble strips in the center to allow more room for driver error.

The changes that are needed aren't only for the people that have died, but the ones that have been injured as well. Between Mobridge and Aberdeen, one hundred and six people have been injured. I know that you cannot protect everyone, but by implementing some safety measures, we can sure try.

Darin Bergquist
December 10, 2015
Page 2

I would like to thank you as well. I am thanking you because you are an important part of keeping South Dakota running and have the ability to ensure it runs smoothly. It's not every day you get the power to change the future for others.

Sincerely,
Kaylee Braun

Dylan McQuarie
Ipswich Public Schools
Ipswich, SD 57451
1-605-377-3315
DM3715@k12.sd.us
December 10, 2015

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I am a resident of the city of Mina, and I am writing to express my mind about Highway 12 and the four lane highway. I'm mostly against this idea mostly because it would take a lot of money and time. Also how is the company supposed to make a four lane highway over the Mina Bridge? And my step father works at the Glacier Lakes ethanol plant. That involves him having to find another job until they either replace it or put it somewhere else. I will agree there has been more traffic on this highway but I drive it almost every day and I have been in some scary positions. I still believe that if you drive safely and pay attention to the road than you'll be fine. Maybe we could add some lanes for where semis can catch up to speed and then join the main lane. That may help a little bit.

I am looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dylan McQuarie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dylan McQuarie

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Garytt Tostenson
Ipswich Public Schools PO Box 306
Ipswich SD 57451
December 10, 2015

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building 7000 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I haven't lived around here for very long. It has only been about for years, but that has been plenty of time for me to figure out that something needs to be changed. There have been too many accidents and deaths on highway twelve.

Sincerely,

Garytt Tostenson

Rachel Henderson
Ipswich Public Schools
PO Box 306
Ipswich, SD 57451
December 10, 2015

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I am writing to express my concern for the amount of fatal crashes that have happened between Mobridge and Aberdeen. Something needs to be changed and here are a few suggestions. There has been a lot of talk about a four-lane divided highway and I think that would help cut down on the amount of crashes. Another suggestion would be to widen the shoulders along the highway. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Rachel Henderson

Dear, Darin Bergquist

There has been a lot of talk about highway 12. There have been a lot of incidents some fatal and hundreds non-fatal. Some have been suggesting that the highway is to be widened to a four lane instead of a 2 lane. This will not take only more than 10 years to complete from Aberdeen to Mobridge, but will also cost hundreds of millions of dollars. The highway in my opinion has very little to do with the accidents. The crashes another wards have little to do with the highway and a lot to do with the driver. Many of the hundreds of incidents actually had drunk drivers included, so I do not believe that we need to spend the time nor money to widen the highway just drive more cautiously and sober.

Sincerely: Kevin Larson

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

December 9, 2015

To whom it may concern;

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

I am writing in reference to all the fatal accidents that have occurred on highway 12 between Aberdeen and Ipswich. Something has to be done with this highway before there are more fatalities. The amount of traffic has increased greatly with the addition of the ethanol plant just west of Mina.

The road either needs to be widened or there needs to be a four lane highway constructed.

Thank you for your consideration in this.

Concerned Edmunds County citizen,

Carolyn Burgod

Carolyn Burgod

Michelle Sihrer
PO Box 306
Ipswich SD 57451
605-426-6571
Michelle.Sihrer@k12.sd.us
December 11, 2015

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DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
S.D. Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I am the English language arts teacher at Ipswich High School. I live in Aberdeen, and I drive on Highway 12 every day to get to school. There have been many crashes, some fatal on this stretch of road. Something needs to be done to improve the safety of this road.

Recently, three people died in a car crash not far from Ipswich. In the past year, there have been six fatalities on this stretch of road. All of these crashes have one thing in common: a vehicle crossed the center line causing a head-on collision. If this road were four lanes instead of two lanes, those crashes would not have happened. How many more crashes will result in fatalities on this road? If by improving this road, we prevent just one death, doesn't that make the expense worth it?

My family, who lives in Aberdeen, is so concerned for my safety on this road that every day I have to call them when I get to school and when I get home to let them know nothing happened. Every student who uses that road, every staff member who uses that road every day has someone at home worried about him or her. Life is too precious to not do anything about what is an obvious safety hazard.

Students at Ipswich High School recently saw a presentation from the S.D. Highway Patrol and the Edmunds County Sheriff's Office about driving safely. At the presentation, students asked about making Highway 12 safer, and decided that they wanted to send letters to ask for changes. Every student in my classes had the opportunity to write a letter, and so did staff members. Enclosed in this envelope is the responses I received. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Michelle Sihrer

12-14-2015

Secretary Darin Bergquist,

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DEC 18 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

In the interest of public safety, we are asking that you consider a 4 lane, divided highway on US Highway 12, from the divided west of Aberdeen to highway 45 south in Ipswich. It would be nice if it could go all the way to Mobridge!

This has become a very dangerous road!

When you leave the divide road west of Aberdeen the first thing you come to is the Continental Grain terminal. The next bad turn is Nesbitt Dr. to Mina lake. Next is the overpass. At the west end of the overpass is another turn to Mina Lake on 371st Ave. This has a turning lane which is used by many to pass the traffic on the highway. A mile west of there on 370th Ave is the Glacial Lakes Energy Plant. Our next bad turn is the Farmers Elevator at Craven Corner on 363rd ave. Next is the Farmers Elevator Sun Terminal. This is located between 361st Ave. and 362nd Ave. From there we come to the Glacial Lakes Terminal located at Sytle Farms near 360th Ave. There is also traffic onto highway 12 from highway 45 north.

A lot of truck traffic then comes into Ipswich on Highway 45 from the south. They either go west on highway 12 to the two large terminals at Roscoe or Bowdle, or east on highway 12 to the a fore mentioned terminals.

The traffic in the past was small farm trucks. Now must farmers have semi's and many pull pups.

We requested that something be done about the turn to Craven Elevator about 5 years ago. We asked if they could at least move the signs on the west corner of 363rd Ave. a little bit south so the trucks don't have to move into the north highway 12 lane to make the corner. "No problem, we can do that" the state highway man in the Aberdeen office said. It has never been done!

This highway has been a major concern of ours for a long time. Way too many people have been killed on this road and the traffic just keeps getting more all the time.

In the interest of safety, we need your help and are asking for it!

Concerned Citizens,

Loren and Sophie Leitzke

Loren & Sophie

December 3, 2015

SD Dept. of Transportation
700 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Sirs:

I'm responding to an Aberdeen American News article in regards to highway 12.

I live in Ipswich and can't believe how the traffic has grown from here to Aberdeen. It's so bad sometimes you can't even pass. We have 4 elevators and an Ethanol Plant on this highway. Because of that, we have had many fatalities and accidents. That is sad!!

It's time you do something about this and build all of us a 4 lane highway, so we can feel safe traveling. We are concerned citizens of Ipswich and Edmunds County.

Sincerely,

Rudy Lepka

Mary Jane Opsahl

Gerald Kilber

Janice Keeber

CC:
Governor Daugaard
Senator John Thune
Representative Kristi Noem
Senator Mike Rounds

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DEC 07 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dec. 11, 2015

Dear S.D. Transportation,

I am writing about our family & students traveling from our home in Spruick to Aberdeen on Highway 12 and back.

I (~~love~~) believe the warning track along the outside white lines are way to close to the white line. When I drive and vary just 2" outside the lines that horrible warning alerts me I am out of the lane but the semi-coming head-on is so wide I need those couple of inches so we can go our opposite directions without touching rear view mirrors.

Hitting that warning track sure startles me. I wonder how many people overcorrect their steering because of it, but have no room to vary their correction.

Please consider moving the warning track on Highway 12.

Mrs. Mower
Teacher and Parent

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Darin Bergquist,

I am writing you for a concern of the stretch of Highway 12 from Aberdeen to Mobridge. I feel as if it should be a four lane highway for safety reasons. I live in Ipswich and I drive on Highway 12 very often. Since 2010, there have been 10 fatal crashes from Mobridge to Aberdeen. One of the latest crashes that happened between Ipswich to Mina took the life of someone very close to my family. With all of the fatal crashes that occur, it scares me to drive because one day that could be me. The way I see it, a four lane highway would eliminate some, not all, crashes that occur. Rumble strips might be beneficial, but it wouldn't help as much as a four lane highway would. Thank you for your time in reading my letter and taking it into consideration.

Allison Severson
Sophomore at Ipswich
allison.severson

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dylan Northrop

Mina SD 57451
December 11, 2015

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Department of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist :

I live in Mina and go to Ipswich High school. I understand that you probably are getting a lot of complaints about highway twelve from Ipswich to Aberdeen, but I would like to explain how I feel about the topic. I feel as if we need a four lane highway from Ipswich to Aberdeen or even Mobridge to Aberdeen. There has been so many accidents in this area in just the last three months. I feel as if a four lane would fix these crashes because these accidents have been where cars have traveled across the center line. Another alternative to this problem would be placing rumble strips by the center line on both sides. I still think that this could prevent some accident also. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Pavin Berquist

You might be hearing a lot of information about US Highway 12. I live in Ipswich, and I don't think that Highway ever does. I do believe that something should change though. From the year 2010 to the present day, there have been 10 fatal crashes. 1.4% of all fatal crashes in SD. 18 people have died on US Highway 12 within 6 years. So 50% of the fatal crashes happen by Minn. 2% in 2014 crashes were fatal. So even if we don't have a four lane from Ipswich to Aberdeen, there should at least be white strips between the two lanes to tell people you are going out of your lane. This is why I believe there should at least have white strips. There doesn't need to be a four lane. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelli Bonhardt

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Colton Weeldreyer
P.O. Box 306
Ipswich, SD 57451
December 9, 2015

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E Broadway Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I am a resident of the city of Ipswich, and I am writing to express my concern about a recent discussion and the pending decision to make the highway between Ipswich and Aberdeen a four-lane road. I understand that the decision is being considered to enable highway widening that will accommodate increasingly heavier traffic.

I do not believe you need more enforcement on that highway, just a four-lane road, and a larger median with rumble strips.

Thank you for your consideration and your time to read my letter

Sincerely,

Colton Weeldreyer

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DEC 14 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Darin Bergquist,

My name is Grace Bakken from Ipswich. I would like to address the problem on Highway 12 from Ipswich to Aberdeen. I think the highway should be a four lane road. It is a long stretch of road and there are always a lot of cars on it. Highway 12 is often driven on by many people between Ipswich and Aberdeen. There are always a lot of trucks on Highway 12 as well. Between Ipswich and Aberdeen there is Sun Terminal, Craven, the Ethanol Plant and Concord Grain and during harvest there are trucks everywhere.

There have been 10 fatal crashes on Highway 12 between Ipswich and Aberdeen from 2010 till now. The crashes on this highway make up 1.4% of all fatal crashes in all of South Dakota. Many people drive under the speed limit and there is never time to pass them because of the amount of cars coming from the other way. If the road was a four lane road, people could pass without driving into oncoming traffic. A four lane road won't stop all of the crashes; however, it can prevent a majority of the crashes because it will allow the flow of traffic to keep moving.

18 people have died on Highway 12 in the last 6 years. On average 3 people die on Highway 12 every year. At this rate, 3 families lose a family member every year. In small towns like Ipswich and Mina, the first people to the site of an accident are local firefighters, ambulance, and police. These people in the crashes are fathers, friends, sons, mothers, daughters, family to many people in a small town. In Ipswich it's hard to go around town without knowing most people. So to have someone that you know get killed in a car crash and being the first one there to see it, has to be very hard and terrifying.

A four lane obviously wouldn't make the road crash free because they will still happen. I am just hoping that a four lane will help prevent as many crashes as possible. If it can be prevented, then why not try to fix it. I also do realize that it will take away farmers' land, cost a lot of money, and take a long time to construct; however, I think it would be worth it. A four lane can prevent more crashes and that is potentially saving people's lives. Thank you for your time and the consideration of a four lane road on Highway 12 from Ipswich to Aberdeen.

Sincerely,

Grace Bakken, Ipswich, SD

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DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Ipswich Public Schools
PO Box 306
Ipswich, SD 57451

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E. Broadway Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I live in Ipswich, SD and drive U.S. Highway 12 on a weekly basis. It is pretty obvious that U.S. Highway 12 has become a danger zone for everyone driving on it. Parents, especially mine, are constantly worried about their children driving this road and fear the worst is yet to come. Lives have been altered tremendously from crashes along this highway, whether it's head-on collisions or swerving to miss one. Something needs to change along U.S. Highway 12, perhaps four lanes going from Aberdeen to Mobridge.

From the start of 2010 to now, there have been 10 fatal crashes within the 100 miles between Aberdeen and Mobridge, according to the State Department of Public Safety. This represents 1.4 percent of the 663 accidents along U.S. Highway 12. If you ask me, 18 deaths on Highway 12 in the last 6 years is far too many. How would you like to be the policeman who has to walk up to someone's house and inform them that their family member has been killed in a car crash? Then, to make matters even worse, having to tell them it was along U.S. Highway 12.

I understand that I am only a sophomore and my voice isn't very strong, but I would greatly appreciate if you took my thoughts into consideration. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Shaunay M. Jones

Abby Noltner
Ipswich Public School
P.O.Box 306
510 2nd Avenue
Ipswich, SD 57451
(605)-426-6571
December 9, 2015

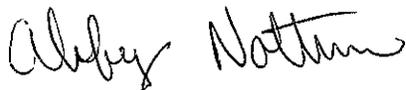
RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
700 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I live in Mina, SD and I drive on Highway 12 every day to go to school in Ipswich and to go to work in Aberdeen. I'm sure that you are getting many comments about making Highway 12 a four-lane. I believe that we should NOT make the road a four-lane, because it would make farmers lose some of their land. If you look back at the accidents it is not the road's fault for the accidents, it is the driver's faults. The drivers are either on their phone or falling asleep and they are crossing the lines. Maybe if you put rumble strips might help to give the drivers a notice about them crossing the lines. Thank you for your time and I hope you take my letter in consideration.

Sincerely,



Abby Noltner

Elena Andreo
510 2nd Ave.
P.O. Box 306
Ipswich, SD 57451
Phone: (605) 428-6571
December 9, 2015

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Daring Bergguist
Secretary of Transportation
South Dakota Dept. of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E Broadway Ave
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Daring Bergguist:

I am writing you because I am very worried about the situation of the section of the Highway 12 that goes from Aberdeen to Mobridge, especially between Aberdeen and Ipswich, at Mina. The 50% of the fatal crashes that happen in this highway happen in that section by Mina. As an exchange student from Spain I have heard a lot about the problems with this road, people that lives in here is really worried about it because they are losing their families, friends, neighbors... Personally I don't think that the fault is of the road, I think that this is happening because people don't accomplish the law, they text while they are driving, a very unsafe action that kill a lot of people, not even in that spot of highway 12, IN South Dakota or even in the United States; it happen all over the world. Also people speed, they overpass the limit of speed; they mustn't, but they do. Speed limits exist for a reason, your safety, and your life and if you speed you are risking not only your life, the life of the people that is in the car with you, everybody else on the road, their families, yours...

I think that we could fix this problems having higher fines for using the phone while you are driving and speeding and have more police on the roads, checking that people accomplish those laws.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Elena Andreo.

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Darin Berquist,

I am writing to you because of my great concern about Highway 12. Every single time I hear the sirens I get extremely nervous. All of my relatives drive on this highway between Ipswich to Aberdeen every day. In the last 6 years 18 people have died. I don't know if that's just me, but that is alarming. It's also very scary considering I myself and my friends and family travel on it almost every day. I realize that it equals out to 3 deaths every year. This may seem small but let's remember: this is 3 people's lives taken in a 25 mile stretch! That is crazy and that can happen to anybody. I could just ignore the fact because I haven't been directly affected, but I don't want to be affected and I don't believe anybody does. This is why I strongly think there should be a four-lane highway between Ipswich to Aberdeen. I don't think high speed is a factor, it's low speed. People driving slow backs up traffic and people try to pass at any opportunity. Also I believe the rumble strips are at a very bad place. As a young

driver. I realize how important it is to not overcorrect. So why would there be rumble strips literally next to the white line. If you accidentally hit them and overcorrect that is dangerous and could be fatal. We need the rumble strips to be right before the ditch. I really hope money isn't a factor because no amount of money is worth someone's life.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jennia Vetch
Saphmore at Ipswich High School
PO Box 306
Ipswich SD 57451
Phone: (605) 426-6571

David Lage

Ipswich Public Schools PO Box 306

Ipswich, SD, 57451

12/09/2015

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

**SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION**

Darin Bergquist

Secretary of Transportation

SD Department of Transportation

Becker-Hansen Building 700 E Broadway Ave

Pierre, SD, 57501

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I am an exchange student from Brazil and I've been living north of Craven Corner for a few months and I have to pass through Highway 12 every day to go to Ipswich or Aberdeen. The road is good, you should keep it the way it is because the problem is the drivers. I think cell phones should be completely prohibited while driving and if someone is caught on their phone they should pay a fine. I also think that you should put speed cameras in the road to prevent drivers from speeding.

Thanks for the attention.

Sincerely, *David Lage*

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DEC 14 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Darin Bergquist,

I have lived in Ipswich, South Dakota all my life. I always hear about the accidents that have happened between Ipswich and Aberdeen, and I personally don't want to hear about fatal and bad accidents any more. There are so many cars and semi's on U.S. Highway 12. That, I feel that it should be a four lane highway. This would give drivers more room for error and more room to swerve out of the way of deer.

I got my drivers license last year and I am seeing how many people go over into the other lane and this concerns me for my safty and how many people are speeding. With my sister getting her license soon I don't want her to be at risk of drivers going 10-30 miles per hour over the speed limit. I think that we should also have more patrols to take care of this speeding problem.

Thank you for listening to my concerns and for your time.

Sincerely,
Josie Sylte

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DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Darin Bergquist

I think that Highway 12 from Aberdeen to Ipswich should become a 4-lane highway. I know it won't get changed for 12 years, even if you decide to make it a 2-lane. I travel Ipswich to Mina once or twice a week. I think a 4-lane will keep me and the people close to me safer.

Thank you for reading this letter.

Sincerely

~~Bob~~ Byers

Asa

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DEC 14 2015

Dear Darin Bergquist:

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

I have only lived here for 2 years
but since I have been here there has been
several fatal crashes around Mina.

I do have a license and a car so I know
how dangerous it is around that area.

To help this I believe, is that the highway
from Aberdeen to Ipswich should be
turned into a 4 lane highway. This would
prevent crashes on the road.

sincerely, Asa Bobler
10th grade student

Department of Transportation:

I am writing you this letter as a concerned citizen of Aberdeen, SD. I teach in Ipswich, SD. I love the job that I have, and this is my eleventh year at the public school. However, there is one major concern that I have with my job, and that is driving to and from work every day.

In the time that I have taught here, there have been many fatal accidents on Highway 12. One was a student of ours, and that was a very hard loss. In the past few years, there has been at least one fatal crash a year, and it seems in recent years, it has been multiple fatalities.

I am asking you to please look into a solution for this problem. I think a four lane highway would definitely be something worth looking into. How many more people need to lose their lives before something changes? I do not think that I, or many others that travel to work on a daily basis, should have to fear for their lives while traveling. Please consider changes to make this a safer road.

Sincerely,

Angela Shimitz

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Jacob Anglin
PO Box 306
Ipswich, SD, 57451
December 11, 2015

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre, SD, 57451

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I am a student at Ipswich High School, and I drive Highway 12. Many people think that the highway should be made into a four lane road. I think that the highway should stay a two lane. The drivers are at fault. Most crashes are caused by people who are distracted while driving. An option that would be reasonable and not cost as many resources would be rumble strips in the center. If a driver gets distracted and begins to turn into the other lane then the rumble strips will make them realize that they need to move back. There are multiple options to make a road safer other than expanding the road.

Sincerely,

Jacob Anglin

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DEC 14 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Joshua Burgod
Ipswich Public School
P.O. Box 306

December 11, 2015

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
700 E. Broadway Ave.

Dear Darin Bergquist,

I am writing today about the stretch of highway 12 that goes from Ipswich to Aberdeen. I believe there shouldn't be a four lane added to the road. If it was added it would be too close to some of the houses and grain elevators off of the highway. It would also be hard for farmers to drive equipment down the highway and turn on a four lane highway. There would be more accidents that would happen. Since there has been out of accidents near Mina, SD, I think there should be a no passing zone put in in that stretch of highway so no one would pass through that stretch.

Sincerely,



Joshua Burgod

Wyatt Haux
510 2nd Ave.
P.O. Box 306 | Ipswich, SD 57451
December 9, 2015

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2015
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
700E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre SD 5750

Dear Darin Bergquist :

I live in Mina, and I drive on U.S. Highway 12 every day. I feel that the road is safe in its current state. The highway is not the problem, it is the drivers on it. There should be a minimum speed limit. Slow drivers build up traffic which is not safe.

Sincerely,

Wyatt Haux

Hunter Graham

Darin Bergquist
4 lane highway
SD Department of Transportation
700 E Broadway
Pierre SD 57501

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DEC 14 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Darin Bergquist:

I believe the road is fine. I don't think that the problem is the drivers. It is a lack of common sense and distraction. I drive highway 12 2-4 times a day and I have seen so many people speeding, driving recklessly. If you really want the road to be safer, put more police enforcement and patrol on the road. I think that the 4 lane highway is a waste time and resources, because it's the drivers that make the road dangerous. Thank you for your time and consideration on this topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hunter Graham", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Katherine Tsang
Ipswich Public School
P.O. Box 806
Ipswich, SD 57451
605.426.6571

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of Transportation
SD Department of Transportation
Becker-Hansen Building
700 E Broadway Ave
Aerre SD 57057

Dear Bergquist,

I am an exchange student from Hong Kong, live in Ipswich, South Dakota. There has been much discussion about Highway 12, I think some changes are needed to make the Highway 12 better. I am writing this letter to ask you if you could talk to the state government for building another 2 lanes, which means 4 lanes of total, then, I believe some accident could be avoided by people. Second of all, I think the Highway patrols have to deal with those people rigorously that get caught of using phone and speeding up, therefore, people will not do that again. I feel like those are the serious problems of not paying attentions to drive. Thank you for reading my letter. I am looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Katherine Tsang
Katherine Tsang

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Mr Bergquist,

I am sure lately there has been a lot of discussion about the expansion of highway 12. I think that expanding the road would be much safer for traveling cars. With all the truck traffic on that road, people have to be more cautious at intersections. I very rarely drive to Aberdeen anymore because of careless drivers on the road.

I know that it would be a lot of work to expand the road. But I think that some measures should be taken to increase safety.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Bethany Lunge

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Darin Bergquest,

Lately there has been a lot more talk about US Highway 12. Specifically the stretch of highway between Aberdeen and Ipswich. Personally, I think that it would be very beneficial for the highway to turn into a four lane. Maybe not the entire highway from Aberdeen to Moberly, but at least from Aberdeen to Ipswich. I don't understand why but it seems that that stretch of highways is really dangerous. The traffic from Aberdeen to Ipswich is a lot heavier than it is past Ipswich. Just in the 15 miles I drive home from school in Ipswich to my home in Mina, I encounter at least 50-60 cars and that's not even counting the ones behind me. There has been 10 fatal accidents between Aberdeen and Moberly. 5 of those were between Mina and Ipswich. 50% of those fatal accidents happened in a 15 mile stretch and the other 50% happened between an 80 mile stretch. With a four lane, the amount of accidents would greatly decrease. I've already lost two loved ones on that highway and God forbid I'll have to go through losing any other loved ones due to a traffic accident in that 15 mile stretch from Mina to Ipswich.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Taylor Chandler

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Darin Bergquist,

My name is Megan Wagner, a student from Ipswich Public High School, and I would like to give my thoughts on a four-lane highway rather than having a two-lane highway. We have had 6 deaths in the past two months just on HWY 12 around Ipswich/Leola. Some very near and dear to us and others that still did not need their lives taken away from them at such young ages. At the time of these crashes there was no ice on the ground to blame it on, and our last crash on Highway 12 happened because a pickup traveling west was struck by a car that was eastbound and crossed the center line.

Now, Highway 12 is honestly a very busy HWY. There are parents that are driving to and from work every day from Ipswich to Aberdeen or vice-versa, teenagers/young adults that are driving from their home in the country to school every morning, bus drivers with 30+ children on the bus, and teenagers/young adults that live in Leola have to drive not only down that two-lane Highway, but then have to go straight to Highway 12 and have to do it there. Being a teenager myself, I am exhausted in the morning. I have nothing on my mind other than going back home and falling asleep, and sometimes even after school am I still exhausted. It would be so easy for any of us to slowly cross the center line in the morning while were half awake and after school when everyone is in a rush to go home or get to practice.

A believe a four-lane Highway would be so beneficial to us. We are tired of losing more and more people we love and care about and for the others that we don't know, we want them to be safe as well and get them home to their parents or children.

Sincerely, Megan Wagner

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DEC 14 2015

**SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION**

Dear Darin Bergquist,

Hello, I think the road should be a four lane highway. Because people are getting into accidents, and if you have one, then comes another, and another. There has been more accidents lately rather than in the last few years. And if there are more lanes, we will be able to see the wildlife running into the road and have time to react without getting into the accident.

Sincerely, Aaron Legate

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2015

Dear Mr. Bergquist,

SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

I am sure you have heard of the recent issues of highway 12 from Aberdeen to Mobridge and how many people have lost their lives from fatal accidents on this stretch of highway, especially near the area of Mina. Many people in my community and school has been affected by the past 2 accidents which have occurred on November 21st and September 27th, 2015. Both accidents occurred BECAUSE of someone crossing the center line. I believe that something should be done to get that stretch of highway expanded into a four lane to allow more room for error. Even if the road cost \$2 million, wouldn't that be worth saving someones life? What if that someones life is your family and friends? Would it be worth it?

Sincerely,
Amelia Nestas
AMELIA NESTAS



PO Box 586, Ipswich, SD 57451-0586

Phone: 605-426-6961

Fax: 605-426-6626

E-mail: ipswichfo@valleytel.net

January 4, 2016

SD Department of Transportation

Attn: Andy Vandel

PO Box 1767

Aberdeen, SD 57402-1767

Dear Mr. Vandel,

The Ipswich City Council members and I are very concerned about the number of accidents and fatalities on U.S. Highway 12, especially between Ipswich and Mina. A majority of our community members commute to work every day on this Highway that has an excessive amount of accidents. Something needs to be done to make travel on Highway 12 safer, not only for the community of Ipswich, but for all who travel this stretch of road.

We believe a four-lane highway would make travel safer for everyone. We would like to see serious consideration given when evaluating the needs of this stretch of highway. We do not want any more injuries or lives lost.

Enclosed you will find Ipswich City Resolution 2015-21, a Resolution expressing support of U.S. Highway 12 expansion to a four lane passed by the Ipswich City Council on December 21, 2015.

Please consider our request.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "LeRoy Kilber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LeRoy Kilber
Mayor
City of Ipswich

Enclosure

Mayor LeRoy Kilber

Council: Susie Treftz, Mike Hammrich, Mike Steen, Les Braun, Barb Gillick and David Bauer

To Whom it may concern, 01-24-16
I'm writing in regards to Hyway 12 going
from Aberdeen to Mohridge, I feel
this Hyway is in need to being
widened, there are so very many
big trucks traveling this Hyway,
there are 7 major turning stops
between Ipswich and Aberdeen going
to elevators.

and we have had several bad
accidents were people were killed.

I'm hoping our legislature will
be able to do something about this.
Thank you.

Sincerely,
Juliana Malson
Phone 605-426-6526

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter in regards to Highway U.S. 12 and the accidents that have occurred on this highway.

Maybe more enforcement and a rumble strip in the middle of the highway might be some deterrent in the number of accident.

We are concerned because our son-in-law was involved in one of the accidents which had two fatalities.

Thank you for your consideration

P.O. Box 342
P. Swick, SD 57451
5-426-6931

Sincerely
Erick and Jane
Mauko

Jan 26-16

To whom it may concern:

It seems more people are avoiding Hi-Way 12, due to many reasons. Road simply isn't wide enough to accommodate the larger vehicles and it is not safe for combines & etc to move to the right for their safety as well.

Hi-Way 12 has been one of the busiest Hi-Ways in the US.
2 Thanks much for consideration in this matter.

Andrew and Loretta Thares
Ipsewich, S. D. 57451
Phone 1-605-426-6973

To who this may concern

I dont even drive to the big city no more. the highway is not safe.

with all those big semitruck and the cars that use the turning lanes for passing we need a four lane highway so we can go to the big city of Aberdeen. and feel safe. So please do this.

Thanks

Delores Harrison

105 Rays Lane

Ipswich So Dak

57451



EDMUNDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

PO Box 303 ~ 210 2nd Ave ~ Ipswich, SD 57451-0303 ~ 605-426-6262 ~ Fax 605-426-6257

Todd Holtz
Sheriff

Kyle Couchey
Chief Deputy

To whom it may concern,

Greetings my name is Kyle Couchey I am Chief Deputy of the Edmunds County Sheriff's Office. I have been with the department since 2013 and have been a life long resident of Edmunds County. I am writing you today to discuss an important issue that has not only affected myself but numerous members of our small community. The proportionality of the deaths on the highway from Ipswich to Aberdeen compared to other segments of our roadways in nothing short of terrifying. Our small community has been rocked by multiple losses and near misses. In my time at the sheriff's office I have responded to nearly all the collision's on the roadway, most of which have occurred from Ipswich to Mina Lake. The causes of these collisions have varied greatly. These accidents have been caused by multiple issues which include but are not limited to inattentiveness to the roadway, all the way to drugs and alcohol.

I would admit that almost all vehicle collisions are the result of human error, but to ignore the location's of these accidents would be irresponsible. While the crashes are caused by human error, the roadway and geography in which these vehicles are operated lack the safety measures that would prevent the vast majority of these collisions from occurring. The majority of the collisions on the highway which result in death are head on between two vehicles as demonstrated multiple times last year alone. We have the ability to prevent 99% of these collisions by building a four lane highway from Ipswich to Aberdeen.

The highway from Ipswich to Mina has taken 6 lives this last year alone .What we don't remember is the people who have been hurt and not killed. I myself was involved in an collision on highway 12 near Mina, where a combine header came off the back of a trailer and came into my lane. As a result of that accident I now have permanent damage to my left eye. My jaw was fractured and my face is scared. I am fortunate in the fact that I escaped with these minor injuries but the outcome would have been much different if I would have had my head a couple inches either way. Incidents like mine and others don't garner much attention but it has affected our community greatly and it is a constant reminder to me of the cost of driving Highway 12. If there would have been a four lane highway from Ipswich to Aberdeen I would have never been involved in this collision. This last year we responded to several vehicle collisions between Ipswich and Mina where the individuals were seriously hurt but did not die. In fact every year I can remember their has been head on collisions between two vehicles on this stretch of roadway.

The roadway from Ipswich to Aberdeen is flat and straight which would seem to be a good thing for safety but I believe the opposite is true. With no curves to navigate and average South Dakota scenery people tend to get distracted and complaisant. Not paying attention to the road and drifting off with their attention. This is a natural human reaction when you know that the road is straight and level and you will not have to negotiate a changing road. This combined with other factors leads to people going into the oncoming lane as well as people not realizing that they have a vehicle coming at them until it is to late.

I believe that my colleagues have presented you with statistics vindicating the need for a change in the safety measures on our roadway. I would challenge you to drive this stretch of road and just look at the ditches. Our highway has become a memorial for those we have lost. The road is dotted with the all too familiar think signs and it has left me wondering how many more will we have to see put into the ground before we make a

change. As Chief Deputy of Edmunds County I am all to familiar with the dangers facing our roadways. I see the look on people's face's when I have to say to them that their loved one has passed away. I ask that you would take action to solve this problem and commission the construction of a four lane highway. Our community is united, we know the solution, but we need your action. Many lives depend on it

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Couchey", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Kyle Couchey

Chief Deputy Edmunds County

To Whom:

I work for N. C. F. E. as a fuel truck driver, I drive highway 12 a lot from Aberdeen, S. D. to Selby, S.D. I've not come up on any accident when happen, but have after the fact. I'd NOT want to be an EMT or a firefighter and have to go to one of them accidents that has happened in the last part of 2015.

I put on a lot of miles there, some of them drivers only think of themselves and not the other person, some people even tail-gate me in this big truck, I have to watch them plus keep an eye on the road and on coming traffic. This road is not SAFE.

Do any of you people drive this road everyday? Or the DOT people out of Pierre? Maybe you need to listen to the people that do! I'll bet 100% of the people will tell you a way different story, then your survey tell you!?!?

Something needs to be don't now not 10 years down the road, how many more will

lose there life before something is done!!!!

Thanks,

Chad Barringer
Box 71
Ipswich, SD 57451-0071
405-380-0358

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing with concerns about the number of accidents and deaths that have occurred on highway 12 between Aberdeen and Mobridge. I believe this stretch of highway 12 needs to be made into a four lane road.

Sincerely

Patricia Kadlec

106 Stewart Dr.

Spswick, SD 57451

605-426-6576

To whom it may concern

Hiway 12 between Aberdeen and Mobridge should be a 4 lane hiway. This road has a terrible history of many accidents and deaths.

Many people from the south of Ipswich go out of their way to take other roads to go East so they don't have to travel on hiway 12 because of the truck traffic and others driving this road.

I would appreciate your support to make hiway 12 a 4 lane road.

Ron Kadlec

Box 566

Ipswich, S. Dak. 57451

Phone 605-426-6576

January 25, 2016

4 Mario Heintzman

35641 135th St.

Ipswich, SD 57451

RE: Hwy 12 between Aberdeen, SD &
Mobridge, SD.

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a resident of Ipswich, SD & travel Highway 12 on a regular basis to Aberdeen. In the past few years traffic has increased on this stretch of road.

The speed limit is 65mph until you find yourself in a line of multiple cars with the vehicle in the lead doing less than the speed limit & the on coming traffic is so great that you are unable to pass until you get to the divided highway West of Aberdeen.

Along with the number of fatal accidents that have been occurring & the increase semi-truck traffic due to the elevators & plants that have been built along the way, I find myself requesting that something needs to be done to improve

To whom it may concern.

In the Spring of 1912 J.W. (Joe) Parmley of Ipswich called a meeting of business men along a route to Aberdeen East and to Moberidge going west. This meeting became the start of the Yellowstone Trail (Highway 12) as it is known today. This 2016 State Legislature may go on record, that it wants to improve this Highway 12 to a four lane road.

In 1916 the organized trail men adopted a slogan "A Good road from Plymouth Rock to Puget Sound." The trail was marked with an insignia of a yellow circle with a black arrow pointing toward Yellowstone Park. Today you can see the same insignia as you travel this road. The road East of Ipswich has little change to Minn. It was with the efforts of J.W. Parmley and organization, that this highway came about. Now a four lane highway East to Aberdeen is in dire need, before someone we know or even a relative is killed or injured. Let it be known that this 2016 Legislature is ready to improve the Yellowstone trail to a four lane road.

Ray Hedetz
901 4th St
Ipswich, 57451

The picture on the reverse side of this letter, is the Monicure of Ipswich. The history dates back to 1918 when ^{the} Armistice was signed ending the First World ^{war}. The community wanted to honor the 12 men (boys) who lost their lives in the war and the men (boys) who served from Edmunds County would be returning home. The community decided on an arch. So a wooden arch of triumph was decided on. It was built and placed on main street, Ipswich, so people that used automobiles or trains ^{would} see it. The wooden arch stood across the main street until 1922, when it was placed over the yellowstone highway where the traffic of a continent would pass under it. The wooden arch stood across the highway for many years, until a tornado hit Ipswich, destroying houses and other buildings as well as the arch. In 1928 the arch in the picture was constructed, it remained across the highway, until 1974, when the highway ^{was} to be widened. The memorial arch was then moved to Charles Colliers Park 4 1/2 blocks west on the south side of the road. In 1998, the arch was restored to look like it was when it was first built. The pillars were tuck painted in 2012. This arch was the only stone arch to cross all 5 Hwy.

To you it may concern,

The issue of the highway 12 needs to be looked at thoroughly and then something needs to be done. There are way too many accidents that occur on the highway. Not only is it bad for accidents it also is bad for dry ice that causes accidents. A four lane highway would reduce the amount of accidents. It also would help with the ice. Cars may still end up in the ditch but being in a ditch is far better than hitting another vehicle. Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Nathan Jaenisch

PO Box 241

Ipswich, SD 57451

(605)-290-0842

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Jaenisch', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Leslie Braun
404 Chestnut Ave.
Ipswich, SD 57451

To Whom It May Concern,

I am sending this with deep concern about the need for a 4 lane Hwy between Aberdeen and Mobridge and if not the whole way, at least between Aberdeen and Ipswich. There are at least 8 businesses along Hwy 12 between Aberdeen and Ipswich that require multiple semi to enter and exit daily. There are new homes and developed homes on acreage along those 20 miles. There is the traffic from campers, boats and recreational vehicles that travel to the camping and homes along Mina Lake. Not to mention the many people that live outside of Aberdeen that drive to work daily. Please look at this with serious concern as there will be more deaths if nothing will be done.

Sincerely,

Leslie Braun

To whom it may concern:

I commute daily on Hwy 12 from Ipswich to Aberdeen. I have many concerns on this stretch of highway. There are many semis on this route with many grain establishments along the road. There is an awful lot of traffic especially from 7-8 am and 5-6pm when people commute into Aberdeen for work. Many days I see an almost head on because there is hardly ever a time one can pass a vehicle because of oncoming traffic. There have been many deaths on this road; I sincerely believe there should be double lanes along this stretch of highway from Aberdeen to Ipswich or possibly to Hwy 83.

It is almost impossible to make a left hand turn off of Hwy 12, my son was in an accident as the person coming from the behind rear ended their vehicle. I dread the drive, but do not have any other alternative if I am to have some employment.

If you think there is no need, I encourage you to drive this road during the peak hours for a few days and then give your opinion.

Thank you for listening to the need to make this Hwy a 4 lane road. Sad how many more lives will have to die before something is done.

Thank you,

Cheryl Vogel 426-6309

To Whom It May Concern:

I've been concerned for too long and have decided it's time to shed light on this matter.

Too many deaths have occurred on Highway 12 from Mobridge to Aberdeen, and especially on the stretch of road between Ipswich and Mina. According to an article in the Aberdeen American News awhile ago, "Since the start of 2010, there have been 10 fatal crashes along U.S. 12 between Aberdeen and Mobridge, according to South Dakota Department of Public Safety data."

It continues, "Five of those wrecks have been near Mina, claiming 11 lives, statistics show."

Since the building of the ethanol plant east of Ipswich, traffic has become troublesome. Many people drive daily to work between Ipswich and Aberdeen, and the many big trucks coming and going from that plant have made traveling hazardous. While there have been some turning lanes added, it's not been enough to save the lives that have been lost.

It seems that a divided highway connecting, at a minimum, Ipswich and Aberdeen is warranted, but I would like to be assured that experts in the field would study this problem and find the best solution. The plant west of Bowdle and it's resulting traffic seems to be another cause for concern.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Diana Hauck

605-426-6475

312 Cambridge Ave.
Ipswich, S. D. 57451

To Whom It May Concern:

I've been concerned for too long and have decided it's time to shed light on this matter.

Too many deaths have occurred on Highway 12 from Mobridge to Aberdeen, and especially on the stretch of road between Ipswich and Mina. According to an article in the Aberdeen American News awhile ago, "Since the start of 2010, there have been 10 fatal crashes along U.S. 12 between Aberdeen and Mobridge, according to South Dakota Department of Public Safety data."

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully yours, *Roy Hauck - 605 426 6475*

Deb Braun
404 Chestnut Ave.
Ipswich, SD 57451

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to express my great concern when driving Hwy 12 from Ipswich to Aberdeen and back again. I truly believe that a 4 lane would help prevent some of the horrible accidents that have happened. I have lost a nephew, close friend, close friends grandparents and a co-worker between Ipswich and Aberdeen. I have driven it when the traffic is so thick that I wouldn't think of passing and then someone will pass 2-3 cars at a time and I will have to get into the shoulder to avoid an accident for them. Defensive driving is a must at all times.

Sincerely,

Deb Braun

01/28/2016

RE: Highway 12 Ipswich to Aberdeen

To whom it may concern,

I have lived in Ipswich my whole life. I drove to Aberdeen for years for work, and there are many challenges on highway 12 in order to get into Aberdeen. We have 5 elevators on that 25 mile stretch, so you have constant slow down and speed up distractions.

I know what's it like to be in a car for over an hour (for only 25 miles) trying to make it home on that stretch of road. You can't pass because of the copious amount of traffic from the other direction. It is bumper to bumper at certain times of the day. When you get a chance to pass it seems you are either coming up to an elevator, a semi might be pulling out of, or coming up on an approach and are unable.

I have had a cousin who was killed near Mina, May 21st, 2004 (3 people died that day). They were simply sitting waiting to turn when they were rear ended by a person not paying attention. As a result a turning lane was installed, which helped, however now people think they can pass in that lane, the same thing happens at the Mina turning lane.

My husband is the Fire Chief and they have seen far too many deaths and life threatening accidents for a volunteer department to handle. It has taken a rigid toll on these responders and they have lost responders as a result.

Just a month ago, we were headed to Aberdeen and we were driving 65 miles an hour, cars were passing us like we were standing still. Two cars passed and then a third. The third car did not see the oncoming truck until we were all three just about in a horrific accident. Luckily the truck saw the car coming and swerved to the ditch. Thank the Lord he did not swerve to our lane or it would have been another head on collision.

I don't fully blame the road I also blame the drivers on it. People are so distracted and always in a hurry. The highway is busy with semis, commuters, in and out, fishers heading to the river, and we also have elderly people coming from neighboring towns that are headed to doctor appointments who prefer to drive at a reduced speed, which is important for them, but can be problematic for other people who cannot get around them. I think people believe it's just a quiet straight stretch of road and then they get into a hurry or get behind someone driving slower and frustration sets in. I have seen cars pass as many as four cars at one time when they finally get an opening, I can't imagine their rate of speed they must be at.

We are asking for your help in building a four lane road. We understand there is no room for this road to be divided but we do believe that a four lane highway would benefit this dangerous stretch of road and take some of the frustrations and dangers away from these drivers, in hopes to lessen the rate of accidents.

Thank you for your time, reading this.

Sincerely,

Jean Hutson

319 Broadway St

Ipswich, SD 57451



EDMUNDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

PO Box 303 ~ 210 2nd Ave ~ Ipswich, SD 57451-0303 ~ 605-426-6262 ~ Fax 605-426-6257

Todd Holtz
Sheriff

Kyle Couchey
Chief Deputy

To whom it may concern,

My name is Deputy Hardison with the Edmunds County Sheriff's Office. Since I have taken the job I have realized how bad Highway 12 is through Edmunds County. Edmunds County employs 3 full time Deputies, with no assistance from any other local law enforcement entity. In the year of 2015, Edmunds County received 109 calls for service on bad driving complaints, 30 calls for service for possible drunk drivers, 61 arrests for driving under the influence, 59 drug related citations, 278 citations for speeding, 43 written warnings for speeding, and over 700 verbal warnings for speeding. This is all from the work of only 3 Deputies, and with all statistics steadily increasing.

I strongly recommend that Highway 12 be developed into a divided highway. There have been too many deaths in recent years in this stretch of road. There can be a lot of studies done to determine the root causes of the accidents, but a study is not necessary to determine why these accidents become fatal. The reason behind all the fatalities we have had in recent years is because the accidents were head on collisions. The reason that we have all of these head on collisions is because there is a high traffic, high speed area with very minimal distance between opposing traffic.

Creating a divided highway will not eliminate accidents. We will still get reports about driving complaints, we will still have drivers not paying attention to the road, and we will still have accidents. Creating a divided highway however, will reduce the amount of fatal accidents from head on collisions, and no study is necessary to realize that conclusion.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hardison".

Deputy Daniel Hardison

Ronnie L. Weinrich

12857 W. Pleasant Valley Drive

Aberdeen, SD 57401

605-216-6571

To Whom It May Concern,

I live in the Richmond Lake area, near Aberdeen, SD and drive on Hwy 12 - 5 to 6 times a week to go to work in Ipswich for work at NCFE.

Traffic is always heavy with trucks and smaller vehicles. The speed limit is 65 M.P.H. There is 1 ethanol plant and 4 elevator or seed plants on this route, plus Mina Lake recreation area with 2 exits.

We have seen more and more accidents and I witnessed near accident everyday. The death toll in the last 2 years it has at least tripled in deaths.

I have developed a phobia for fear of having an accident or seeing one.

We need to do something soon. Either it goes to four lanes, better markings for passing lanes, or slower speed limit.

Sincerely,

Ronnie L. Weinrich

Untitled

To whom it may concern

Why we need a 4 lane highway between Aberdeen and Ipswich.

During the last year we've had a number of fatal accidents on Highway 12 between Aberdeen and Ipswich also during the last year we've had a number of business's, like the Ethanol Plant and the new North Central Farmers Co-op plus a large number of grain bin storage facilities along the highway, thus creating an increase of traffic between the two towns. The biggest share of traffic is truck grain semi's. Building a 4 lane highway would decrease many of the problems, also it would intersect with State Highway 45 which runs north and south across the state.

Thank You for your consideration

Logan Andrew Boy 38
Ipswich, S Dak 57451
605-426-6795

January 26, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

For several years I drove 5 days a week from Ipswich on US highway 12 to work in Aberdeen. As the years went by the traffic became more and more. I observed several *almost* accidents. I say almost because they were close calls. Many of them were at Carven Corner where trucks turn to go to the North Central Elevator.

I now drive to Aberdeen for things like Dr. appoints which are not available in Ipswich. I would go another way if possible.

A four lane road would make this much safer. In the past years there have been many fatalities and many serious injuries from accidents on this highway.

In the interest of public safety, I ask you to consider making US highway 12 a four lane road from 5 miles west of Aberdeen to Ipswich and perhaps all the way to Mobridge.

A Concern Citizen,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sophie Leitzke".

Sophie Leitzke
214 3rd Ave.
Ipswich, SD 57451

Phone # 605-426-6426

Untitled

To whom it may concern

Why we need a 4 lane highway between Aberdeen and Ipswich.

During the last year we've had a number of fatal accidents on Highway 12 between Aberdeen and Ipswich also during the last year we've had a number of business's, like the Ethanol Plant and the new North Central Farmers Co-op plus a large number of grain bin storage facilities along the highway, thus creating an increase of traffic between the two towns. The biggest share of traffic is truck grain semi's. Building a 4 lane highway would decrease many of the problems, also it would intersect with State Highway 45 which runs north and south across the state.

Thank You for your consideration

Eugenia C. Gardner

PO Box 387

Ipswich, S. D 57451

605-426-6795

Dr. Nathan Kadlec DC

34944 145 th Street

Roscoe, SD 57471

January 28, 2016

To whom it may concern,

The contents of this letter are written for the sincere concern, safety and wellbeing of my family, friends and fellow community members who utilize Hwy 12, specifically the portion from Ipswich, SD to Aberdeen, SD. My business is located on Hwy 12 in Ipswich, SD and I can testify to the fact of increased traffic use on this roadway over the past 7 years. Furthermore, the numbers of accidents both fatal and non-fatal have increased through that same time and are reason enough to initiate intense and deliberant discussion to make progression towards a viable solution. As one of your constituents in District 23 I urge you to consider the safety of our fellow South Dakota residents in expansion of the Hwy 12 into a 4 lane to minimize further tragedy.

In further, I also believe this would improve our regional economy in regards to manufacturing/production business such as ethanol (corn and soybean), wind energy i.e. Molded Fiberglass and our primary economy of agriculture including cattle and grain. These benefits have been noted in the numerous communities as result of 4 lane construction from Aberdeen, SD to Interstate 29 near Summit, SD. I urge you to discuss with these citizens and constituents the results of these changes in addition to comparison of fatal/non-fatal injuries resulting on this stretch of road in comparison to the stretch of highway I write about today. I have no evidence to offer other than the belief that it would effect this region similarly.

Lastly, I wish to thank you for the time in reading this letter. Please feel free to contact me if needed.

In Health,



Dr. Nathan Kadlec DC

Deborah Rolle

317 8th Street

Ipswich SD 57451

To whom it may concern,

I have been driving back and forth on highway 12 for 18 years. I was hit by a car trying to pull out on highway 12 between busy traffic. Another time because there are so many semi's going both ways we stopped to let a pick up turn off the road and a semi driver couldn't stop so he took the shoulder of the road to pass us. If he wouldn't have taken the shoulder I know I would not be writing this letter today.

Highway 12 wasn't always this busy but since more elevators and ethanol plants have been built along this highway the traffic has been horrible. This includes more traffic for the additional people and more semi's. I have seen people who were in a crazy hurry and couldn't pass the convoy in front of them because of so much traffic take the shoulder of the road to get around it.

I don't know how many more people we have to lose before there is a double lane highway. The traffic will only get worse.

I would like to thank you in advance for your kind attention on this.

Sincerely,

Deborah Rolle

To whom it may concern,

We would like to show our support for the proposed Hwy. 12 project to make a 4 lane highway. We are active farmers that live south of Ipswich on Hwy. 45. Our operation consists of a grain operation and have 4 semi's with salary based operators. With that in mind we are in constant need of this highway in transporting seed, fertilizer and chemicals during planting season. Mid summer it is necessary to be getting chemicals and water transporting for spraying. The most crucial time is harvest time. Transporting the soybeans and corn during a short window when weather is in our favor. We haul non-stop to North Central Elevators (Sun-Tee and Craven) and also to the Ethanol plant at Mina location. Our drivers complain of the high risk travel to and from the grain terminals. We not only use semi's but also farm equipment is necessary to travel to get to some of the land when gravel roads are impassable during wet springs. We also use the highway 12 at least 2 to 3 times weekly to Aberdeen to buy groceries, supplies, church and grandchildren's school functions. We a seasonal lake home located at Mina Lake, so our weekend get away is always a challenge as many other drivers are also heading to Mina Lake and Aberdeen. We are very "alert" at all times and keeping our eye on the "other" driver.

Please consider the plead from our local families the benefit for our safety to have this a 4-lane Highway.

Thank you.

Floyd and Bonnie Hoffman
Lance Hoffman
Ipswich, S.D.

aka: F & L Acres
Ipswich, S.D.

January 27, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

In Re: US Highway 12

Please make the expansion of US Highway 12 to a 4-lane highway a priority. The amount of traffic on this road has increased considerably over the last 30 years to the point that it has become hazardous. Below, I have listed a few factors I feel have caused this increase in traffic:

Mina residents became part of the Ipswich School District – this has increased the number of buses and student-driven vehicles on the highway between Mina and Ipswich

Farms have become larger – with larger farms, comes larger equipment that has difficulty navigating smaller township roads, increasing the number of semi-trucks and large machinery on the highway

Glacial Lakes Energy LLC Ethanol Plant – there are about 30 employees working here who travel to work on a daily basis plus approximately 100 trucks on a daily average going to and from the plant

Farmers and farm wives – many farmers and farm wives have begun working off the farm to help support the farm; many of the smaller farms rely on the medical insurance and other benefits as well as the income afforded by working in Ipswich and Aberdeen

Ipswich and Mina have become bedroom communities – in the 1980s and 1990s, many small businesses in Ipswich closed their doors resulting in many residents from Ipswich and Mina traveling to Aberdeen for work and shopping

Recreation in South Dakota – many fishermen travel from Minnesota to Mobridge for the opportunity to fish the Missouri River, increasing the number of vehicles towing campers and boats and a number of out-of-state hunters who travel to Aberdeen like to hunt in Edmunds County

Healthier elderly population – a healthier elderly population in rural South Dakota has increased the number of drivers who prefer to drive at a slower pace

Please consider this expansion a priority, not only for the number of people who have died traveling on Highway 12 over the past number of years, but also for the people who survived some of these accidents with anywhere from minor to horrific injuries that took months and even years to recover, and also for the family members who also suffered from these tragedies.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sue Hoyle Bob Hoyle

Bob and Sue Hoyle
821 3rd Avenue
PO Box 495
Ipswich, SD 57451
(605) 426-6711

To Whom This May Concern

I hope you take this serious. We need four lanes on highway 12. To many deaths and bad accidents have happened. This highway is a busy traveled highway. Time to fix this problem.

Daniel Bowar *D J B*

110 Cambridge Avenue

Ipswich SD

605-380-5288

1-26-16

To Whom This May Concern

We need four lanes on highway 12. To many deaths and bad accidents have happened. This highway is a busy traveled highway. It's time to pay attention and listen to what the people in Ipswich and surrounding area have to say.

Brandon Bowar
110 Cambridge Avenue
Ipswich SD

Brandon B

605-216-5491

1-24-16

To Whom This May Concern

I believe it is time for someone to get serious and start planning on changing highway 12 into four lanes. How many deaths and serious accidents does it take. If no one believes how busy highway 12 is they need to come and check it out. I hope someone can work on fixing this problem. Our family travels this highway and can be scary with the traffic and then people can't pass and try too. It is time to do something before any more accidents happen

Debbi Bowar
110 Cambridge Avenue
Ipswich SD

Debbi Bowar

605-380-3482

1-26-16

To Whom it May Concern:

I want to take you back to May 21st, 2005 for a second. At approximately 2:00 in the afternoon I walked across the Ipswich High School and received my high school diploma. It was one of the happiest moments I had felt in my life thus far. A day that I thought I would never forget, and only think of happy memories, and that wonderful moment. However, that is not the case. At 5:35pm I hugged my friends Adam Rohr and Shawn Thorne for the last time, as they walked out of my graduation reception. At 6:18 as they waited to make a left turn on Highway 12 at the Mina corner they were stuck from behind and forced into oncoming traffic, and died.

On December 7th 2012 I was sitting at my desk at work and my phone rang. It was my mother; she was asking me about my new boyfriend's family. She didn't know much, but she did know that two people from Bowdle were in a horrible accident on Highway 12. As I hung up the phone with my mother, and started a silent prayer, my phone rang again. As I listened on the phone to my boyfriend, now husband Chris, cry and moan in pain, I realized how short life was, I had never had the opportunity to meet these two wonderful people. And my children would never know their great-grandparents. Around 10:30 that morning, Donniss and Henry Huft were driving into Aberdeen to pick up a new fridge. The first snow had fallen but the weather was still warm, creating "slush" on the road. As they neared Mina, the driver's side wheel got stuck-up in the slush forcing them into oncoming traffic, they hit a delivery vehicle head on, and died.

I think that both of these accidents could have been avoided if this road had been a four-lane. For the last decade I have lost people on this dangerous road. My husband now drives this road on a weekly basis for work. And each time, I ask him to take an alternate route to keep him OFF of HIGHWAY 12. As much as I would like to avoid this road all together, I grew up in Ipswich. My parents are there, my sister lives there, and when they have things going on, My husband and I, and our two kids jump in our car and drive Highway 12, on constant alert. I would like to think that tomorrow I will wake up and there will no longer be accidents on Highway 12 but as long as this road remains a two-lane highway, there will be accidents, and sadly deaths. I don't want to lose any more family and friends. I don't want more people to feel the pain of losing family and friends on this road.

These are just two stories that have affect my life because of highway 12, but sadly there are so many more. I ask you to get this highway a four-lane. I ask that you put money aside and realize how priceless a human life is. I ask you to consider the lives that could have been saved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Desiree Mehlhaff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

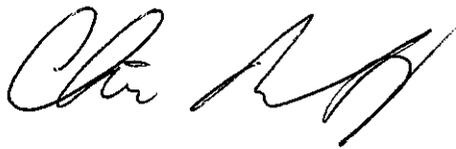
Desiree Mehlhaff

To whom it may concern,

I am writing you this letter to express my feelings about Highway 12 from Aberdeen to Ipswich. I believe that this stretch of road should be a four lane highway. Three years ago, my grandparents were traveling this road in December and were involved in a head-on collision in which they ultimately lost both of their lives. It was a very traumatic experience and the saddest part is that there has been more accidents since then and various families have lost their loved ones such as I have. I believe that the outcome of these accidents could have been different if there was a median dividing the two lanes. The accident may still have happened but the severity would not possibly have been the same.

Second, I am employed with Swanson Electric in Aberdeen, SD and I travel this stretch of road very often to work in Ipswich and sometimes even farther west. In driving this road for the last 6 years, I have seen very many near miss accidents. Also, I have witnessed tons of careless driving and passing on this road in which I have had to jam on my brakes. The reason why people drive carelessly on that road is because it is a busy stretch of highway and there is someone who is only going 50 mph. This situation gets dangerous every time when people go to pass this person going slower. Also, there are so many semi's that basically do whatever they want such as pulling out in front of vehicles going full speed causing them to hit the brakes. If the road was a four lane, I believe it would cut down on the accidents that have been happening so frequently and up to a decade ago. When I have to drive this road for work I don't even feel safe anymore and I actually have driven back roads that are gravel because I feel a lot safer. There are multiple reasons to make this a four lane road to protect the people who drive it every day so they can all make it home to their families. I am a supporter of a four lane highway and would very much like to see something done with this stretch of road.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Mehlhaff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" being more legible than the last name "Mehlhaff".

Chris Mehlhaff

Justin Bitz
39435 133rd St
Bath, SD 57427

January 27, 2016

Senator Corey Brown
316 S Potter St
Gettysburg, SD 57442

Dear Mr. Brown,

I join Dr. Kadlec in support of the expansion of Highway 12 to become a four-lane highway from Aberdeen to Ipswich. This project will support both major safety improvements on our South Dakota roadways, and aid in the economic expansion of rural South Dakota.

This stretch of high has been the location of numerous accidents and traffic fatalities over the years. I can personally attest to the travesties suffered and experienced by our residents, as I have endured the loss of a family member in 2011 on this very stretch of highway 12 near Ipswich.

As a rural South Dakota resident, I understand greatly the impact of commerce and trade that improved transportation routes have on our state. Improving the highways has a significant impact on our local economy, as has the four-lane project from I-29 to Aberdeen.

Again, I urge you to support this project fully.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Bitz", written in a cursive style.

Justin Bitz

Whom it May Concern,

My family & I have been personally affected by highway 12. In May of 2005 my cousin and his friend were on their way to a graduation lunch at Mina. Their vehicle was struck from behind while they were stopped on the highway to turn. They both were killed along with another person in the vehicle that they were pushed into. Since then there has been countless accidents on this highway. Some of them are people that I have never met while others were acquaintances. Highway 12 has far more traffic on it than it ever use to. There are also a high number of semis that travel that road in route to the ethanol plant & elevators. I support changing highway 12 to a four lane highway so less tragedies occur. Thank you for taking your time to make a change.

Respectfully,

Gwen Tietz

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to Highway 12. I currently travel this road daily as I commute from Ipswich to Aberdeen. It is a highly traveled road and the type of traffic has made it increasingly dangerous. The the current road situation does not in my opinion meet the needs to match the growth. With growth comes change and with the volume of trucks, large equipment, wind blades, campers and numerous stops with addition of ethanol plant,elevators and gas station this road has proven to be fatal. I can personally say I have witnessed too many scary situations and as you are aware there have been too many fatalities. I hope that you take the time and resources needed to evaluate and implement an extended 4 lane road.

Thank you

Sarita Pollock

To whom it may concern,

I am a single mother of 2 children and drive this hi-way 5 days a week for work. I have almost been in accidents caused by trucks pulling out in front of me, people trying to pass when not enough time to pass, people driving over in my lane, and people driving too fast on icy roads and almost sliding into me. A four way hi-way would make my life and many others safer for us to get back home to our families every night. This hi-way is very busy and needs a four lane.

Shelly Luond

221 8th St.
Ipswich, SD 57451
605-426-6139
January 26, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

For the past 15 years I have worked as a part-time dispatcher/jailer for the Edmunds County Sheriff's office. I have been on duty when several calls have come in for accidents or reports of bad driving. Some of the bad driving complaints have been regarding incidents where people are passing on the right hand shoulder or passing in the no passing zones. I have witnessed both of these complaints while driving on Hwy 12 between Ipswich and Aberdeen. Just the other night I was on my way home from Aberdeen. I was just at the end of the divided highway westbound with a car ahead of me when a pickup came up behind me and passed myself and the car ahead of me on the solid yellow line (no passing zone) with an oncoming vehicle that was eastbound. These are just a few of the concerns that I have. There are a lot of people that will not travel on Highway 12 anymore due to the hazards. They will take another highway if they are from Hoven, Gettysburg or Faulkton and others will take the back roads to avoid Highway 12.

The traffic has increased a lot in the past few years. That leads to a lot more accidents. We have more truck traffic due to the elevators located by Highway 12. There are at least 4 of them located from Ipswich to the divided highway in Brown County. The trucks are unable to get up to speed when they first pull out from these elevators. As a dispatcher we are trained to do our job no matter how hard it is. It has become increasing harder because of the many times we receive those types of calls. I have also been on some of the ambulance calls due to being an EMT-I. Some of those scenes are etched in your mind forever.

I do feel one of the things that would help is a four lane highway from the end of the one in Brown County to Highway 45 going South in Ipswich. Ideally it would be nice to have a four lane all the way to Mobridge, but I understand that funding a project like that would be extremely expensive. Most of the Edmunds County accidents are from the area between Mina and Ipswich. The other area that receives several accidents is the area between Bowdle and Selby. Your help is needed now!

Please think about these problems and concerns.

Sincerely



Patricia Larman

01/26/2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards for highway 12 to go from 2 lanes to 4 lanes. There have been way to many deadly accidents on this highway than I want to remember. The first that I remember is one that happened almost 11 years ago. That accident took the life of my young cousin, his friend and a gal from Bowdle. It's the worst thing that can happen to anyone. These accident that have happened not only effect the family but friends as well as the communities.

Please do something with Highway 12 to reduce these from happening to all that it effects

Thank you for your time

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Rye". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the "y".

Lisa Rye

January 29, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter regarding SD Hwy 12 and the many accidents that have taken place with extreme consequences. Working law enforcement dispatch for the county of Edmunds has shown me how dangerous US Hwy 12 is. There has been many lives taken due to so many accidents. I feel like US Hwy 12 should be a lot more secure especially with so much traffic. Highway 12 is known for lots of travelers, people commuting to work, truck drivers and so on. As a law enforcement dispatch, I have taken many phone calls from victims who have been followed too close, passing on no passing zone, traveling at a high rated speed and many other complaints. I have dealt with many lives that were taken due to fatal crashes. I personally travel US Hwy 12 when I go to Aberdeen for personal situations and it does not feel safe when there's incoming traffic that can potentially run right up to you no matter how professional of a drive you are.

I personally believe that something has to be done about all the accidents in particular; head on collision. If there's anything that can be done to at least reduce the amount of crashes and deaths, I would encourage you to take action. Please hear our concerns and experience and let's make US Hwy 12 safer since it's our main traveling Hwy.

Thanks for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Batista', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeremy Batista

January 27, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to voice my concern regarding the stretch of highway between Ipswich and Aberdeen. I am a police and fire dispatcher with the Edmunds County Sheriff's Office, and have been the dispatcher on duty during many traffic related incidents along highway 12. In 2015, our office received over a hundred phone calls from the public complaining of bad drivers, drunk drivers, and several vehicle crashes, including fatal car crashes, with the majority on highway 12 between Walworth-Edmunds County line and Edmunds-Brown County line. Several of these complaints and the majority of the crashes have occurred from County Road 45 North in the area of Craven Corner to the overpass at Mina.

Personally, I used to travel this highway weekly, and still do occasionally. I have been the victim of being followed too close, have been passed in no passing zones, have been passed on the right shoulder, and have been pulled out in front of forcing me to slam on my brakes. I have witnessed semi-trucks, turning out of the area of the ethanol plant, who have barely slowed down to make the turn onto the highway, ignoring the stop sign completely, as well as many distracted drivers either on their cell phones or simply not paying attention to the road.

This highway is extremely busy at times, and in my opinion is very dangerous. I feel like I am taking my life in my hands when traveling it. As I meet vehicles traveling in the opposite direction, I find myself moving over as close to the shoulder as I possibly can and slowing my speed out of fear.

As a dispatcher and a citizen, I have heard and witnessed deputies making traffic stops on the shoulders of this highway where traffic is very heavy. The traffic doesn't always obey the move over law, putting the deputies at a higher risk for being struck.

I have noticed there are no rumble stripped areas dividing the traffic lanes nor are there any on the shoulders. The traffic lanes are sufficient in width, but with the amount of traffic, I feel this highway should be a four lane with a turning lane.

Thank you for your time,

Sandy Chapman

Sandy Chapman



EDMUNDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

PO Box 303 ~ 210 2nd Ave ~ Ipswich, SD 57451-0303 ~ 605-426-6262 ~ Fax 605-426-6257

Todd Holtz
Sheriff

Kyle Couchey
Chief Deputy

To Whom It May Concern:

My career in law enforcement has been set with many challenges and rewards. Everyday we face many adversities from dealing with the public to handling vehicle related crashes. We see everything that the general public doesn't have to deal with. I have handled a simple crash involving a animal that caused much damage to a head on collision that took a life or multiple for that fact. The one thing about being in law enforcement is to be prepared for the worst thing to happen when you are trying so hard to prevent it. What I mean by that is we are on these roads every day from your local police departments to the South Dakota Highway Patrol. Look at how we are developing as a society. Our technology in our phones to that in our vehicles is astounding and distracting. The amount of intoxicated or drugged drivers we have on our roadways adds to the stresses of our duties as law enforcement. It is a taxing concern for my officers when safety is at their utmost responsibility.

In 2015, in Edmunds County, the Edmunds County Sheriff's Office gives the following data.

- 109 Calls for Service on Bad Driving Complaints
- 30 Calls for Service on Possible Intoxicated Drivers
- 61 Driving Under the Influence Arrests
- 59 Drug Related Citations
- 278 Speeding Citations
- 43 Written Warnings for Speed
- 702 Verbal Warnings for Speed

These numbers don't reflect the exact location on US Highway 12 or being that of Craven Corner/CR11/US HWY 45 intersection stretching to the Brown County line which is being discussed due to the high volume of fatalities on this portion of highway. My point to those numbers is that a majority of them are on that portion of highway that we work so hard to keep safe. I am asking that you as a department of our State of South Dakota come to a resolve to help us as law enforcement keep this roadway safe. I am a firm believer that a more visible presence by law enforcement is a great deterrent to people driving the way they do or just know that there are more of us out on the road gets peoples attention. Is getting the help to counties to put on more law enforcement the answer? I don't know but it couldn't hurt from my stand point. These small counties just can't afford it but maybe the state can help. This would be a great start to helping curb bad driving.

To Whom It May Concern:

I travel from Ipswich to Aberdeen most everyday and I am always a little nervous about some one crossing the center line. The road is not wide enough when you meet trucks that have over-width or over-length loads. Not much room for mistakes or taking your eyes off the road to watch for deer. If the road was 4 lanes everyone including the deer would have a better chance. I don't believe the speed limit needs to be increased as so many truckers pay no attention to the speed limit anyway. I also know of people that have found an alternative road to travel to Aberdeen as they are afraid to drive highway 12.

Please consider widening highway 12 and help to save lives.

Thank you,

Deloris Thares

Phone 426-6070

Ipswich, SD

January 25, 2015

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing this memo in regards to questions concerning highway 12 from Aberdeen to Mobridge in reference to making this highway a two lane highway. My concerns are that the traffic in this section has greatly increased in the last few years with all the ethanol plants in the area there is much more truck traffic and now with the beef plant in operation again there will be more trucks on the roadway. I travel the highway Monday thru Friday and in the early morning hours from between 6:45 am to 7:00 am there are sometimes as many as 35 to 40 vehicles going west plus the ones going east. Also, at the end of December I had to take my husband to the emergency room for a medical condition and I got behind a person doing 50 mph and there was no way for me to even try to pass this vehicle with all the traffic that was coming. When you get behind a slow moving vehicle the traffic is backed up for a long ways and there is no way that anyone can pass a vehicle at this point and my feelings are that is why there have been some very serious accidents that have resulted in traffic deaths in this area. I would strongly suggest that some serious discussions are done on this matter in the near future.

Donna Brockel

605-2870-4828

January 23, 2016

RE: Hwy 12-4 Lane from Mobridge to Aberdeen

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter requesting our legislators to take a very serious look and then act upon the crucial need to change Hwy 12 to a 4-lane highway from Mobridge to Aberdeen. In 2015 alone, there have been 8 fatalities on this stretch of highway and in total, 18 deaths in less than 6 years, not to mention the many critical injuries resulting from these and other accidents on this 2-lane highway.

Hwy 12 intersects with three major highways on this 100 mile stretch: Hwy12-83 near Selby, Hwy 12-45 at Ipswich and Hwy 12-281 at Aberdeen. This area of the state being primarily agriculture and livestock, the traffic is increasing rapidly every year with an average of 2400-3400 vehicles daily from Ipswich to Aberdeen and 760-1200 vehicles daily from Mobridge to Aberdeen due to the livestock/grain hauling, and transportation of large farm and industrial equipment.

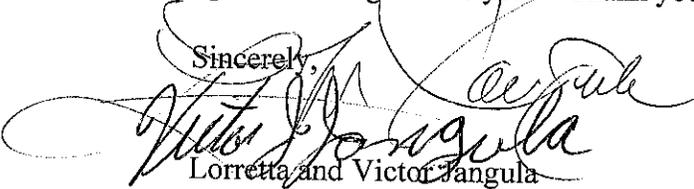
The vehicles on this stretch consists largely of semis (many with pups) used for hauling livestock, fuel, fertilizer, and grain, not to mention many farm tractors, combines, sprayers and haying equipment. Other than agricultural, we have transports hauling pre-manufactured housing, blades for wind towers, rock, gravel & cement trucks etc. in addition to the many private passenger vehicles of medical personnel traveling to satellite clinics at Mobridge and other communities in this area.

Highway 12 is the primary East-West transport route for 2 ethanol plants, 3 grain terminals, 4 livestock sales barns, feedlots, a beef processing plant, wind tower blade mfg., and manufactured housing industries located in this immediate area. You can imagine the huge number of vehicles that travel this 100 mile stretch daily. The grave danger that accompanies this heavy traffic on a major 2-lane highway has increasingly worsened to critical limits. In addition to the heavy traffic, there is the danger from wildlife crossing the highway at all times during the day. Swerving to miss a deer or trying to pass another slow moving vehicle is virtually impossible. One also has to contend with the sun in the morning and evening when the traffic flow is the greatest making it more difficult to pass with the restricted visibility whereas if there were a 4 lane, this danger would be eliminated.

Aberdeen is also the shopping hub for this area which creates a substantial amount of additional traffic. In addition, school buses are used daily to transport children to and from school and sporting/school events throughout the year. All of this traffic bottlenecks on this 100 mile stretch of highway from Mobridge to Aberdeen and the situation has become extremely dangerous.

It appears that the highways in the southern part of South Dakota are the ones getting the major part of the transportation funding. It is time that our legislators take a hard look and act on the dire necessity of changing Hwy 12 from Mobridge to Aberdeen to a 4-lane highway. How many more people must be killed before action is taken? We need to pro-act, not react regarding this critical issue. Please make this issue a priority on your agenda this legislative year. Thank you for addressing this issue and your kind response.

Sincerely,



Lorretta and Victor Jangula

PO Box 607

Ipswich, SD 57451

605-848-1411

1/27/16

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of the highway has a history of many accidents and deaths. This portion of highway 12 has an increase of traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel very dangerous. Also the huge farm equipment that the farmers have, and need to use this road to get to their destination make it frightening when traveling!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Reis".

Carol Reis
(310) 404-4213

January 28, 2016

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in STRONG SUPPORT of the expansion of U.S. Highway 12 west of Aberdeen to a four-lane Highway. As a citizen who lives in Edmunds County and works in Brown County I am a 4 to 5 day a week minimum traveler on Highway 12. I make this trip twice a day going to and coming from work in Aberdeen at Avera St. Luke's Hospital. My husband and I farm just outside of Ipswich and he is also a frequent traveler on this stretch of road. My sister and I car-pool to Aberdeen and back four days a week to Aberdeen and I have to tell you there is a TON OF TRAFFIC on this road! Not that this should be a surprise, but with as many fatalities as we have experienced just this fall alone it makes one wonder every day you leave the house if you will be coming home again that night or not.

There are a variety of vehicles, including cars, pickups, trucks and trailer, semis – both doubles and singles, fishermen, hunters, campers with pickups, boats and campers, farm equipment and machinery along with a variety of other business vehicles and those like myself coming and going to and from Aberdeen and beyond. In addition to the drivers of all these vehicles and more, we also have wildlife to be on the watch for. There are many deer between Ipswich and Aberdeen.

Why and how so many people have been killed on this road we will never know. Do I feel safe on this road? – NO! Am I a cautious and observant driver, yes I am. Does this somehow protect me from harm? That answer is unfortunately, NO, it does not. Is there a solution to this situation? I believe there is. I STONGLY believe that a four-lane Highway west of Aberdeen would give all of traveling this road a "fighting chance". It might help to increase the odds that we feel like when we leave our homes we might make it back home in one piece. Should we have to live our lives in fear each day driving this particular stretch of Highway? That answer is simple, NO we should not!

As a taxpayer in this state of South Dakota, a resident of Edmunds County, registered voter and driver of this Highway, I am in STRONG SUPPORT of the expansion of U.S. Highway 12 west of Aberdeen. I urge your STONG SUPPORT of any endeavor that may make this expansion a reality!

Please feel free if you have any questions, to contact me at the address or phone listed below. If there is anything further I can to do to assist in this effort, don't hesitate to contact me. My home information is listed below.

Sincerely,



Colleen Forkel
13453 357th Ave
Ipswich SD 57451-6301
(605) 426-6987

January 28, 2016

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in STRONG SUPPORT of the expansion of U.S. Highway 12 west of Aberdeen to a four-lane highway. As a citizen who lives and farms in Edmunds County I make frequent trips to and from Aberdeen for farm and personal business. From spring until fall of the year I drive semi-trucks on the highway quite frequently to and from the field and to the elevators.

Highway 12 sees a great number of vehicles, including cars, pickups, trucks and trailer, semis – both doubles and singles, fishermen, hunters, campers with pickups, boats and campers, farm equipment and machinery along with a variety of other business vehicles and those like myself coming and going to and from Aberdeen and beyond. In addition to the number of vehicles, we also have an abundance of wildlife to watch for.

I feel STONGLY that at least with a four-lane Highway west of Aberdeen, we might have a chance to survive a crash.

As taxpayer in the state of South Dakota, a resident of Edmunds County, registered voter and driver on Highway 12 I am in STRONG SUPPORT of the expansion of U.S. Highway 12 west of Aberdeen. I urge your STONG SUPPORT in any way to bring about the expansion of Highway 12 west of Aberdeen.

Please feel free to contact me at the number below if you have any questions .

Sincerely,



Lester Forkel
13453 357th Ave
Ipswich SD 57451-6301
(605) 426-6987

Jim Stafford
14275 354th Ave.
Ipswich, SD 57451
605-380-3447

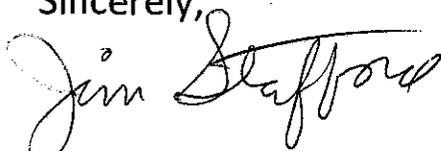
To Whom It May Concern,

I drive Hwy 12 from Ipswich at least one time a week and at each of those times there is always a large amount of traffic going both directions. It is very difficult to pass due to traffic that is coming from the other direction. I will usually decide to just stay in the traffic and yet someone will think that they need to be in the front of the traffic, so passing 2-3 vehicles is what usually happens and the others are pulling over to avoid an accident.

In the recent years there has been a growth of businesses that have started along Hwy 12 resulting in more traffic and more people commuting from the different towns to Aberdeen. These changes have resulted in more traffic and more cause for accidents.

Please look at this for the betterment of the communities along Hwy 12.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Stafford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "J" and "S".

Jim Stafford

Mike Geditz
13861 358th Ave.
Ipswich, SD 57451

To Whom It May Concern,

I am extremely concerned about the number of deaths that have occurred on Hwy 12 between Aberdeen and Mobridge and more between Aberdeen and Ipsiwich. The Dept. of Transportation needs to take a serious look at the need for a 4 Lane. Many of the people are personal acquaintance and are great losses to me and my family.

Sincerely,


Mike Geditz

January 29, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in regards to the problems on Highway 12. I travel this road several times a week. I live in Ipswich and drive to Aberdeen for work. The hazards are real. There are times when I have experienced near head on collisions because someone isn't paying attention. People are passing in no passing zones and not just one car, but will pass two or three at a time. I can't imagine how fast they are traveling when they do this.

A four lane highway would eliminate some of the problems. The slower drivers who drive the speed limit could stay in their own lane, and the speed demons could pass safely.

I sincerely hope you take these concerns seriously and are able to do something about them.

Sincerely,

Edith "Diane" Uttenhove
112 S. Broadway
Ipswich, SD 57451
Phone number: 605-426- 6441

Edith Uttenhove
Edith Uttenhove
112 S. Broadway
Ipswich SD 57451
1 605-426-6441

January 29, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing due to the concerns of Highway 12. I live in Ipswich and go to Aberdeen quite often. I am also a bus driver for the Ipswich School District. I have witnessed people passing in no passing zones and having nearly head on collisions because there is oncoming traffic in their own lanes. I have seen where people have to pull over to the shoulder of the road due to the cars passing.

Something needs to be done and soon! There have been so many fatalities on that stretch of road. How many more are needed before something can be done about it? A four lane highway from Aberdeen to Ipswich Highway would be one of the many answers for you to consider.

Please help us to save lives instead of causing more fatalities or serious injuries.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration in this matter.

Deb Braun

Debra Braun
P O Box 531
Ipswich, SD 57451
Phone 605-380-7079

To whom it may concern:

I am writing you to give you my opinion on adding a four lane highway on US 12, from west of Aberdeen, into/through Edmunds County. With the amount of traffic on this highway, I feel the need is real. I have traveled that road almost every weekday for over 12 years. I have experienced the traffic first hand. There is an abundance of semi traffic as well as farm machinery. The Governor states that the high rate of accidents is just human error but with this much traffic, the odds are much higher. As a former dispatcher in Edmunds County, I can attest to number of calls we get for bad driving and accidents. It is hard to participate in the rescue or recovery efforts of these accidents and even harder when the people involved are from your community or a nearby community. It just seems to this untrained eye, that a four lane highway would reduce the chances of these accidents. Please take this request into consideration. Thank you.

Cindy Sahli
704 N. Andrew St.
Roscoe, SD 57471

To Whom,

Something really needs to be done with this HIGHWAY 12 from west of Aberdeen, S.D. to Mobeidge, S.D.

As there have been so many lives taken in such a short period of time, some have been very young lives also....

I'm a bus driver, I go east on highway 12 at night there maybe times I have to set for 3 to 5 minutes, or could be more, to get on the highway to finish my job at night. When it's harvest time with all the big rigs, cars, and the little farmer, it may take longer.

The people that drive this road drive way beyond the limits, talking on phones, or TEXTING on there phone, then you got the ones that drive way to slow, the ones that WON'T turn there lights on so you can see them coming, the ones that pass in a "NO PASSING ZONE", or "INTERSECTION"... They do it cause I've seen it..

I live in Ipswich and I'm to the point that I hate going to Aberdeen as you don't know what may happen to you...

I'm hoping that someone will get us a nice 4 lane highway here so all can make it home save at night.

Marlene Jones
Box 1
Ipswich SD
57451-0001
605-380-9793

Thanks,

Marlene Jones

To Whom:

One other thing I'd like to bring up. If someone would get on the DRUG problem in this town that might help, I'm sure one of the accidents had to do with drugs, as the one person was behind me in line at the store about an hour before it all happened. One may have been medical problem, if there had been two lanes going, they may only have hurt themselves not someone else. I may go the expect 5 miles to stay off highway 12 till something is done.

Marlene Jones
Box 1
Ipswich, SD 57457-0001
605-380-9793

To Whom:

I work in Aberdeen 5 to 6 days a week, so I travel the road a lot, I have to watch out for me and just hope that other person will get by me okey with NO problems. I also live right by Highway 12 in Ipswich some of them cars/ trucks go faster then 30 M.P.H. thro town, people need to slow down. We got kids that have to cross this highway to get to school, there are people crossing lights that flash but NOT many people STOP to let the kids/people cross.

I think someone need to really look at putting a 4 lane road form Aberdeen to Ipswich or beyond. There has been so many uncalled accident from the M Station corner to the first road that goes north-south in Ipswich. That comes to 22 where people have lost there life, then you got 3 where they have gotten hurt very bad.

What would you do if this was one of your family member that didn't make it home!!!!!!

Thanks,
Mckenzed Jones
P.O. Box 152
Ipswich SD,
57451

January 29, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Highway 12 is very dangerous road between Ipswich and the divided highway west of Aberdeen. There have been so many dangerous accidents and fatalities on this stretch of road. I have witnessed some of the near accidents of people passing in the no passing zones. Some of them will even pass on the shoulder of the road.

How many fatalities do we need before something can be done about it? What is needed is a four lane highway due to the increased traffic and truck traffic. The truckers are unable to get up to full speed and then they have a string of cars behind them, which therefore causes people wanting to pass, and they will pass in an unsafe condition. It seems that in day and age everyone is in a big hurry!

Please take these concerns seriously and something needs to be done now.

Sincerely,

James Uttenhove
112 S. Broadway
Ipswich, SD 57451
Phone # 605-426-6441

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Uttenhove". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "J" and "U".

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Shirley Greiner
Box 31 304 Elm St.
Seneca, SD 57473

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Alan Ketcher

Box 153

Faulkton SD

598.4496

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Steve Miller
16760 348th Ave
Faulkton, SD
57438
605 598-4451

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Roger W. Ben
16340 3rd Ave
Faulkton, S.D. 57438

000-400-0202 p.3

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

James Bitzer

504 Linn St.

Seneca, SD 57473

000-400-0202 p.2
January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

 Rick Hoefert

PO BOX 25
Sewee, SD 57473

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jeff Dreier
304 Elm St
Seneca SD
57473

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer thruway. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Michael Hammrich

Michael Hammrich

PO Box #408

Ipswich, SD 57451

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer thruway. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jamie Ottenhove". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jamie Ottenhove
9 10th Ave SE
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605-261-4844

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

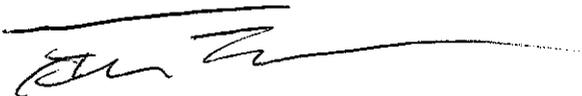
I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer thruway. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

1416 NORTH STATE ST
ABERDEEN SD. 57401

ERIK FUNK



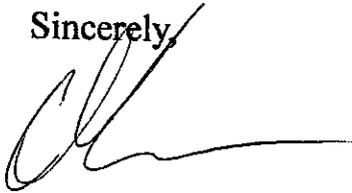
January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer thruway. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Christopher Berdsch

910th ave SE

Aberdeen SD 57401

605-280-1990

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer thruway. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gerald Robbich

Ipswich 501 POK. 57451

1-605-228-9217

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer thruway. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, *Teddy L. Schomberg*
Box 574
Ipswich S.D. 57451

Teddy L. Schomberg
218 847-2783

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer thruway. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Randy Schumacher

307-267-1624

P.O. Box 721

Ipswich, SD 57451

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer thruway. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

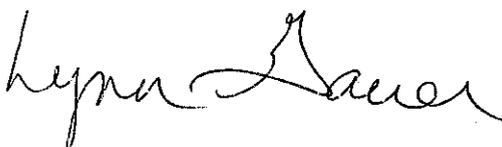
Keith A. Lunders
Keith A. Lunders
511 N Main St Ipswich SD 57451
605-216-2678

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer thruway. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, 

Lynn Gauer
36338-136th St.
Ipswich, SD
57451
605-216-3697

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Wesley W. W. 1106 Elm St. Faulkton, S.D. 6055984482

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Box 343

Faulkton, SD.

598-4107

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, *Steuir Mull*

905 St John Street
Faulkton SD 57438
1605-228-4881

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gene Traver

Box 423

Faulkton, S. D. 57438

605-598-4311

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Rodger Lauritzen

P.O. Box 614

Faulkton S.D.

605-598-4432

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

ROSS L HANSEN


408 10TH AV. S BAKKTON, S.D

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Holly Jones". The signature is stylized with large, flowing loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Holly Jones
P.O. Box 543
Ipswich SD 57451
605-216-7062

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jay Jones
211 Main St
Ipswich S. Dak
214-0553

January 23, 2016

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of a 4 lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant, and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel more dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway and it will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

William J. Bohm
620 13th Ave. S.
Faulkton, SD 57438

605-216-5142

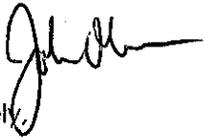
January 23, 2016

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of a 4 lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant, and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel more dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway and it will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



14441 345th Ave

Roscoe SD 57471

287-4287

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Laurie J. Langley

Box 614

Faulkton S.D.

605 598 4432

To whom it may concern:

I would appreciate someone looking into the situation with Highway 12 from Aberdeen to at least Bowdle, SD. A four lane highway would be most beneficial for fewer accidents because of all the travel that takes place on this highway.

Thank you for your time!

A concerned citizen,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becky Randall".

Becky Randall
238 West Lake Drive
Mina, SD 57451
(605) 216-8429

January 27, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing regarding the problems that are on Hwy 12 between Ipswich and Aberdeen. I live in Ipswich and work in Aberdeen 6 days a week. Some of the problems that I personally have seen are that some people think they have to be the leader in traffic. They will pass in a no passing zone, with cars coming from the opposite way. This is not only dangerous to themselves but also to the parties that they are passing. I believe in doing the speed limit but apparently that isn't fast enough for them.

I know a lot of the accidents are probably contributed to human error, but a four lane highway from Aberdeen to Ipswich Highway 45 South would help to eliminate some of the problems. Actually all accidents are considered to be human error. How many more citizens have to give up their lives for human error on someone's behalf? There is always a lot of truck traffic due to the 5 elevators located close to Highway 12. This doesn't help with the speed demons either because the trucks cannot get up to their speed that fast, especially if they are loaded with grain or even the cattle trucks. A four lane highway would let the truckers be in the right hand lane and the other people could pass them safely.

I sincerely hope you can take these concerns seriously.

Sincerely,



Ron Larman
221 8th St.
Ipswich, SD 57451
Phone # 605-426-6139

To whom it may concern,
Hello, my name is Bret. I work for Dakota Doors in Aberdeen. I've had to travel highway 12 many many times for work and i can't even count how many close calls I've had and also seen on that dangerous stretch of road. I drive an f-350 dually with a tool box and ladder racks and it takes up my entire lane with little room to spare. Whenever i see anything bigger than a mini van approaching me I have to ride the ripple strips just so I have enough room in case the other vehicle veers. So many times my co-workers and I have discussed how dangerous this road is; grain bins with semis constantly coming and going, daily commuters trying to pass slower cars, the fact that it's a major shipping route, these are more than enough reasons to widen that road. The fact that lives are constantly lost on it should be all that is needed to be said. I lost my friend and former boss there all to recently. He was on his way to work the last night that his restaurant was open for the season. When I talked to him about it he was so excited, I told him that I would like to come in and try out his special for the night. Unfortunately I didn't make it. I found out two days later that he didn't either. How many more people must die? What is the price of a life and who gets to make that decision? This is America where we take care of our own at any cost. The right choice is obvious, it's time that someone makes it.

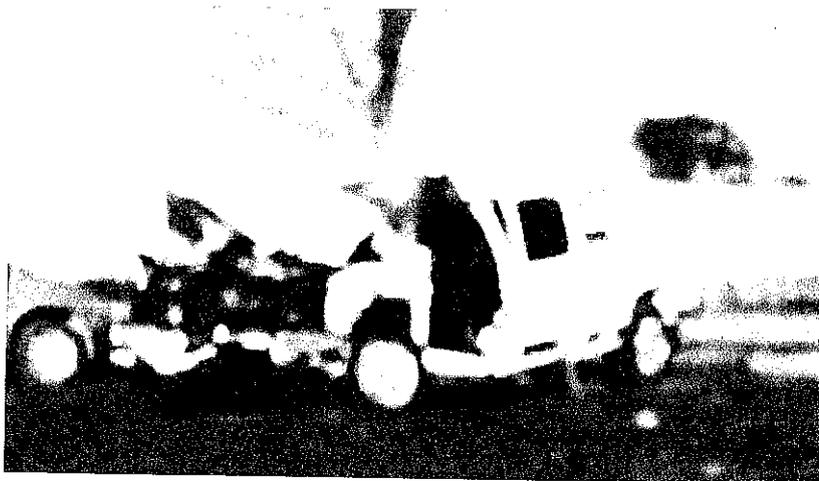
Bret Feickert

Dear Senator Brown,

Please do whatever you can to make the highway from Aberdeen to Ipswich a four lane highway. There have been way too many precious lives lost on this highway, and a lot of near fatal losses. My parents were in a near fatal head on collision on Highway 12 on 9-27-13. Amazingly there were no fatalities. All 3 people involved will have life long injuries that they will have struggle with. I'm including attached photos of my parents vehicle. At point of impact they were going 64mph and the other driver was going 69mph. It's very sad to continually hear of fatal and near fatal accidents that happen on the stretch of Highway 12 from Aberdeen to Ipswich. How many lives have to be taken before a change will be made?

Sincerely,

Wendy Kirkham



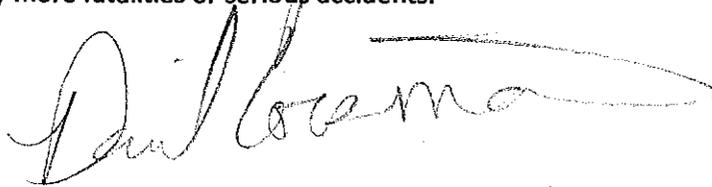
February 6, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing regarding Highway 12. There have been so many accidents and fatalities in the past few years. I was on the Ipswich Fire Dept. for 10 years. The whole time that I was on the fire department, there had only been 2 accidents. I understand a lot of the problems now are human error, but I feel that a four lane highway from Aberdeen to at least Ipswich would eliminate most of the accidents. Car and truck traffic has increased dramatically over the past 5 years. Increase of truck traffic is due to the 5 elevators that are located close to Highway 12. A couple of them have turn lanes, but the problem with those are that people continue to pass on the solid yellow line while the truckers are starting to slow down. This presents a problem to the oncoming traffic because they aren't sure what they are going to do. This is especially true by the Ethanol plant by Mina.

Please take these points into consideration and start doing the plans for a four lane Highway before there are any more fatalities or serious accidents.

Sincerely,



Dave Coisman

321 Main St.
Ipswich SD
57451

February 3, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I own a business and have to make deliveries all over the country. The worst highway to travel is Highway 12 from Aberdeen to Ipswich. It seems like everyone is in a big hurry to get someplace and safety issues are going by the wayside. People are passing slower vehicles in no passing zones. I have witnessed where someone passed a trucker by the Ethanol plant in a no passing zone. When the trucker sounded his air horn at him, he pulled directly in front of the trucker and hit his brakes so that the trucker had to hit his brakes in order to avoid a collision. After he hit his brakes the driver of the car opened his window and flipped him off. There is no excuse for such behavior! I have seen people pass on the shoulder of the road too. This is a danger for everyone involved.

There have been so many accidents with near fatalities and several fatalities on that stretch of road. How many deaths do we need before something can be done? I believe that a four lane highway would be an excellent answer. I understand these things take time but I would encourage you to expedite these proceedings, before more lives are lost. I also realize that the accidents are considered as human error but if there is a solution to the problem, don't you think something should be done as soon as possible?

Thank you for taking the time to address this problem.

Sincerely,



Donnie Luond
Family Pride Processing
19 Main Street
Ipswich, SD 57451
Telephone # 605-426-6343

February 3, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the hazards on Highway 12. There have been so many accidents and fatalities on that stretch of road between Mina and Ipswich. A four lane highway is needed especially due to the increased traffic of cars and trucks. How many more fatalities are needed before something is going to be done about it? If a four lane from Aberdeen all the way to Ipswich highway 45 south would help with the truck traffic. I know that there are now turn lanes by some of the elevators, but people still try passing in the no passing lanes or on the shoulder of the road. I realize people need to slow down but in reality that is never going to happen since everyone is in such a big hurry.

Thank you for your consideration in advance.

Sincerely,

Nik Luond
Family Pride Meats
19 Main St.
Ipswich, SD 57451
Phone # 605-426-5343

Dominik Luond

February 3, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing in regards to the problems with Highway 12 from Aberdeen to at least Ipswich. Ideally it would be nice to have a four lane all the way to Mobridge, but probably not very practical at this time. Instead of going all the way to Mobridge I would appreciate if you would consider a four lane from Aberdeen to at least Ipswich. There have been so many accidents and fatalities on Highway 12. How any more is needed before something can be done?

I know that the traffic has increased a lot over the past few years. It seems like most of the kids from Mina and the surrounding farm areas have to drive a vehicle to school. Then there is the issue of increased truck traffic. There are 4 elevators located between Aberdeen and Ipswich, and the Ethanol plant at Mina. When these truckers pull out onto the highway they are unable to get up to the speed limit right away. This causes traffic to back up behind them. Sometimes people are unable to pass due to oncoming traffic and others are afraid to pass due to the numerous accidents that have happened. Some of the elderly drive a little slower than others also causing traffic to back up behind them. If there was a four lane from Ipswich to Aberdeen it would alleviate a lot of the traffic back up. It also would help with people being able to get around the truckers.

I sincerely hope that these items will be taken into consideration.

Sincerely,



Doug Flute
P O Box 421
Ipswich, SD 57451

February 3, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I work part-time for the Ipswich Ambulance Service. I have seen firsthand some of the horrific accidents that have occurred on Highway 12. These images remain with you forever. Some of these images could have been erased from my mind just by having a four lane highway. Most of the head on collisions could have been avoided by having the four lane highway from Aberdeen to Ipswich. People are distracted these days either by the radio, cell phones or just looking around because they are bored. It is so easy to cross that center line while being distracted.

I am so hoping that you will please consider the proposal for the four lane highway from Aberdeen to at least Highway 45 south in Ipswich. This would help alleviate some of the congestion caused by the numerous truckers and cars on the road.

Thank you for considering this problem.

Sincerely,

Matt Braun
P O Box 531
Ipswich, SD 5741
Phone # 605-380-3959

February 2, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I live in Aberdeen and grew up in Ipswich. My parents still live in Ipswich. I am writing to let you know the dangers of Highway 12. I hate driving on that road due to all the hazards on the road. I know that a lot of the dangers are human error. A four lane highway would help eliminate some the dangers that I have seen.

Some of the things that I have witnessed are people passing in no passing zones in order to get around people that are going slower. Trucks have increased on this road and it makes it difficult to get around them when they first pull out from the numerous elevators along that road.

Again I would encourage you to please consider a four lane highway from Aberdeen to at least Ipswich. Ideally a four lane would be great at least all the way west to Selby or Mobridge.

Thank you for considering this issue.

Sincerely



April Larman
324 N. 4th St.
Aberdeen, SD 57401
Telephone # 605-216-4739

February 2, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you as the previous sheriff of Edmunds County. My concerns are the increase in cars and truck traffic. There have been so many accidents, with serious injuries or fatalities within the past few years. A four lane highway would eliminate some of the problems that are being caused by people passing in the no passing zones or even passing on the shoulder of the roads. That way if someone didn't want to drive as fast as the others, he could be passed safely. When the truckers pull out from the various elevators located along highway 12 they are unable to get up to speed right away due to their heavy loads, there are usually anywhere from 5 – 10 cars behind them that are unable to pass due to the heavy oncoming traffic.

I sincerely hope that you take this into consideration and start the plans for a four lane highway. How many more lives have to be lost before something can be done.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lenny Braun".

Lenny Braun

P O Box S31

Ipswich, SD 57451

Telephone # 605-380-9312

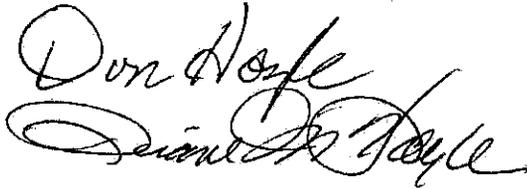
January 29, 2016

To Whom It may Concern.

I am writing to request that improvements to U S Highway 12 between Aberdeen and Ipswich be considered. There has been a tremendous increase in Agricultural Industry along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. There are two ethanol plants and two grain terminals that are being fed by grain trains daily. The products and by products are then shipped out by rail or truck. This increased traffic and the size of the trucks create additional challenges for all traffic on U S Highway 12.

Extending the four lane section of the highway west of Aberdeen to Ipswich would be a start to relieving the problems on this major commercial transportation link to western South Dakota.

Thank you for your consideration,

Handwritten signature of Don Hoyle in cursive script.

Don and Diane Hoyle

208 9th Street

Ipswich , South Dakota

January 28, 2016

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

RE: Highway 12 West of Aberdeen-IT NEEDS TO BE A FOUR LANE

As you may know that there have been more accidents occurring on west Highway 12 to Aberdeen. There are many people who live in the small towns on west Highway 12 that travel to Aberdeen to work, shop, and etc. You add in the factor of the different elevators and ethanol plants that are located in that area and you should be able to see why there are the accidents.

Please help make west Highway 12 a safer road by changing it to a four lane.

Thank you.



Jim and Sharon Engler

PO Box 678, Ipswich, SD 57451 (605/426-6116)

January 28, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concerns about safety on Hwy 12 from Aberdeen to Ipswich, SD. Traffic is becoming busier. There are 4 elevator/bin sites between Mina and Ipswich (about 11-12 miles): Glacial Lakes Energy, Craven, Sun T elevators and Sylte Terminals. Semi traffic has increased, especially during harvest season.

As most everyone is aware, there have been an increasing number of accidents and fatalities on that stretch of road.

Driving home from Aberdeen one Thursday evening in November, I noticed more traffic as I was coming over the overpass by Mina at 5:20 p.m. I decided to count the oncoming vehicles. From the corner of Glacial Lakes Energy to Craven Corner (a span of about 6-7 miles) I counted 46 vehicles. I continued to count from Craven Corner to the Ipswich city limits (5 miles) and added 25 more vehicles.

When traffic is that busy there is no way to even consider passing vehicles. I have encountered vehicles driving no more that 50 mph and have been unable to pass due to oncoming traffic. Besides safety issues it is requiring more time to get to a destination.

I hope you will consider alternative solutions on that stretch of Hwy 12.

Thank you.

Joan Torrence
603 11th Street
PO Box 403
Ipswich, SD 57451

(605) 426-6247

To Whom It May Concern:

I am concerned with the volume of traffic on Hwy 12 west of Aberdeen through Ipswich. My observation has been that during the spring, summer and fall, the traffic seems to quadruple with all the fishing, hunting and tourism traffic. Also, the increase in truck traffic with all the grain terminals that have popped up along Hwy 12 has made a significant impact on traffic and traffic flow. Sometimes it makes passing slower traffic difficult and people become impatient which creates dangerous driving conditions. I would urge you to consider the continuation of the 4 lane Hi-way from west of Aberdeen to Ipswich.

Hank Baker

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hank Baker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

PO Box 235

Ipswich, SD 57451

605-228-9675

To whom it may concern:

US Highway 12 from 5 miles west of Aberdeen to Ipawich has seen a large increase in traffic. There has been an increase in trucks hauling grain to and from the grain terminals along the route as well as the ethanol plant located at Mina.

This increase in trucks as well as the increase in people commuting to and from work has made the road both dangerous and frustrating to drive. There are times that you are stuck behind a slower moving vehicle and am unable to **safely** pass it.

South Dakota Wheat Growers, North Central Farmers Elevator, Glacial Lakes Ethanol, Ag products and seed companies, and numerous private grain storage sites have all been developed on this stretch of highway, increasing the traffic and the traffic turning onto and off of the highway. Just the amount of truck traffic delivering grain to and taking away byproducts at the ethanol plant is a mind staggering number of over 20,000 trucks a year.

US highway 12 between Aberdeen and Summit was turned into a four lane highway and we believe that it has greatly increased the safety and willingness to travel that stretch of road. It has been in the news that the Andover curves on that stretch is dangerous, we would submit that the curves were not much of a problem until there was a large grain terminal placed along it. This increased the truck traffic as well as increased the visual distraction to drivers.

This is why we would like to see the completion of a 4 lane highway on US Highway 12 west of Aberdeen.

Gerald + Barb Braun
36786 126th Street
Wetonka, SD 57481
605-229-4637

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Subject: Safety issues on US Hwy 12 west of Aberdeen

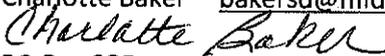
I am writing to request that funding be appropriated for the creation of a 4-lane hi-way between Aberdeen and Ipswich for safety reasons. That stretch of hi-way has a tremendous amount of traffic. When the hi-way was designed, the amount of traffic it saw was only a fraction of what it is today. Today, that hi-way is carrying students to and from school, wind tower traffic, ethanol plant traffic, manufactured housing and oil patch traffic, a constant flow of traffic to and from the Missouri river for camping and fishing, and soon will add traffic to and from the new beef plant in Aberdeen. Add to all that traffic, the elderly people who drive to and from Aberdeen for shopping and medical appointments from Leola, Long Lake, Eureka, Roscoe, Bowdle, Hosmer, Faulkton, Cresbard and Ipswich, who drive that stretch of road at 45-55mph (which is understandably their comfort level), you have created an extreme safety issue. Truckers and other drivers become impatient. Due to the curves and hills on this stretch of hi-way it is nearly impossible to pass vehicles that are going well below the speed limit. When people try to pass, it is often done in an unsafe manner.

One day last winter on my way from Ipswich to Aberdeen, I personally counted 57 vehicles in the oncoming lane in the first 5 miles east of Ipswich. I haven't been able to find anyone who can/will give me traffic study numbers between Aberdeen and Ipswich so I can't know what the traffic is in a 24 hour period. I can only relate what I witness as a frequent traveler on that hi-way. I know the traffic is considerably increased in the summer. I am confident that there is equal, if not more, traffic between Ipswich and Aberdeen than there is between Groton and I-29. Hi-way 12 from Mina to Ipswich has 10 "Why Die" signs on it and that does not include the 6 deaths that occurred in the last 3 months. That is 12 miles of hi-way with 16 deaths! How many people have to die on that stretch of road before the state acts to improve the situation? I realize that turning lanes have been added recently in the area but, it doesn't seem to make much difference in the traffic flow.

Now, ideally, we would have a 4-lane hi-way all the way from Aberdeen to Mobridge. It makes sense for safety and tourism reasons. We have to start somewhere. I think starting the process between Aberdeen and Ipswich is an absolute necessary first step for safety reasons.

I have contacted the offices of Kristi Noem, Mike Rounds and John Thune requesting their help for federal funding regarding the expansion of Hi-way 12. They all say it is up to the state to decide where the money gets spent. This project needs to be a priority for safety reasons!

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Time is of the essence to save lives.

Charlotte Baker bakersd@midco.net

PO Box 235

Ipswich, SD 57451

605-426-6103

Diane Torigian
2005 N Jay St
Aberdeen, SD 57401

To whom it may concern:

I live in Aberdeen and make several trips west of Aberdeen on Highway 12. I am writing this letter because Highway 12 from Aberdeen to Mobridge is a very dangerous two lane road and there have been many, many fatal accidents on this road. These accidents may have been prevented if the highway was a four lane vs a two lane road.

It would benefit South Dakota travelers greatly if this was a four lane highway west of Aberdeen.

The four lane highway East of Aberdeen to I-29 was one of the best things that could have happened for South Dakota travelers. It would be nice to see the same going west of Aberdeen also.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane J. Torigian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Diane J. Torigian

Amber Odde
37998 126th St
Aberdeen, SD 57401

To whom it may concern:

I am a citizen of Aberdeen who uses US Hwy 12 almost every weekend for travel. One of the most dangerous stretches of this Hwy is from Aberdeen going west. This part of the highway is very unsafe. I personally know several people who have been involved in traffic collisions on this part of the highway who have suffered either serious injury or death. I personally try to avoid this section every time I have to travel that direction.

For South Dakota travelers, one of the best things that happened is the four lane road on HWY 12 from I-29 to Aberdeen. That has made traveling that direction a lot more safe. I am concerned for the safety of people who have to travel that section of Hwy 12 west of Aberdeen to Mobridge every day.

I believe that the Hwy should be 4 way all the way to Mobridge.

Concerned Citizen,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amber L. Odde".

Amber L Odde

Joshua Bowen

12931 Ironwood Dr.

Aberdeen, SD 57401

To whom it may concern:

I am citizen of Aberdeen that does travel frequently through our state. One of the most dangerous locations is on HWY 12 from Aberdeen to Mobridge. On a daily bases there is a lot of traffic on this road that makes it unsafe to travel.

For South Dakota travelers, one of best things that happened is the four lane road on HWY 12 from I-29 to Aberdeen. That has made traveling that direction a lot more safe. I am concerned for the safety of the people living in Ipswich and the people traveling on HWY 12 from Aberdeen to Mobridge.

Concerned Citizen,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joshua Bowen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'B'.

Joshua P. Bowen

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer thruway. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mike Bobby
Michael Bobby
500 5th Ave
P.O. Box 34
605 216 3001

To Mr & Mrs Holly Jones or
Dianne Uttenhove
Before Friday These need to get to
Pierre

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gloria M. Kackman

Gloria Kackman

514 4th St.

Ipswich SD 57451

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer thruway. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



G. Ed Bierman

215 10th St.

Ipswich, SD 57451

(605) 287-7452

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer thruway. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Shelly Roth
Shelly Roth
Po Box 432
Ipswich, SD 57451
605-290-5977

January 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a four lane highway that would extend from Aberdeen to Mobridge on highway 12. This stretch of road has a history of being very dangerous and has had multiple accidents and deaths. Highway 12 has increased traffic due to the ethanol plant and grain elevators between Ipswich and Aberdeen which has made travel extremely dangerous.

Your support is necessary to make highway 12 a four lane highway to make it a safer thruway. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dale Roth

Dale Roth

PO Box 432

Ipswich, SD 57451

605-290-1751

RECEIVED
FEB 19 2016
SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION

February 16, 2016

Office of Planning and Program
Long Range Plan SDDOT
700 E. Broadway Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Hwy 12-4 Lane from Mobridge to Aberdeen

Dear Corey:

I am writing this letter requesting our legislators to take a very serious look and then act upon the crucial need to change Hwy 12 to a 4-lane highway from Mobridge to Aberdeen. In 2015 alone, there have been 8 fatalities on this stretch of highway and in total, 18 deaths in less than 6 years, not to mention the many critical injuries resulting from these and other accidents on this 2-lane highway.

Hwy 12 intersects with three major highways on this 100 mile stretch: Hwy12-83 near Selby, Hwy 12-45 at Ipswich and Hwy 12-281 at Aberdeen. This area of the state being primarily agriculture and livestock, the traffic is increasing rapidly every year with an average of 2400-3400 vehicles daily from Ipswich to Aberdeen and 760-1200 vehicles daily from Mobridge to Aberdeen due to the livestock/grain hauling, and transportation of large farm and industrial equipment.

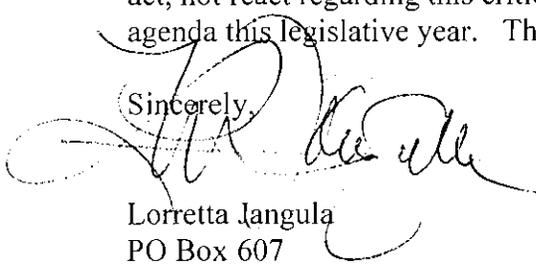
The vehicles on this stretch consists largely of semis (many with pups) used for hauling livestock, fuel, fertilizer, and grain, not to mention many farm tractors, combines, sprayers and haying equipment. Other than agricultural, we have transports hauling pre-manufactured housing, blades for wind towers, rock, gravel & cement trucks etc. in addition to the many private passenger vehicles of medical personnel traveling to satellite clinics at Mobridge and other communities in this area.

Highway 12 is the primary East-West transport route for 2 ethanol plants, 3 grain terminals, 4 livestock sales barns, feedlots, a beef processing plant, wind tower blade mfg., and manufactured housing industries located in this immediate area. You can imagine the huge number of vehicles that travel this 100 mile stretch daily. The grave danger that accompanies this heavy traffic on a major 2-lane highway has increasingly worsened to critical limits. In addition to the heavy traffic, there is the danger from wildlife crossing the highway at all times during the day. Swerving to miss a deer or trying to pass another slow moving vehicle is virtually impossible. One also has to contend with the sun in the morning and evening when the traffic flow is the greatest making it more difficult to pass with the restricted visibility whereas if there were a 4 lane, this danger would be eliminated.

Aberdeen is also the shopping hub for this area which creates a substantial amount of additional traffic. In addition, school buses are used daily to transport children to and from school and sporting/school events throughout the year. All of this traffic bottlenecks on this 100 mile stretch of highway from Mobridge to Aberdeen and the situation has become extremely dangerous.

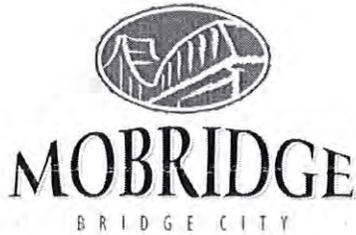
It appears that the highways in the southern part of South Dakota are the ones getting the major part of the transportation funding. It is time that our legislators take a hard look and act on the dire necessity of changing Hwy 12 from Mobridge to Aberdeen to a 4-lane highway. How many more people must be killed before action is taken? We need to pro-act, not react regarding this critical issue. Please make this issue a priority on your agenda this legislative year. Thank you for addressing this issue and your kind response.

Sincerely,



Lorretta Jangula
PO Box 607
Ipswich, SD 57451

605-848-1411



City of Mobridge

114 1st Avenue East
Mobridge, SD 57601

605-845-3555

March 7, 2016

Dave Voeltz
STIP Coordinator
South Dakota Department of Transportation
700 E. Broadway Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Mr. Voeltz:

The entire City Council of Mobridge wants to express its support of the expansion of Highway 12 into a four lane highway.

The importance of a safer highway system that can accommodate both agriculture businesses and tourism cannot be stressed enough.

This kind of asset is vital to future growth and development and communities that enjoy four lane highways have transformed their economies. The entire Missouri River Corridor, which includes business interests from east to west, will greatly benefit from the enhanced access for commerce to and from the Black Hills, and between eastern and western South Dakota.

We recognize that cost is always an issue to be considered, and we encourage the Department of Transportation to keep working towards this goal of incrementally expanding Highway 12 into a four lane highway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jamie Dietterle".

Jamie Dietterle
Mayor

From: [Behm, Michael](#)
To: [Voeltz, Dave](#)
Subject: FW: Hwy 12 W of Aberdeen
Date: Thursday, March 24, 2016 4:54:13 PM

From: Kay Daly [mailto:brandtfm@nvc.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2016 4:38 PM
To: Behm, Michael
Subject: Hwy 12 W of Aberdeen

Was reading the Aberdeen News about what will be done west of Aberdeen on that road. I noticed that nothing was said about the shoulder. Coming back this winter from snowmobiling with a trailer we had to make an emergency stop and pull off the road on the shoulder in that stretch when the trailer pin broke. It was very difficult to do with traffic and trucks speeding by so close. There was not enough shoulder to properly pull off a safe distance.

Please add this comment to that section of road please.

Kay Daly, Groton, SD

July 10, 2016

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in STRONG SUPPORT of the expansion of U.S. Highway 12 west of Aberdeen to a four-lane highway. As a citizen who lives and farms in Edmunds County I make frequent trips to and from Aberdeen for farm and personal business. From spring until fall of the year I drive semi-trucks on the highway quite frequently to and from the field and to the elevators.

Highway 12 sees a great number of vehicles, including cars, pickups, trucks and trailer, semis – both doubles and singles, fishermen, hunters, campers with pickups, boats and campers, farm equipment and machinery along with a variety of other business vehicles and those like myself coming and going to and from Aberdeen and beyond. In addition to the number of vehicles, we also have an abundance of wildlife to watch for. Another area that has seen several “near miss” crashes is Hwy12 W and 357th Ave just ½ mile west of Ipswich. This corner is where we turn to come to our farm and it is just after the 45mph speed limit goes to 65. Invariably truck traffic as well as others have already hit the 65mph mark and are not happy with someone making them slow down for a signaled left hand turn from Hwy. 12 after they have just gotten their speed up to 65 mph or close to 65mph. On more than one occasion there has been traffic that has passed on the right hand side rather than waiting for me to make that left hand turn to go south to my home.

I feel STONGLY that at least with a four-lane Highway west of Aberdeen we might have a chance to survive a crash.

As taxpayer in the state of South Dakota, a resident of Edmunds County, registered voter and driver on Highway 12 I am in STRONG SUPPORT of the expansion of U.S. Highway 12 west of Aberdeen. I urge your STONG SUPPORT in any way to bring about the expansion of Highway 12 west of Aberdeen.

Please feel free to contact me at the number below if you have any questions .

Sincerely,

Lester Forkel

Lester Forkel
13453 357th Ave
Ipswich SD 57451-6301
(605) 426-6987

July 10, 2016

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in STRONG SUPPORT of the expansion of U.S. Highway 12 west of Aberdeen to a four-lane Highway. As a citizen who lives in Edmunds County and works in Brown County I am a 4 to 5 day a week minimum traveler on Highway 12. I make this trip twice a day going to and coming from work in Aberdeen at Avera St. Luke's Hospital. My husband and I farm just outside of Ipswich and he is also a frequent traveler on this stretch of road. My sister and I car-pool to Aberdeen and back four days a week to Aberdeen and I have to tell you there is a TON OF TRAFFIC on this road! Not that this should be a surprise, but with as many fatalities as we have experienced just this fall alone it makes one wonder every day you leave the house if you will be coming home again that night or not.

There are a variety of vehicles, including cars, pickups, trucks and trailer, semis – both doubles and singles, fishermen, hunters, campers with pickups, boats and campers, farm equipment and machinery along with a variety of other business vehicles and those like myself coming and going to and from Aberdeen and beyond. In addition to the drivers of all these vehicles and more, we also have wildlife to be on the watch for. There are many deer between Ipswich and Aberdeen. Another area that has seen several "near miss" crashes is Hwy12 W and 357th Ave just ½ mile west of Ipswich. This corner is where we turn to come to our farm and it is just after the 45mph speed limit goes to 65. Invariably truck traffic as well as others have already hit the 65mph mark and are not happy with someone making them slow down for a signaled left hand turn from Hwy. 12 after they have just gotten their speed up to 65 mph or close to 65mph. On more than one occasion there has been traffic that has passed on the right hand side rather than waiting for me to make that left hand turn to go south to my home.

Why and how so many people have been killed on this road we will never know. Do I feel safe on this road? – NO! Am I a cautious and observant driver, yes I am. Does this somehow protect me from harm? That answer is unfortunately, NO, it does not. Is there a solution to this situation? I believe there is. I STRONGLY believe that a four-lane Highway west of Aberdeen would give all of traveling this road a "fighting chance". It might help to increase the odds that we feel like when we leave our homes we might make it back home in one piece. Should we have to live our lives in fear each day driving this particular stretch of Highway? That answer is simple, NO we should not!

As a taxpayer in this state of South Dakota, a resident of Edmunds County, registered voter and driver of this Highway, I am in STRONG SUPPORT of the expansion of U.S. Highway 12 west of Aberdeen. I urge your STRONG SUPPORT of any endeavor that may make this expansion a reality!

Please feel free if you have any questions, to contact me at the address or phone listed below. If there is anything further I can do to assist in this effort, don't hesitate to contact me. My home information is listed below.

Sincerely,

Colleen Forkel

Colleen Forkel
13453 357th Ave
Ipswich SD 57451-6301
(605) 426-6987

Voeltz, Dave

From: Pat Larman <ron_patlarman@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2016 4:14 PM
To: Voeltz, Dave; Bergquist, Darin; Jundt, Joel
Subject: TENTATIVE 2017-2020 SDDOT STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP)

August 26, 2016

I'm writing in regards to Highway 12 between Ipswich and 5 miles West of Aberdeen.

There are some concerns that I have regarding that of road.

1. There should be turn lanes put in for all the grain elevators, especially the one by the Craven Road. The trucks cannot turn without going into the left lane which causes people passing in the left turning lane to get around the truckers. The County Road that they turn onto is not wide enough for them to complete the turn without going into the left lane.
2. If a four lane cannot be done between Aberdeen and Ipswich then there needs to be a few passing areas put in. If you have a person driving 50-55 and the flow of traffic is doing 65 (speed limit) you then have a large backup of traffic or people trying to pass 3-4 cars at a time. Then you also have the people passing in the No passing zone (solid yellow lines) with cars coming from the other direction. Then you also have the people crossing the center line constantly to see if they can get around the cars in front of them. Ideally a four lane highway would be the answer to a lot of the problems. I feel that we have out grown the two lane highway by the increased amount of traffic, especially the truck traffic. There are more large grain trucks and cattle trucks that are traveling on that stretch of the road. Regular semi's might not be so bad, but you have these trucks that are pulling pups behind or even larger trailers.
3. I am a school bus driver for the Ipswich School District and have to try and cross Highway 12 at the Highway 45 junction. There are some days when I have to sit for 3-5 minutes before being able to get across the intersection going North onto County Road 13. I feel that a stop light should be placed at that intersection. It would also help slow some of the traffic down. Some of the truckers that go through town are doing more than 30 mph. Even if the street light was one of those that would change when someone is sitting on County Road 13 or Highway 45 to get across would be great. I don't feel comfortable try to "zip" across the road with children in the bus that I am responsible for.

These are just a couple of my concerns. The accidents and deaths have increased over the past few years and something needs to be done about it. I know all accidents are considered as human error but a wider road would eliminate some of the problems.

Sincerely,

Patricia Larman
221 8th St.
Ipswich, SD 57451
605-426-6139

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

CONCERNING THE TENTATIVE 2017-2020 SDDOT STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM (STIP)

I am requesting that the SDDOT add funding for the continuation of the 4-lane hi-way between Aberdeen and Ipswich. The volume and type of traffic that flows on that stretch of hi-way surely warrants this. The truck traffic has increased due to all of the agricultural plants along that hi-way. I have attended the SDDOT meetings in Ipswich and Aberdeen this summer. I continue to hear that the safety concerns regarding all the fatalities over the last 6 years really has nothing to do with the road itself. My concern is being able to travel that road safely. I cannot do anything about whatever issues the oncoming driver is having, whether it is impaired driving, distracted driving, having medical problems or overdriving road conditions. My concern is to be able to get to and from Aberdeen safely. From listening to the comments being made by the SDDOT at the area meetings, my conclusion is that only a 4-lane hi-way can help to ensure that I at least don't have to worry about crossover traffic hitting me in a head-on collision. I understand that rumble strips are being added as a temporary solution. I applaud the SDDOT for responding with that much. I do not believe that is the long term answer.

Thank you.

Charlotte Baker

July 30, 2016

PO Box 235

Ipswich, SD

605-426-6103

bakersd@midco.net

STIP under Sub

Petition to Dept. of Transportation, State of SD & Public Safety
Commission.

Full name: Jerome A. Schumacher

Address: 611 N. Main

Ipswich, SD 57451

Signature: Jerome A Schumacher

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)

:SS.

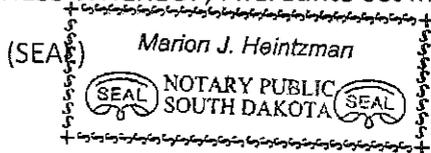
COUNTY OF EDMUNDS)

On this 1st day of March, 2016, before me, the undersigned officer, personally appeared **Jerome A. Schumacher**, known by me or satisfactorily proven to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that he executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

Dated this 1st day of March, 2016

Jerome A. Schumacher

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.



Marion Heintzman
Notary Public

My commission expires:

5-5-2018

Accidents, injuries and fatalities are rapidly increasing on US Highway 12 between Aberdeen and Mobridge South Dakota. Not only does it cause great concern to travelers along this stretch of highway, but it also affects economic growth for the cities along this route. Potential home owners question the safety of travel for their loved ones and business feels the stress of declining clientel from surrounding communities because of the safety concern. We, the undersigned, demand the Department of Transportation, the State of South Dakota and the Public Safety Commission take immediate action to improve safety and economic stability for all along the above mentions area.

Must be 18 years and older to sign

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Ricky Hauck	<i>Ricky Hauck</i>	1002 Arivold Ave Hosmer SD
James Uck	<i>James Uck</i>	104 mabel Ln Ipswich
Jason Preszler	<i>Jason Preszler</i>	14151 350 Ave Roscoe SD
Christopher Grismer	<i>Christopher Grismer</i>	33013 128 th St Hosmer, SD

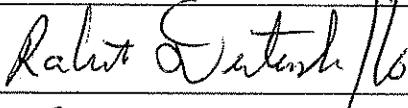
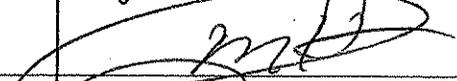
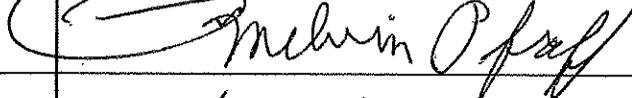
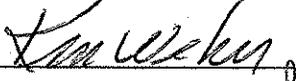
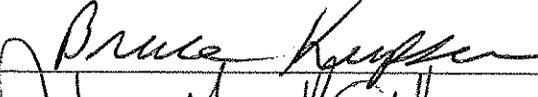
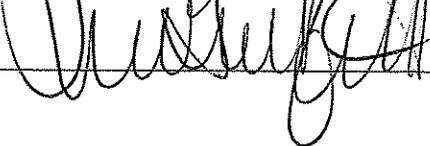
Accidents, injuries and fatalities are rapidly increasing on US Highway 12 between Aberdeen and Mobridge South Dakota. Not only does it cause great concern to travelers along this stretch of highway, but it also affects economic growth for the cities along this route. Potential home owners question the safety of travel for their loved ones and business feels the stress of declining clientel from surrounding communities because of the safety concern. We, the undersigned, demand the Department of Transportation, the State of South Dakota and the Public Safety Commission take immediate action to improve safety and economic stability for all along the above mentions area.

Must be 18 years and older to sign

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Gene Bender	<i>Gene Bender</i>	116 3rd St SE Warner SD
Stacy Dutenhoffer	<i>Stacy Dutenhoffer</i>	100 5th St, Ipswich SD 57451
Amanda Rawden	<i>Amanda Rawden</i>	37264 137th St., Mina, SD 57451
ANTHONY HEIER	<i>Anthony Heier</i>	214 11th St Warner SD 57451
DON QUENZER	<i>Don Quizer</i>	126351 North Bridge Road, Ab. 57404
KEV PFAFF	<i>Kev Pfaff</i>	313 8th St IPSWICH SD 57451
Scott Retzer	<i>Scott Retzer</i>	36934 131st Street Mina, SD 57451
Steve Lane	<i>Steve Lane</i>	822 S Lawson St. ^{Aberdeen} SD 57401
Susan Kolb	<i>Susan Kolb</i>	707 Alma Ave Ipswich SD 57451
Steve Benning	<i>Steve Benning</i>	127400 W 5th Ave Drive Aberdeen SD 57451

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Robert Datenhoffer		13974 100 5th St
Kenneth P Geditz		13974 355 Ave
JEFF FOSSUM		105 2nd St #5 Ipswich SD
Paula Hammrich		3589 14th S Ipswich CT
MELVIN PFAFF		713 N 6TH ST. Ipswich SD
Ken Weber		614 N. MAIN Ipswich SD
Rhonda Geditz		13971 355 Ave Ipswich SD 57451
Sara Unser		102 Cambridge Ave Ipswich, SD
Bruce Kasper		614 4th ST Ipswich SD
Julie Richardt		320 Wilnot Ave, Ipswich SD

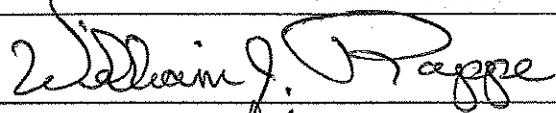
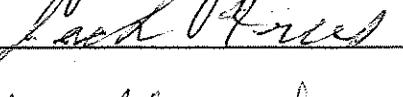
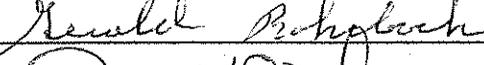
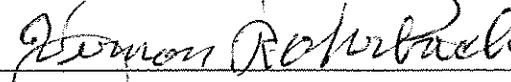
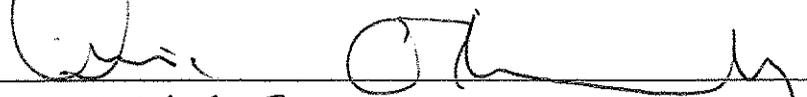
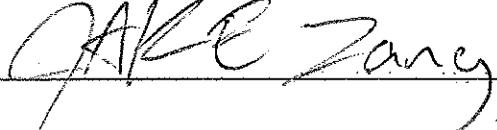
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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Theresa Gross	Theresa Gross	309 Wilmot Ave Ipswich SD 57451
MAYNARD FOUGHT	MAYNARD FOUGHT	303 Wilmot Ave, Ipswich SD 57451
DONALD MILLER	Donald Miller	917 3rd AVE, Ipswich SD 57451
Travis Miller	Travis Miller	917 3rd Ave, Ipswich SD, 57451
CLARENCE HAMMIRICH	Clarence Hammirich	220-3rd ST Ipswich SD 57451
JAY BAKKEN	Jay Bakken	416 Euclid Ave, Ipswich SD 57451
Carla Bakken	Carla Bakken	416 Euclid Ave, Ipswich SD 57451
Hannah Bakken	Hannah Bakken	416 Euclid Ave, Ipswich SD
Lydia Claymore	Lydia Claymore	15663 2nd St. Piedmont, SD 57769
Cory Claymore	Cory Claymore	15663 2nd St Piedmont SD 57769

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
William J. Rappe		620 2 nd ST., Ipswich SD
Katie Steen		505 11 th St, Ipswich SD
Neil Ward		107 4 th ST Chadron SD
Tyler Anglin		102 1st Ave Ipswich SD
Jack Fries		721 Almg Ave Ipswich ^{SD}
Gerald Rohrbach		ALMO AV. Ipswich
BOB GOETZ		705 (West) 1 st St, Ipswich
VERNON ROHRBACH		603 Chestnut Ave
Anna O'Kennedy		13720 362 nd Ave Ipswich
Jacob Lang		218 3 rd St Ipswich

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Shelly Roth	Shelly Roth	600 1st Ave Ipswich, SD
Amanda Anglin	Amanda Anglin	20 3rd Ave Ipswich, SD
Tara Schock	Tara Schock	31769-139th St. Bonville SD 57428
Michael Larson	Michael Larson	113 Hilltop Drive Gettysburg, SD 57442
Tammy Pike	Tammy Pike	224 60th St. Ipswich SD 57451
Jamie Stiles	Jamie Stiles	111 2nd Street Ipswich SD 57451
J. DAVID WILLIAMS	David Williams	121 2nd STREET IPSWICH SD
DON MITZEL	Don Mitzel	383 91 U.S. Hwy 12
Kerry Carlson	Kerry Carlson	460 Resbitt Dr.
DAWAINE HAAR	Dawain Haar	815 6TH AVE

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Dale Duenuwald	<i>Dale Duenuwald</i>	14328 322 nd AVE Hoven SD 57450
Lesia Rappe	<i>Lesia Rappe</i>	620 2ND ST Ipswich, SD 57451
Todd Holtz	<i>Todd Holtz</i>	34652 138th St. Roscoe, SD 57471
Brandon Bowar	<i>Brandon Bowar</i>	318 North 6th street Ipswich SD 57451
Sandy Chapman	<i>Sandy Chapman</i>	212 main st Longlake SD 57457
Dionne Olson	<i>Dionne Olson</i>	209 3rd St Ipswich, SD 57451
Patricia Nigg	<i>Patty Nigg</i>	36077 US Hwy 12 Mina SD 57451
Keith Schorr	<i>Keith Schorr</i>	205 3rd Ave Roscoe SD 57471
Bonnie Nehlich	<i>Bonnie Nehlich</i>	13380 350th Ave Roscoe SD 57471
Dale Hodson	<i>Dale Hodson</i>	114 2 nd St Ipswich, SD 57451

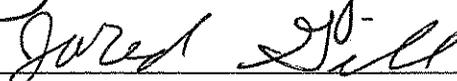
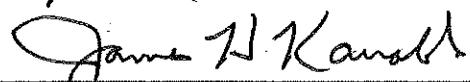
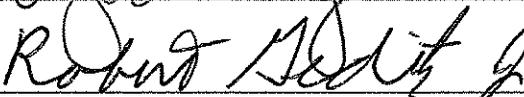
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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Jerome A. Schumacher	<i>Jerome A Schumacher</i>	611 N Main Ipswich, S.D.
Morris Jones	<i>Morris Jones</i>	106 Opal Lane Ipswich, S.D.
Mitchell Anglin	<i>Mitch Anglin</i>	Po Box 463 Ipswich S.D.
Charles Curtis	<i>Charles Curtis</i>	13649 357 th Ave Ipswich S.D.
ED KRAFT	<i>Ed Kraft</i>	Box 115 Ipswich SD
JERRY FRANCK	<i>Jerry Franck</i>	11351 361 st Ave Leola SD
Justin Roter Justin Roter	<i>Justin Roter</i>	619 2nd Ave Ipswich SD
BOB KUKRALL	<i>Bob Kukrall</i>	308 N. MITCHELL ROSCOE SD.
Kaleb Bowman	<i>Kaleb Bowman</i>	1310 Thomas Drive Aberdeen SD 57401
Logan Huber	<i>Logan Huber</i>	1114 28 th Ave NE Aberdeen SD 57401

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Jeff Berneth		117 98 362nd Ave Leola SD 57456
Wade Schwan		234 N. Sunset Dr. Mina, SD 57451
Gene Skoglund		205 Walnut St. Hecla S.D. 57446
Jared Gill		102 8th Ave NE Aberdeen SD 57401
Mike Nickolas		1502 N. Jackson St Aberdeen
JAMES H KANABLE		263 8th St, Ipswich SD 57451
Abigail Anglin		15 Alma Ave, PO Box 132 Ipswich, SD 57451
Robert Geditz Jr		1009 1st Ave Ipswich, SD 57451
Sherry Perrion		212 Cambridge Ave Ipswich, SD 57451
John Berneth		136th 387th Ave Ipswich SD 57401

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)

:SS.

COUNTY OF EDMUNDS)

On this 29th day of January, 2016, before me, the undersigned officer, personally appeared Bonnie M. Schussler known by me or satisfactorily proven to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that he executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

Dated this 29th day of January, 2016

Bonnie M. Schussler

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

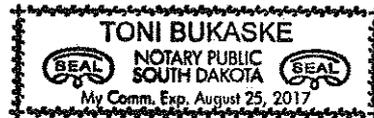
(SEAL)

Toni Bukaske

My commission expires:

8-25-2017

Notary Public



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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Shirley Preszler	Shirley Preszler	12623 340 th Ave Hosmer SD 57448
GEORGE MOHR	George C Mohr	403 W 46 th Rd Hosmer SD 57448
Delene Schutz	Delene Schutz	33043 125 th St Hosmer SD
Shelly Blocker	Shelly Blocker	33623 129 th St Hosmer SD 57448
Joyce Haerter	Joyce Haerter	33111 128 th St Hosmer SD 57448
Joe Haerter	Joe Haerte	4074 th St Hosmer SD 57448
Michael P Schwiegler	Michael P Schwiegler	412 Chopman Ave Hosmer SD 57448
GUADALUPE CONTRERAS	Guadalupe Contreras	111 W 2nd ST HOSMER SD 57448
Jason Rotzbach	Jason Rotzbach	10994 322nd Ave Eureka SD 57447
Elmer Ruppas	Elmer Ruppas	1302 B AVE

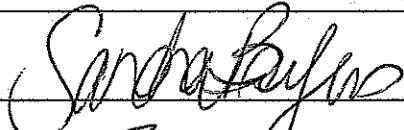
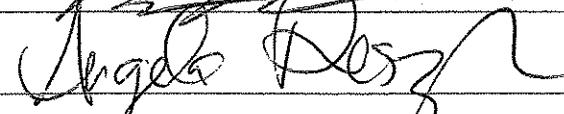
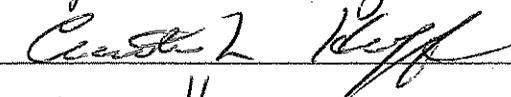
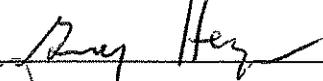
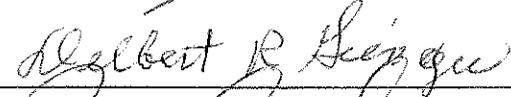
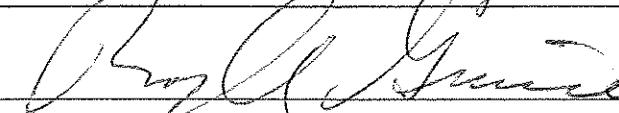
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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
RON UTENHOVE	<i>Ron Uttenhove</i>	204 2ND ST. HOSMER, SD
MARY JO GRISMER	<i>Mary Jo Grismer</i>	33013 128th St Hosmer SD
Jessica Holscher	<i>Jessica Holscher</i>	405 Seward Ave Roscoe SD
Bonnie M Schumacher	<i>Bonnie M Schumacher</i>	105 East 7th St Hosmer SD 57448
Janice B. Malsam	<i>Janice B. Malsam</i>	301 East Main Hosmer
Janice B Malsam Mary Lou Mehr	<i>Mary Lou Mehr</i>	502 Arnold Ave + Hosmer SD
Rosella Heyne	<i>Rosella Heyne</i>	34063 129 St, Hosmer, S.D. 57448
Clay Spitzmann	<i>Clay Spitzmann</i>	203 4th Ave. Roscoe, SD 57471
Don Blumhardt	Don Blumhardt	34888 121st St. Leola SD

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
SANDRA BEYERS		405 Addison Ave, Roscoe SD
Brian Beyers		405 Addison Ave Roscoe SD
Angela Hesz		410 Valley Dr, Hosmer SD
Curtis Hoff		33870-112th St Eureka SD
Greg Heyne		34063 129th St Hosmer, SD
Desiree Eggbraaten		103 McKinnon Ave Hosmer SD 57448
DELBERT R Gienker		12184 343rd Ave Hosmer SD 57448
Roy A Grismer		12525 328th Ave Baudette SD 57428
Bra L Neal		12170 319th Ave Gro 57452
Brian Malsam		13090 342nd Ave Roscoe SD 57471

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Toni Bukaske		307 2nd Ave Roscoe SD 57471
JoAnn Burns		32877 112 St. Eureka, SD 57437

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Dean W. Schumacher	<i>Dean W. Schumacher</i>	105 E 2 nd ST. Hosmer, SD 57448
IVAN E. Setlumacher	<i>Ivan E. Schumacher</i>	901 E 8 th Hosmer, S.D. 57448
George Leier	<i>George J. Leier</i>	112 W. 2 nd ST Hosmer
ROBERT SCHUMACHER	<i>Robert Schumacher</i>	15819-341-AVE
Eugene Miller	<i>Eugene Miller</i>	Hosmer S.D., 33056 14 th
Chris McTott	<i>Chris McTott</i>	509 Rail RD Aves Hosmer SD
GARY WEISHAR	<i>Gary Weishar</i>	102-W. Monte Ave Hosmer S.D.
Cris Mayer	<i>Cris Mayer</i>	PO Box 180 Hosmer, SD
Lyle Kiesz	<i>Lyle Kiesz</i>	PO BOX 336 Bowdles SD
Dewayne Sowards	<i>Dewayne Sowards</i>	213 West Main St Hosmer SD 57448

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Carolyn M Eisenbeisz	<i>Carolyn M Eisenbeisz</i>	205 E 6th St Hosmer SD 57448
Peter E. Eisenbeisz	<i>Peter E. Eisenbeisz</i>	205 E. 6th St Hosmer, SD 57448
Sandy Wolf	<i>Sandy Wolf</i>	32952 125th St Hosmer SD 57448
CHARLES WOLF	<i>Charles Wolf</i>	32952 125 St Hosmer SD
Curis A. Aman	<i>Curis A. Aman</i>	379 127 St Hosmer SD.
Jerome Malsam	<i>Jerome Malsam</i>	312-S-Henry Ave Hosmer, SD. 57448
Tyler Jung	<i>Tyler Jung</i>	34551 125th St Roscoe SD
Dawn Malsam	<i>Dawn Malsam</i>	13090 317 Ave Roscoe SD 57471
Angie Aman	<i>Angie Aman</i>	302 H AVE EUREKA SD 57437
CINDY ROHRBACH	<i>Cindy Rohrbach</i>	302 N. ANDREW St. Roscoe, SD 57471

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)

:SS.

COUNTY OF EDMUNDS)

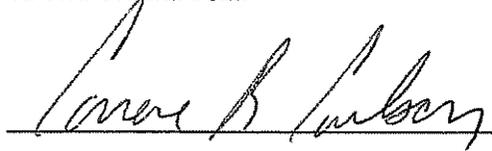
On this 26 day of January, 2016, before me, the undersigned officer, personally appeared Terry Carlson, known by me or satisfactorily proven to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that he executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

Dated this 26 day of January, 2016



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

(SEAL)



My commission expires:

1-31-2020

Notary Public

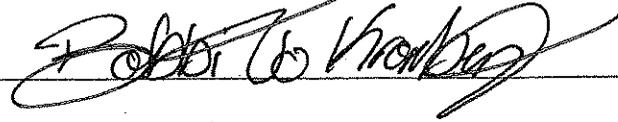
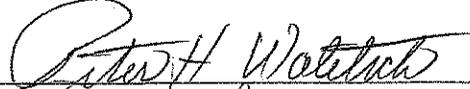
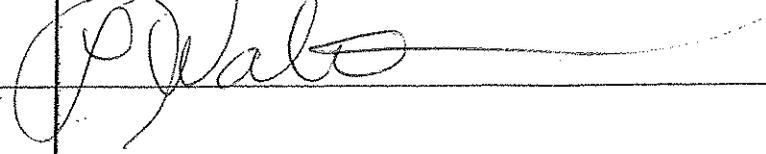
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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Kimberly Bauer	<i>Kim Bauer</i>	206 2 ND Ave NE, Aberdeen SD 57401
Donald Brick	<i>Donald Brick</i>	1023 391 ST Ave S. Aberdeen, SD 57401
Judy Brick	<i>Judy Brick</i>	Aberdeen SD 57401 1023 391 ST Ave. S
Barbara Thurman	<i>Barbara Thurman</i>	831 1 ST Ave NE Aberdeen SD 57401
Diane Smith	<i>Diane Smith</i>	810 10 TH AVE SE Aberdeen SD 57401
MELANIE NEIBER	<i>Melanie Neiber</i>	922 S. LINCOLN ST. #2 ABDN, SD 57401
Todd Burns	<i>Todd B</i>	32877 112 TH ST Eureka SD 57437

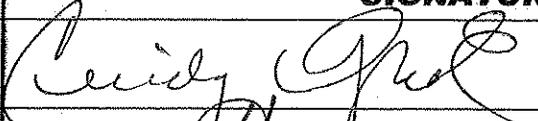
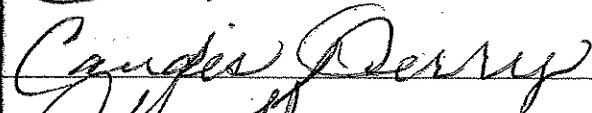
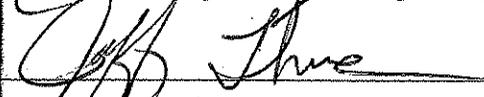
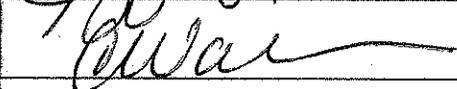
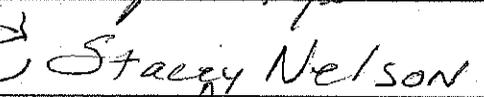
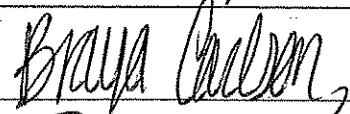
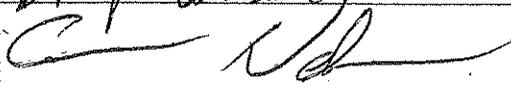
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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Donna Howard		1813 12 th Avenue SE Aberdeen SD 57401
Bobbi Jo Kronberg		1305 N. State St. #3 Aberdeen, SD 57401
Donna Howard Ivan Iverson	Donna Howard Ivan Iverson	7-7 Ave SE Aberdeen SD 57401
Tina Paulsen	Tina Paulsen	371 S. Sunset Dr. Mina SD. 57451
Bill Paulsen		371 S. Sunset Dr. Mina SD 57451
Sandra J. Kranzler		303 South Sunset Mina SD 57451
Lorraine C. Waletich	Lorraine C. Waletich	717 W 11th Ave Webster SD. 57274
Peter H. Waletich		717 W 11th Ave Webster SD 57274
Lisa Waletich		42940 12 th St Langford SD 57454

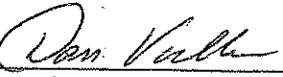
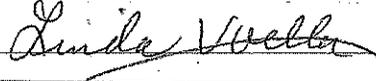
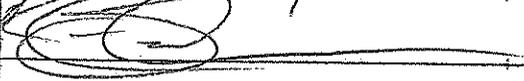
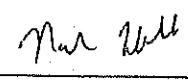
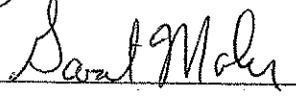
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Must be 18 years and older to sign

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Cindy / Eddie Grote		456 Nesbitt Drive
Julie Elliott		38 Nesbitt Dr. Mina
Candis Perry		450 Nesbitt Dr., Mina
Jeff Thorne		168 N Sunset Dr. Mina
CYNTHIA WASH		234 Nesbitt Dr. Mina 57057
Jan Reuschlein		210 S Shore Dr. Mina SD
Stacey Nelson		794 S. Shore Drive, Mina, SD
Brauya Carlson		931 Ames St. Spearfish SD 57783
Conna Nelson		205 3rd Ave. Warner SD 57479

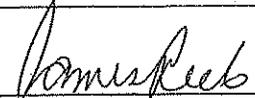
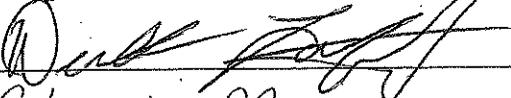
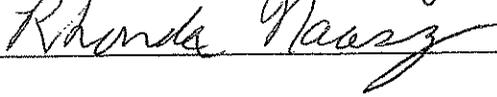
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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
DAN Voeller		1623 10th Ave. S.W. Lot 610
Linda Voeller		1623 10th Ave. SW #610 Aberdeen, SD 57401
TERRY L. FORD		1003 N. DAKOTA ST. #3 ABERDEEN, SD 57401
Audrey Anderson		37020 146th St. Manfield, SD 57460
John Sundberg		112 North First Street
BRAD CRANTZ		1615 S. 1st St ABDA
Mate Lafferty		1324 P. 2nd st Aberdeen
Janelle Kiefer		1324 N. 2nd St Aberdeen SD
Garret Mohr		912 7th Ave SE, Aberdeen, SD 57401
Deb Fickett		2217 N Jay St. Aberdeen SD 57401

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
James Reeb		305 3 AVE SE WARNER SD 57475
Melissa Reeb		305 3 rd Ave SE Warner, SD 57479
Derrick Lafferty		411 4 th Ave NE Aberdeen, SD 57401
Rhonda Naasz		423 N. 3 rd St Aberdeen SD 57401

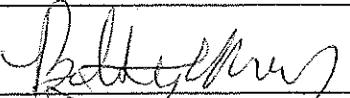
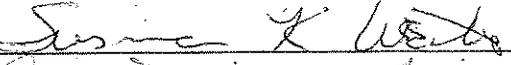
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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Landon Yerdon	Landon Yerdon	1611 Olive Dr. Aberdeen, SD
Kandi Smith	Kandi Smith	1011 N. State St. Aberdeen, SD
Irene Roelofs	Irene Roelofs	1226 Winchester Ln. Aberdeen, SD
Brooke Meyers	Brooke Meyers	907 10 th Ave NE Aberdeen, SD 57401
Josh Schong	Josh Schong	1015 2 th Ave SE Aberdeen SD 57401
Mike Balaban	Mike Balaban	503 S. 3 rd St Aberdeen, SD
Charlotte Martin	Charlotte Martin	13653 405 th Ave Brotton, S.D. 57444
Keshav Kathikar	Keshav Kathikar	1509 Marsre Circle Aberdeen SD 57401
Elliott Gray	Elliott Gray	911 S. 2nd St. #1 Aberdeen
Kari Brown	Kari Brown	509 N 3rd St Aberdeen, SD 57401

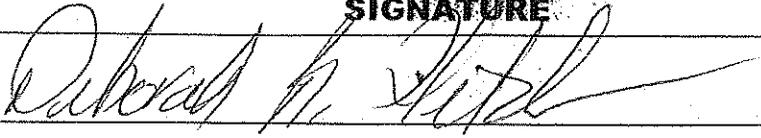
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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Betsy Harry		102 center St Ferry S.D 57489
Debbie Curtis		714 S. Main St #3 Aberdeen, SD 57401
Susanne Wente		703 S 14th St Aberdeen SD 57401
Alicia Dohn		701 9 Ave SE Aberdeen SD 57401
Barb Griess		5115 8th Ave NE Aberdeen SD 57401

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Deborah M. Fletcher		229 3rd Ave NE Aberdeen SD
DAN P. LINGOR	Dan P. Lingor	2017 20th Ave NW Aberdeen SD 57401
Greg J. Lingor	Greg J. Lingor	103 Linda Lane Aber. 57401
Robert Nehls	Robert Nehls	7503 Railroad Ave ^{Aberdeen} 57401
Candance Hamik	Candance Hamik	111 GARDNER AVE ABERDEEN ^{SD} 57401
Paul HAMIK	Paul Hamik	111 CORNER DRIVE ABERDEEN SD 57401
BRAD KRUEGER	Bradley W Krueger	1201 3RD AVE NE ABERDEEN SD 57401
Kerry Wilson	Kerry Wilson	28 W. Main Box 33 Westport, S.D. 57488
Timothy R. Even	Timothy R. Even	1310 - 3 RD ave NE, Aberdeen SD 57401
NANCY JO SVEN	Nancy Jo Sven	1310 3 RD AVE. N.E Aberdeen, S.I 57401

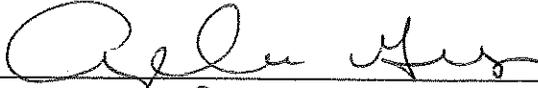
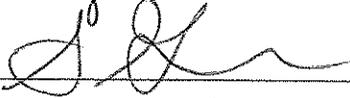
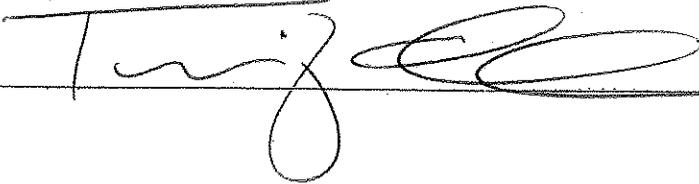
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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
BRYAN SMITH	Bryan Smith	1310 S 5 TH ST.
ROBIN MCCAY	Robin McCay	1712 Arthurs Court, Aberdeen, SD
LINDA VAN SCOY	Linda Van Scoy	609 Willow Dr Aberdeen
MILTON KOERNER	Milton Koerner	408 20 TH Ave. NE
ALAN C. HAERTH	Alan C. Haerth	1105 18 TH Ave. NE - Aberdeen SD
GEORGE LEMER	George Lemer	1312 So. 5th ST. Aberdeen SD
DEWIS DUKMAN	Dennis Dukman	Warner Ln Ok 57475
JACK BIBER	Jack Biber	1503 S MELGAARD Rd
CAROL STEELNER	Carol Steelner	1621 Olive Dr. apt 6 AB, S.DAK
RAYMOND R PFEIFLE	Raymond R Pfeifle	1621 OLIVE DR. Apt 6 Aberdeen SD

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Angela Geras		13601 387th Ave lot 4 Aberdeen, SD 57401
Samantha Glover		701 S. 9th St Aberdeen, SD 57401
Maria Roesler	Maria Roesler	37676 140th St Mina SD 57451
Frances Lemmer	Frances Lemmer	1312 S 5th St. Aber. SD 57401
Jane Hamilton	Jane Hamilton	274 Sunrise Dr Mina SD 57451
Jennifer Gray	Jennifer Gray	48th Ave E Aberdeen SD 57401
Hope Maas	Hope Maas	2023 3rd Ave SE Apt #102
Micole Brick	Micole Brick	1023 - 391 ST Ave S Aberdeen, SD 57401
Becca Wells	Becca Wells	107 E Lake Dr. Aberdeen SD 57401
Tanner Myers		610 S. Washington St.

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Amanda Maier	<i>Amanda Maier</i>	916 S 12 th St Aberdeen
Pennie Murray	<i>Pennie Murray</i>	1702 16 th Ave SE Aberdeen, SD 57401
Gilene Suedmeier	<i>Gilene Suedmeier</i>	824 3rd Ave SW Aberdeen S.D 57401
Lori Miller	<i>Lori Miller</i>	420 S Jackson Aberdeen, SD 57401
Diane Mow	<i>Diane Mow</i>	1015 S Lincoln Aberdeen, SD
Bruce Bisbee	<i>Bruce Bisbee</i>	3229 385 th Ave N Aberdeen
Bernie Bisbee	<i>Bernie Bisbee</i>	3229 385 th Ave N
Robert Barnes	<i>Robert Barnes</i>	423 N. 3 rd St Aberdeen SD
Arlette Bartels	<i>Arlette Keller</i>	613 N Congress Aberdeen SD 57401
Robert Crossan	<i>Robert Crossan</i>	1765 396 th Ave Columbia, SD 57433

Jerrone Shumaker
216-1353

Jan 10th

Accidents, injuries and fatalities are rapidly increasing on US Highway 12 between Aberdeen and Mobridge South Dakota. Not only does it cause great concern to travelers along this stretch of highway, but it also affects economic growth for the cities along this route. Potential home owners question the safety of travel for their loved ones and business feels the stress of declining clientel from surrounding communities because of the safety concern. We, the undersigned, demand the Department of Transportation, the State of South Dakota and the Public Safety Commission take immediate action to improve safety and economic stability for all along the above mentions area.

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Conne R Carlson	Conne R Carlson	460 Nesbitt dr Minn, SD
Jeff C. Tracy	Jeff Tracy	201 Nesbitt dr Minn, SD
William H Boehman	William H Boehman	903 S. Aldrich Aberdeen SD
Randy J Wollman	Randy J Wollman	38391 W H 12 Aberdeen
Vicki Mitzel	Vicki Mitzel	38391 W Hwy 12 Aber
TOM Wipf	Tom Wipf	379937. M. Shore Dr. Aberdeen
Lorna Tschetter	Lorna Tschetter	
ED GROTE	Ed Grote	456 Nesbitt Dr.
Kenneth Stahl	Kenny Stahl	18 x Minn S. Dak
Dawn Brandt	Dawn Brandt	138 S. Shore Dr. Minn SD 57451

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Jack Browning	Jack Browning	173 S. Sunset Dr. Minnq
Cal Pederson	Cal Pederson	274 N Sunset M. ne
Terry Brandt	Terry Brandt	138 S Shore DR Minnq
Dorene Buchanan	Dorene Buchanan	406 Nesbitt Dr. Minnq
Nancy Roberts	Nancy Roberts	452 Nesbitt Dr. Minnq SD
Todd Sal Frank	Todd Sal Frank	302 Sunrise Drive Minnq SD
Lori Dalbrank	Lori Dalbrank	302 Sunrise Drive Minnq SD
ADDIE Croul	Addie Croul	152 N. SUNSET MINNq
Bob Fitz	Bob Fitz	279 S. Sunset Drive
Brenda Fitz Brenda Fitz	Brenda Fitz	279 S. Sunset Drive

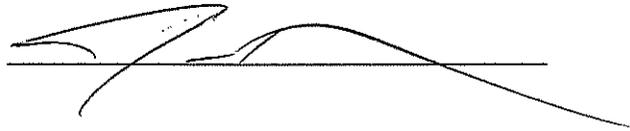
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)

:SS.

COUNTY OF EDMUNDS)

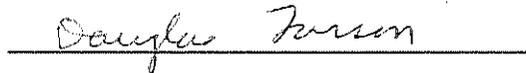
On this 8th day of JANUARY, 2016, before me, the undersigned officer, personally appeared ~~Jerome A. Schumacher~~, known by me or satisfactorily proven to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that he executed the same for the purposes therein contained.
Jerry Beadle

Dated this 8th day of January, 2016



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

(SEAL)



My commission expires:

Notary Public

3-24-18

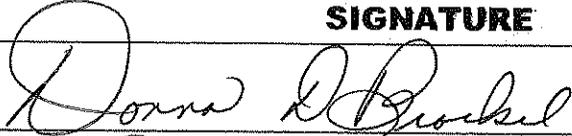
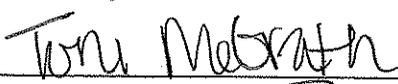
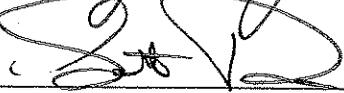
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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Kim Oster	Kim Oster	5047 S. 5th St. Bowdle, SD 57428
Kerrie Hawkinson	Kerrie Hawkinson	352 E. 4th Ave Hoven, S. Dak 57450
Joell Bieber	Joell R. Bieber	9010 W. Main St. Bowdle, SD 57428
Judith Beadle	Judith M. Beadle	3881-8th Ave.
Gary Frankfurth	Gary Frankfurth	5048 5th Street
Greg Dap Greg Dap	Greg Dap	403-5th St. Everett, SD
Brandon Beitespacher	Brandon Beitespacher	PO Box 445 Ipswich SD 57451
GERVASE AMBERE	Gervase Amber	201 N 7th St Eggen, SD 57437
Glenn Blunhardt	Glenn Blunhardt	2014 6th Ave Bowdle, SD 57428
GLENXI BROCKEL	Glenn Brockel	13142 342 Ave Rural SD 57451

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Donna D. Brockel		13142 342nd Ave Bowling S.D 57471
Lew Paulson		102 W 6th ST Hesperia SD 57448
LARRY J. BIRCHEN		Bowdle SD 57428
Timothy Thomas Timothy Thomas	Timothy Thomas	Bowdle, SD 57428
Jon Brockel		4077 S 3rd Ave Bowdle, S-D 57428
Eric Bengs		15 Marsh St. Haven, SD 57450
Toni Mcbrath		116 Marsh St HAVEN, SD 57450
SHANE JACOBS		2000 West 2ND BOWDLE SD 57428
ROGER JACOBS		1090 MAIN ST. BOWDLE, SD 57428
Scott Dard		1097 MAIN ST Bowdle SD 57428

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Lanny Stiklostad		31875 137 th ST SADA S.D. 57452
Jerry Beede		13381 324th Ave Bowdle SD 57428
Merle Myers	Merle Myers	918 2 nd Ave Apt 2 Mobridge, S.D. 57601
Joe Helmer		301 N. Richard ST KESOC, SD 57421
Left School ^{LYNE} Schock	Left Schock	31824 140 th Bowdle SD. 57428
DAVID KNECHT	David D Knecht	31938 US HWY 12, BOWDLE SD 57428
Donald Thomas	Donald Thomas	Bowdle Box 84-
Cheryl Helgeson		3002 5 th Ave Bowdle, SD 57428
for Patrick JOE ARBACH	Joe Arbach	14384 320 th AVE HOVEN SD 57450
Rick Bolduan	Rick Bolduan	1719 KENNEDY MANOLIA DRIVE MOBRIDGE SD 57601

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
SCOTT T. Lora	<i>Scott Lora</i>	2061 3 rd St. Bonduke SD 57428
Carrie Beadle	<i>Carrie Beadle</i>	13381 32 nd Ave Bonduke SD 57428
Kelly Eisemann	<i>Kelly Eis</i>	1001 4 th Ave W, Mobridge, SD

Petition to Dept. of Transportation, State of SD & Public Safety
Commission.

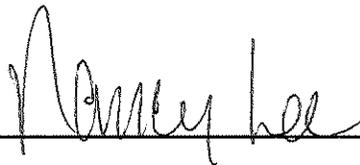
Full name: Nancy Lee

Address: Box 241

207 3rd St.

Roscoe, SD 57471

Signature: _____

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nancy Lee", is written over a solid horizontal line.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)

:SS.

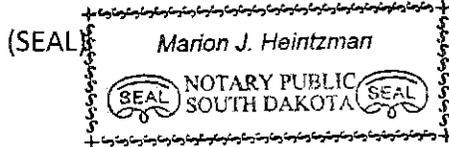
COUNTY OF EDMUNDS)

On this 11 day of January, 2016, before me, the undersigned officer, personally appeared **Nancy Lee**, known by me or satisfactorily proven to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that he executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

Dated this 11 day of January, 2016

Nancy Lee

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.



Marion Heintzman

Notary Public

My commission expires:

5-5-2018

Accidents, injuries and fatalities are rapidly increasing on US Highway 12 between Aberdeen and Mobridge South Dakota. Not only does it cause great concern to travelers along this stretch of highway, but it also affects economic growth for the cities along this route. Potential home owners question the safety of travel for their loved ones and business feels the stress of declining clientel from surrounding communities because of the safety concern. We, the undersigned, demand the Department of Transportation, the State of South Dakota and the Public Safety Commission take immediate action to improve safety and economic stability for all along the above mentions area.

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Delvin Lee	<i>Delvin Lee</i>	39632 140 th Street Aberdeen, SD 57401
Norman Lee	<i>Norman Lee</i>	3890 S 140 th St Warner S.D. 57479
Ethan Lee	<i>Ethan Lee</i>	3890 S 140 th St Warner SD 57479
Ann Lee	<i>Ann M. Lee</i>	907 S Dakota St Aberdeen SD 57401
Cody Lee	<i>Cody Lee</i>	907 S. DAKOTA ST Aberdeen, SD, 57401
Claudia Lee	<i>Claudia Lee</i>	3890 S 140 th St Warner SD 57479

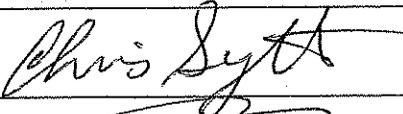
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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Sara Schreurs	<i>Sara Schreurs</i>	309 8th St Ipswich, SD 57451
Michael Hammrich	<i>Michael Hammrich</i>	521 2nd Ave Ipswich, SD 57451
Mike Heinz	<i>Mike Heinz</i>	103 Rays Lane Ipswich, SD 57451
Connie McKiver	<i>Connie McKiver</i>	13434 Terminal Road Ipswich SD 57451
Paul Schuber	<i>Paul Schuber</i>	12561 361 Av Park 57456
Ramsey Crissman	<i>Ramsey Crissman</i>	220 4th St Ipswich 57451
Kath Bilbo	<i>Kath Bilbo</i>	308 4th St Ipswich SD
Tim Kause	<i>Tim Kause</i>	12626 371 st Ave Watonka SD
Joe Herd	<i>JOE Herd</i>	214 11TH ST IPSWICH
Paul Doeling	<i>Paul Doeling</i>	612 5 th STREET N Ipswich

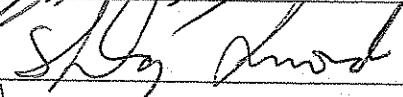
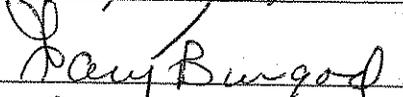
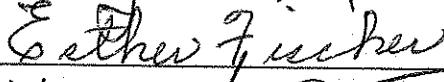
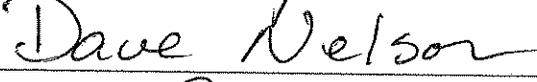
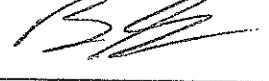
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Must be 18 years and older to sign

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Chris Sytte		104 Diana Lane
Jason Sytte		119 10th St
Gail Christopherson	Gail Christopherson	421 Kudid Ave
Ruby J. Bosanko	Ruby J. Bosanko	13 oak St.
Karen L. Meyers	Karen L. Meyers	206 - Alma Ave.
Loren Litzke	Loren Litzke	Spawick
Andrew Thares	Andrew Thares	"
Joe Leddy	Joe Leddy	Spawick
Scott Miller	Scott Miller	Roscoe
Adam Anderson		Aberdeen, SD

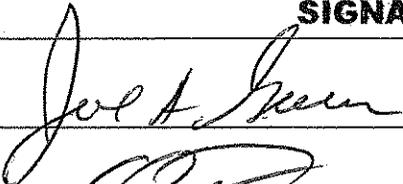
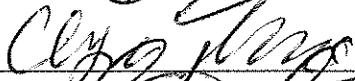
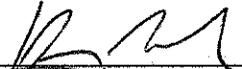
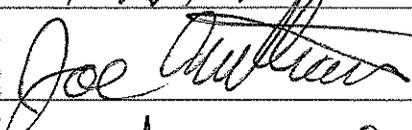
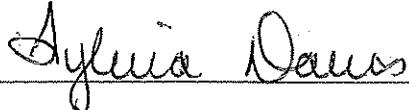
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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Todd Pinkman		900 S 17th St
Craig Bonen		210 N Dakota St
Shirley Luond		106 Opul Lane
Gary Bungod		13144 342nd AVE
Esther Fischer		620 1st Ave - Ipswich
Myren Deibert		9B 1st Ave Ipswich
Bill Geditz		708 4th Ave Ipswich
David Nelson		117 3rd St Ipswich
Matt Braun		318 N 6th St Ipswich
Brian Schlosser		25 1st Ave Ipswich

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
JOE A Gauer		620 1st ave
Dartell Luoid		812 7th Ave S.W. Aberdeen I.D.
CLC Chyb = Pak:n		107 West 5th St. Mobridge SD
Brett Petersen		314 S shore Drive Mob SD
Ken Logan		1620 E McLaughlin Rd #103 ^{Aberdeen} SD
Donnie Luml		110 4th ave Ipswich
Timothy J. Gillick		621 2nd St Ipswich SD
Michael Pietz		13470 335th Ave Roscoe SD
Joe Williams		921 135th St. Aberdeen SD
Sylvia Davis		12434 357th Ave, Ipswich

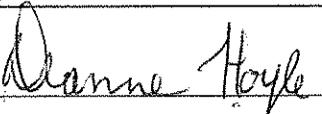
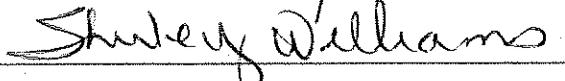
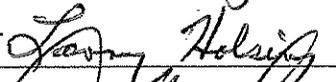
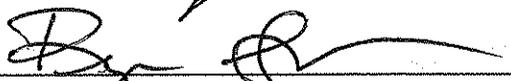
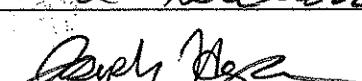
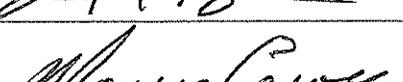
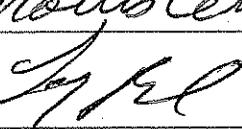
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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
David Ertz	David Ertz	410 Alma Ipswich
Lorve Heinz	Lorve Heinz	Po 301 11th St Ipswich
Jane Malson	Jane Malson	36554 177th St Spr
Don Perrin	Don Perrin	715 3rd Ave Jumb
ANGELA BLAZER	Angela K Blazer	13221 37th AVE MINN, SD
Tristen Richter	Tristen Richter	609 So Lawson, Aberdeen SD
Shelly Lund	Shelly Lund	2325 Country Aire Est Aberdeen, SD
Jeffery Mohr	Jeffery Mohr	12064 343rd AVE Hosmer SD 57448
Dominik Luong	Dan Luong	102 Opal Ln Ipswich SD 57451
Maree Meidinger	Maree Meidinger	105 2nd St. APT 3, Ipswich, SD 57451

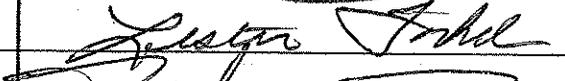
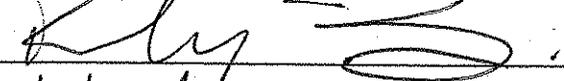
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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Scott Heggstuen		708 9th Ave Ipswich SD
Deanne Hoyle		121 N 4th St. Ipswich
Shirley Williams		35143 148th St Cresbard, SD
LARRY HOLSING		406 - 4th AVE W Mobridge, S.D. 15 ALMA AVE
DOM ANGLIN		IPSWICH, SD 57451
Ryan Spears		14112 342nd Ave Ruscoe, SD 57471
Ed Gillick		13243 358th Ave Ipswich S.D.
Joseph Hoyle		12 N 6th St Ipswich, SD 57451
Morris Gross		15 BROADWAY ST Ipswich SD
Lynns Reef		910 Prospect St Fallston SD

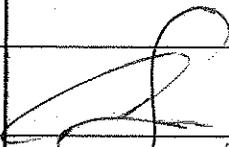
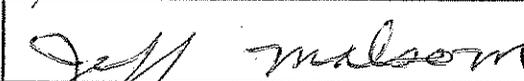
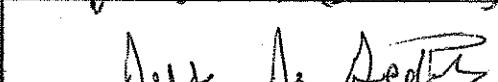
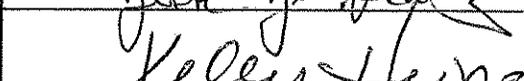
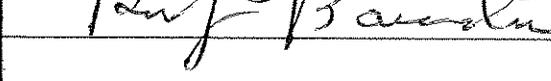
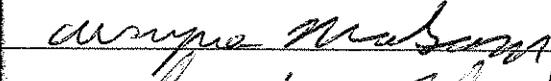
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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
SCOTT HABECK		618 W 15 th AVE IPSWICH SD
Darrel Morris	DARREL MORRIS	702 1 st AVE IPSWICH SD
Josh Schreurs		309 8 th ST Ipswich
Matthew Berry		201 W Elm Northville
Hester Fankel		13453 35 th AVE IPSWICH
Randy Zens		1102 15 th AVE SW Aberdeen
Scott Hoffman		38620 Lawa LN Aberdeen
Lodie Hamal	Lodie Hamal	314 11 th Street Ipswich
Wilmer Deibert		221 9 th St Ipswich
Douglas Perrion		13759 357 TH AVE

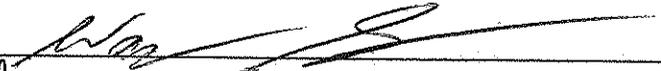
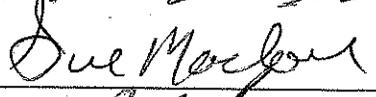
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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Avery Davies		108 1st ave Ipswich SD
Tobin Letsche		P.O. Box 14 Ipswich SD
Keith A. Lunders		511 N Main St Ipswich SD
Jeff Malsom		35966 130th St Ipswich
David Thares		101 3rd St Ipswich
Jesse J Geditz		3642 133rd St Ipswich
Kelly Heinz		215 3rd St. Ipswich.
Randy Barondeau		206 1st Ave Frederick
Wayne Malsom		36486 130th St Ipswich
Garrett Penfield		714 4th St Ipswich

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Wade Hardes		18461 355 th Ave Miller SD 57362
Mark Hardes		35322 191st st Miller SD 57362
CARK BALDWIN		113 E. LAKE DR. ^{Aberdeen, S.D.}
Norma Miller Norma Miller		202 Union Ave Watonka SDak
Michael Wipt		1000 Stewart Drive Aberdeen SD 57401
Wayne Semmler		32643 147th St Ipswich SD 57451
Sue Morlock		190 11 th Street Ipswich, SD 57451
RODNEY PETERSON		820 1 st AVE IPSWICH SD 57451
DALE Preszler		410 W Allex Dr. Hosmer S.D. 57448
Rodney Kirschenmann		209 West main. Hosmer S.D. 57448

Petition to Dept. of Transportation, State of SD & Public Safety
Commission.

Full name: Debra S. Braun

Address: 404 Chestnut Ave.

Ipswich, SD 57451

Signature: *Debra S. Braun*

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)

:SS.

COUNTY OF EDMUNDS)

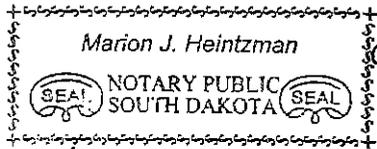
On this 21 day of January, 2016, before me, the undersigned officer, personally appeared **Debra S. Braun**, known by me or satisfactorily proven to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that he executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

Dated this 21 day of January, 2016

Debra S. Braun

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

(SEAL)



Marion Heintzman

My commission expires:

Notary Public

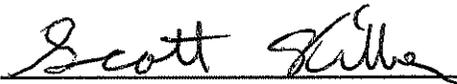
5-5-2018

Petition to Dept. of Transportation, State of SD & Public Safety
Commission.

Full name: Scott Kilber

Address: 604 11th St.

Ipswich, SD 57451

Signature: 

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)

:SS.

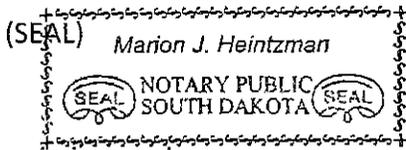
COUNTY OF EDMUNDS)

On this 21 day of January, 2016, before me, the undersigned officer, personally appeared **Scott Kilber**, known by me or satisfactorily proven to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that he executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

Dated this 21 day of January, 2016

Scott Kilber

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.



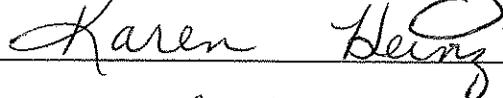
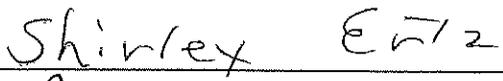
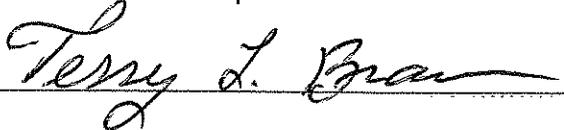
My commission expires:

5-5-2018

Marion Heintzman
Notary Public

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
LEVI WIFE		Aberdeen 1623 18 th Ave SW 205
JESS OLIVIER		35187 13 th St Ipswich SD 57451
Lori Waldner		13193 349 th Ave Roscoe SD 57471
Frank S Heinz		12887 365 th Ave Ipswich SD
Karen Heinz		12887 365 Ave. Ipswich SD 57451
Mason Leditz		13324 360 th Ave. Ipswich, SD 57451
Shirley Ertz		113 3 rd Box 134 Ipswich SD 57451
RHONDA HASELHORST		14537-378 th ave Manfield SD 57460
Milton Haselhorst		14537-378 th ave Manfield SD 57460
Terry L. Braun		14220 365 th Ave Ipswich, S.D 57451

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Debra Braun	<i>Debra Braun</i>	404 Chestnut Ave Ipswich, SD 57451
Lance Pennin	<i>Lance Pennin</i>	1406 S 356 Ave Ipswich SD 57451
Linda Johnson	<i>Linda Johnson</i>	310 Wilmot Ipswich, SD 57451
Richarda MARKO	<i>Richarda Marko</i>	213 8TH Street Ipswich SD. 57451
Richard Johnson	<i>Richard Johnson</i>	310 Wilmot Ipswich S.D. 57451
DARRELL DAVIC	<i>Darrell Davic</i>	12434 357th Ave Ipswich SD
John Kleinsasser	<i>John Kleinsasser</i>	36461 365th Hirna S.D.
Chad Preszler	<i>Chad Preszler</i>	33841 127th st Hosmer SD 57448
Randy Randy Schumacher	<i>Randy Schumacher</i>	13347 368th Ipswich, SD.
Taylor Weigel	<i>Taylor Weigel</i>	36048 - 128st Ipswich, SD

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Leslie A Braun	Leslie A. Braun	404 Chestnut Ave Ipswich SD.
Terry Metzinger	Terry Metzinger	12 Broadway Ipswich SD
Brent Neiger	Brent Neiger	14054 373 AVE Minn SD
Delano Kukran	Delano Kukran	205 - 957 IPSWICH SD
Paul Erdmann	Paul Erdmann	12491 370 th Ave Wadena
PETER J. GEDITZ	Peter J. Geditz	13974 355 AVE, IPSWICH, S.D.
VALERIE A. Hodson	Valerie Hodson	14281 358 th Ave, Ipswich, SD.
DONNA Wagner	Donna Wagner	108 2nd Ave, Ipswich SD
ROBERT WAGNER	Robert Wagner	108 2nd Ave, Ipswich SD
Jesse Knittel	Jesse Knittel	618 CHESTNUT AVE IPSWICH, SD

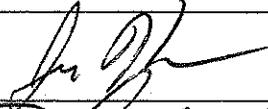
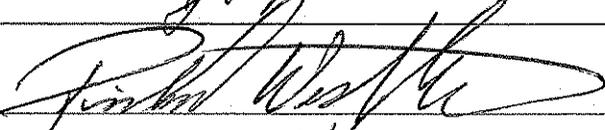
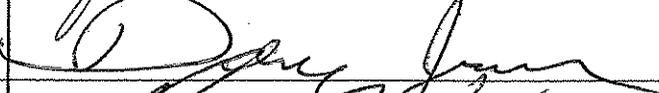
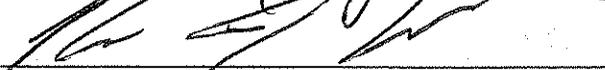
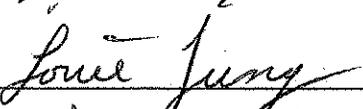
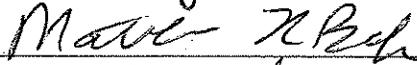
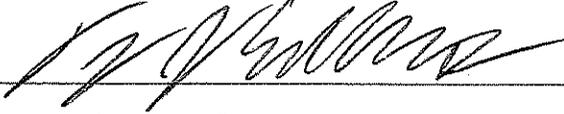
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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Brock Penfield	Brock Penfield	36495 150 th St Cresbard SD
David Weidinger	[Signature]	520 th St Spearhead SD
Dan GUTHMILLER	[Signature]	35629 120 th St LEOLA SD
Rich Laker	Rich Laker	Muna, SD 57451
Steve McDaniel	Steve McDaniel	Hoven SD 57450
Garrett Stafford	Garrett Stafford	Fpswich SD 57451
Kevin Jensen	Kevin Jensen	42955 122 nd St. Langford S.D. 57454
Mila Iversen	[Signature]	28 2 nd Ave Ipswich SD 57451
Delbert Haselhorst	Delbert Haselhorst	35961 14 th St Cresbard SD 57495
Nick Scarborough	[Signature]	37732 143 rd St. Mansfield SD 57460

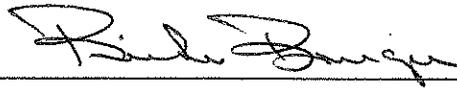
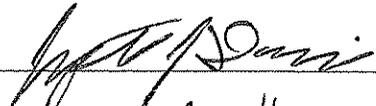
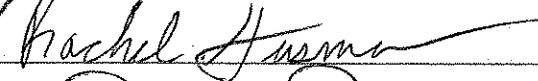
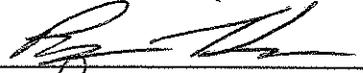
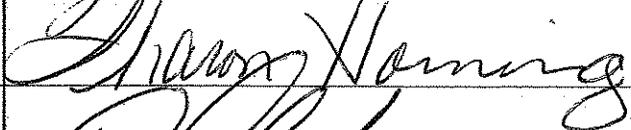
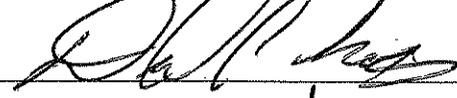
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Must be 18 years and older to sign

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Jon Hoffman		Mina
Richard Westphal		Leota
JEAN KITCHELL		521 4 th Ave Spearhead SD
Doug Jones		13106 358 AVE.
Robert Volk		904 Main St Herreid SD
Louie Jung		1238 Casper ave Aberdeen SD 57401
Wesley Schaible		34124 127 th St Hosmer, SD 57448
Matthew K Beck		10861 318 th Ave Eureka, SD, 57437
Troy Engelhart		Aberdeen SD 57401
Tim Mulsom		13681 350th Ave Roscoe, SD 57471

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Must be 18 years and older to sign

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Rick Burger		402 S. McCaughey Ave Brentford, SD
Justin Davis		12563 358 th Ave Ipswich
Rachel Husman		1405 7 th Ave SW Apt 107 Aberdeen, SD
Paula Petersen		36400 144 th ST, Cresbard SD 57435
Lenny BRAUN		218 OAK ST. Ipswich SD
Ryan Holien		218 2 nd St. Ipswich, SD
Lynn Deibert		10930 301 Ave Herreid SD
Shaun Horning		36220 153 rd St Cresbard, SD
Dick Stok		32679 150 th St Tolsty SD
Charles Gauer		306 1 st Ave. Roscoe, SD

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Must be 18 years and older to sign

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Melvin Roesch	Melvin Roesch	34378 129 th St Roesch, SD 57571
Russell Braun	Russell J. Braun	302 Wilmot Avenue Ipswich, SD 57451
Barb Guthmiller	Barb Guthmiller	35629 120 th St Leola SD 57456
Te I Podwill	Te I Podwill	11449 359 th ave Leola SD 57456
Tim Omland	Tim Omland	18 OAK ST. Ipswich, SD 57451
Kelly Schaible	Kelly Schaible	34124 127 th St. Holmes, SD 57448
Douglas Roggen	Douglas Roggen	327 107 th ST Ipswich, SD 57451
Betty Davis	Betty Davis	393 manual St. Hoven, S.D. 57450
Mardene Jones	Mardene Jones	BOX 1 Ipswich SD 57457
DAWN WISJA	Dawn Wisja	1213 107 th St SW Aberdeen SD

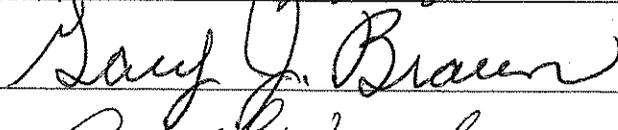
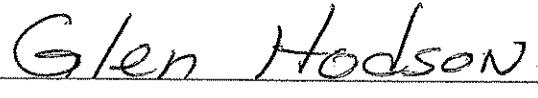
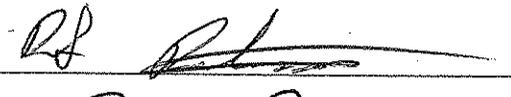
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Must be 18 years and older to sign

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Joel Maloney	Joel Maloney	36913 137 th St Minn SD
LENNY GAUER	Lenny Gauer	14018 363RD RD Ipswich SD 2841 Wilkie Dr.
Caleb Ahrens	Caleb Ahrens	323 1516 2 nd St. NW Watertown, SD
Zach Brokan	Zach Brokan	
Bruce Opp	Bruce Opp	13458 350 th AVE Roscoe S. Dak. 57471
Matthew Malsom	Matthew Malsom	57471 13681 350 th Ave Roscoe, SD
Ronda Malsom	Ronda Malsom	57471 13681 350 th Ave Roscoe, SD
Josh Weigl	Josh Weigl	36412 130 th St Ipswich, SD 57251
Steve Rauscher	Steve Rauscher	57481 12651-369 th AVE Watowka
James Jones	James Jones	57435 14560 36 th Cresbard SD

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Micheal J Geditz		13861 358th Ave. Ipswich
GARY J. BRAUN		13336 362 nd Ave. Ipswich Aberdeen S.D.
Ronnie L. Weinrich		12857 W. Pleasant Valley Dr. S.D.
Ken Harry Anderson		37020 146 th St Mansfield SD
Teddy L. Schomberg		BOX 574 Ipswich S.D.
Bryce Neiger		14246 379 th Ave Mansfield SD
MIKE PETERSEN		36400 144 th St CRESBARD SD 57435
Glen Hodson		14378 358 th Ave Ipswich
Riley Petersen		14314 363rd Ave Ipswich. SD
Derek Petersen		14314 363rd Ave Ipswich, SD

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
LeRoy Hilber	<i>LeRoy Hilber</i>	804 4th 5th St Ipswich S.D
Lynda Braun	<i>Lynda Braun</i>	14220-365 th Ave, Ipswich, SD
<i>Larry Staffor</i>	<i>Larry Staffor</i>	13149 361 st Ipswich, SD,
Dustin Holsing	<i>Dustin Holsing</i>	19 8 th St Ipswich SD
James Stafford	<i>James Stafford</i>	14275 354 th Ave Ipswich, SD
Lisa Rye	<i>Lisalye</i>	204 S 4 th St, Ipswich SD
LARRY STAFFORD	<i>Larry Staffor</i>	14254 - 354 th Ave Ipswich S.D.
Tyler Kraft	<i>Tyler Kraft</i>	294 2 nd Ave W Homer
Denver Jost	<i>Denver Jost</i>	411 E. Garfield Ave Gettysburg
James Couch	<i>James Couch</i>	221 main st Barnard SD

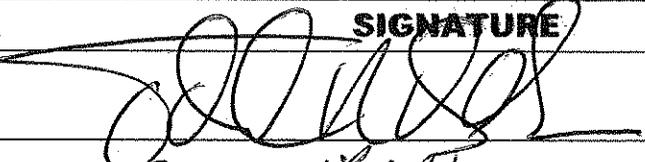
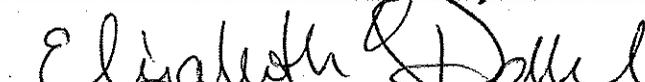
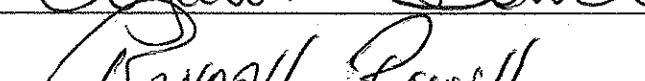
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Must be 18 years and older to sign

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Scott Kilber	<i>Scott Kilber</i>	604 11th St Ipswich SD 57451
Bobbie Kilber	<i>Bobbie Kilber</i>	604 11th St. Ipswich, SD 57451
Sam Cramer	<i>Sam Cramer</i>	3025 meadow Dr Redfield, 57469
Keith Komraus	<i>Keith Komraus</i>	214 Illinois Ave Rockham ^{SD} 57470
VINCENT L. MARSHALL	<i>Vincent L Marshall</i>	17229 390TH AVE ^{Redfield, SD} 57469
Riley Nichols	<i>Riley Nichols</i>	1007 east 2nd st. Redfield SD 57469
Kristi Martin	<i>Kristi Martin</i>	37453 188 th Street. Tulare SD 57476
Tracy Hutson	<i>Tracy Hutson</i>	319 Broadway St. Ipswich SD 57451
David Cisman	<i>David Cisman</i>	321 Main St. Ipswich SD 57451
Matheo Pollock	<i>Matheo Pollock</i>	713 4 th St. Ipswich, SD 57451

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Must be 18 years and older to sign

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
TRENT OSBORNE		221 11th St. Ipswich SD 57457
Barb Gillick		621 2nd St. Ipswich, SD 57451
Michael Heinz		215 3rd St. Ipswich, SD 57451
Vallette Horst		708 Alameda Ipswich
Francine Brecker		Box 120 Brand SD 57428
DARLENE FRANKFURTH		Box 57 Bowdle SD 57428
Elizabeth Dahl		Box 6 Bowdle SD 57428
Randall Powell		806 G ² Ave W Mobridge SD 57601
Brian Hogie		210 Walnut Ave Ipswich SD 57457
JASON FRAEM		22 8th St. Ipswich, SD 57451

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Must be 18 years and older to sign

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Celeste Lux	Celeste Lux	308 4 th Ave Ipswich, SD
Bill Morgan	Bill Morgan	519 4 th St Ipswich
John Jung	John Jung	36813 131 st ST Mina SD
JACOB J. HAMMICH	Jacob J. Hammich	118 4 th AVE Ipswich ^{SD}
DAVID GROSS	David Gross	605 Mitchell Parade
Cody Stager	Cody Stager	36654 144 th St. Cresbard, SD
McKenzie Jones	McKenzie Jones	302 5 th Ave Ipswich SD
Megan Heyne	Megan Heyne	62659 337 th Ave Hosmer SD
Tim Olson	Tim Olson	108 Langford SD
Mary C Gauer	Mary C Gauer	13661 359 th Ave Ipswich SD

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Must be 18 years and older to sign

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Larry Shetstad	Larry Shetstad	1221 5 th AVE IPSWICH

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
<i>Nathan Olson</i>	<i>Nathan Olson</i>	<i>136 Palmer Circle French, SD</i>
BAIET CHRISTENSEN	<i>Baiet Christensen</i>	<i>906 S 16th ST ABERDEEN</i>
Art Nehlich	<i>Art Nehlich</i>	<i>FRENCH 35-161 133 Rd ST SD</i>

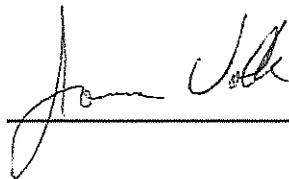
Petition to Dept. of Transportation, State of SD & Public Safety
Commission.

Full name: James M. Volk

Address: 104 Mable Lane.

Ipswich, SD 57451

Signature:



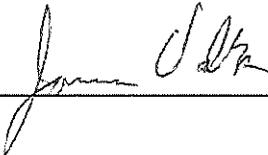
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)

:SS.

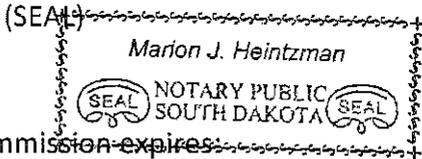
COUNTY OF EDMUNDS)

On this 9 day of February, 2016, before me, the undersigned officer, personally appeared **James M. Volk**, known by me or satisfactorily proven to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that he executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

Dated this 9 day of February, 2016



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.



My commission expires

5-5-2018



Notary Public

Accidents, injuries and fatalities are rapidly increasing on US Highway 12 between Aberdeen and Mobridge South Dakota. Not only does it cause great concern to travelers along this stretch of highway, but it also affects economic growth for the cities along this route. Potential home owners question the safety of travel for their loved ones and business feels the stress of declining clientel from surrounding communities because of the safety concern. We, the undersigned, demand the Department of Transportation, the State of South Dakota and the Public Safety Commission take immediate action to improve safety and economic stability for all along the above mentions area.

Must be 18 years and older to sign

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Ken Fische	<i>Ken Fische</i>	3088 8th Ave Bowdle SD
Brad Gault	<i>Brad Gault</i>	401 N. Mitchell St Roscoe SD
Matthew Malsom	<i>Matthew Malsom</i>	13681 350th Ave Roscoe SD
Matthew Goetz	<i>Matthew Goetz</i>	100 Mabel Lane Ipswich, SD
Kevin Malsom	<i>Kevin Malsom</i>	305 William St Roscoe SD
Jeremy DeJian	<i>Jeremy DeJian</i>	318 N 6th St Apt. 2 Ipswich, SD
Jack Nold	<i>Jack Nold</i>	15207 33rd Ave Onaka SD 57466
Ryan Sandve	<i>Ryan Sandve</i>	402 Crawford St Tolstoy SD 57475
Mark Volk	<i>Mark Volk</i>	35482 133rd St Ipswich SD
Cody Sauer	<i>Cody Sauer</i>	13172 349th Ave Roscoe SD 57471

Jan 10

Accidents, injuries and fatalities are rapidly increasing on US Highway 12 between Aberdeen and Mobridge South Dakota. Not only does it cause great concern to travelers along this stretch of highway, but it also affects economic growth for the cities along this route. Potential home owners question the safety of travel for their loved ones and business feels the stress of declining clientel from surrounding communities because of the safety concern. We, the undersigned, demand the Department of Transportation, the State of South Dakota and the Public Safety Commission take immediate action to improve safety and economic stability for all along the above mentions area.

Must be 18 years and older to sign

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Victor Fischer	Victor Fischer	2091 3rd Ave. Bowdle S.D. 57428
Mary Fischer	Mary Fischer	2091 3rd Ave Bowdle SD 57428
Sabie Omland	Sabie Omland	3088 8th Ave Bowdle SD 57428
Mandy Schaible	Mandy Schaible	4002 S. 4th Ave Bowdle SD 57428
Brett Schaidla	Brett Schaidla	4002 S 4th Ave Bowdle SD 57428
Alden Lachman	Alden Lachman	4088 S S AVE Bowdle SD 57428
Lewis Reuer	Lewis Reuer	13468 326th Ave Bowdle SD 57428
James Reuer James Reuer	James Reuer	Bx 44 Hoven SD 57450
Elaine Erickson	Elaine Erickson	98 6th Ave W. Apt 6 Hoven SD 57450
Amanda Kaiser	Amanda Kaiser	31991 148th St Hoven SD 57450

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Must be 18 years and older to sign

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Michael Kaiser	Michael Kaiser	31991 148 th St Haven, SD 57450
Jolene K. Mindt	Michael Kaiser	811 F Ave Eureka SD. 57437
VAL G MINDT	Val G Mindt	811 F. AVE EUREKA, SD 57437
Brent Huber	Brent Huber	1095 2 nd Ave Bowdle SD 57428

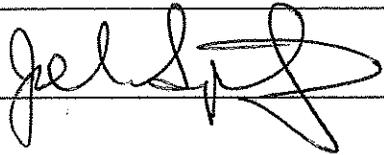
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Must be 18 years and older to sign

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Glenn Schmitt	<i>Glenn Schmitt</i>	505 N Mitchell St Roscoe
Barry Volk	<i>Barry Volk</i>	4076 S. 1 st Ave Bowdle SD 57028
Duane Simon	<i>Duane Simon</i>	913 N. Washington ST, Aberdeen
Kevin Stoner	<i>Kevin Stoner</i>	14152 359 th Ave Ipswich SD 57451
Scott Kulesa	<i>Scott Kulesa</i>	507 11 th St. Ipswich, SD 57451
Darin Nehlich	<i>Darin Nehlich</i>	13380 350 th ave Ipswich Roscoe SD
Austin Malsam	<i>Austin Malsam</i>	12986 342 nd ave Roscoe SD 57472
Paul Hinz	<i>Paul Hinz</i>	105 S. Andrew Roscoe 57471
Kati Roth	<i>Kati Roth</i>	201 Seward Ave Roscoe 57477
David Newman	<i>David Newman</i>	307 6 th St. Ipswich SD 57451

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Must be 18 years and older to sign

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
John Spitzer		204 N Broadway, Roscoe, SD

Petition to Dept. of Transportation, State of SD & Public Safety
Commission.

Full name: Marion J. Heintzman

Address: 35641 135th St.

Ipswich, SD 57451

Signature:

Marion J. Heintzman

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)

:SS.

COUNTY OF EDMUNDS)

On this 11 day of January, 2016, before me, the undersigned officer, personally appeared **Marion J. Heintzman**, known by me or satisfactorily proven to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that he executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

Dated this 11 day of January, 2016

Marion Heintzman

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

(SEAL)

Sandra R. Northrop

My commission expires:

Notary Public

12-10-16

Accidents, injuries and fatalities are rapidly increasing on US Highway 12 between Aberdeen and Mobridge South Dakota. Not only does it cause great concern to travelers along this stretch of highway, but it also affects economic growth for the cities along this route. Potential home owners question the safety of travel for their loved ones and business feels the stress of declining clientel from surrounding communities because of the safety concern. We, the undersigned, demand the Department of Transportation, the State of South Dakota and the Public Safety Commission take immediate action to improve safety and economic stability for all along the above mentions area.

Must be 18 years and older to sign

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
SANDRA NORTROP	<i>Sandra Northrop</i>	258 South Shore Drive Minon, SD 57451
Marion Heintzman	<i>Marion Heintzman</i>	35641 135th St. Ipswich, SD 57451
Annette Jones	<i>Annette Jones</i>	106 Opal Lane Ipswich, SD 57451
Heather Williams	<i>Heather Williams</i>	John E. Merrill Ave Hemlock ND 57471
Gwen Leditz	<i>Gwen Leditz</i>	13861 358th Ave Ipswich SD 57451
Jodi Maerke	<i>Jodi Maerke</i>	39 main Street Minon, SD 57451
Tiffany Aman	<i>Tiffany Aman</i>	702 Arnold Ave S Hosmer, SD 57448
Jean Hutson	<i>Jean Hutson</i>	319 Broadway Ipswich SD 57451
NANCY HAMMICH	<i>Nancy Hammich</i>	13485-356th ave Ipswich, S. D. 57451
Jason Heintzman	<i>Jason Heintzman</i>	35641 135th St Ipswich, SD 57451

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Must be 18 years and older to sign

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Laura Placek	Laura Placek	118 Stewart Drive, Ipswich
Rachel Dix	Rachel Dix	11450 Park St, Aberdeen
Nathan Dix	Nathan Dix	114 So Park St, Aberdeen
Matt Schipke	Matt Schipke	110 West Street, Northville SD
Tracie Wiese	Tracie Wiese	110 West Street, Northville, SD
Doug Rasmussen	Doug Rasmussen	412 So. 4 th St Aberdeen SD.
Jennifer Faith	Jennifer Faith	200 Thayer Street Northville, SD 57465
Barb Schipke	Barb Schipke	1119-9 th Ave SW Aberdeen SD
MARK HEWITZMAN	Mark Hewitzman	209 S. Weber St. Aberdeen SD
Franklin Hamrich	Franklin Hamrich	13485 356 ave <i>Franklin SD</i>

Resolution #86-15

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF U.S. HIGHWAY 12
EXPANSION TO 4 LANES**

WHEREAS, in South Dakota, U.S. Highway 12 is a two-lane highway for approximately twenty-one (21) miles between Aberdeen, South Dakota and Ipswich, South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, there have been numerous fatal wrecks on U.S. Highway 12 between Aberdeen, Ipswich and Mobridge; and

WHEREAS, it is urged that changes be made on U.S. Highway 12 due to 8 fatalities in 2015 alone; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 traffic counts in the 2-lane stretch between Aberdeen and Ipswich were 3660, 4010 and 3040 vehicles respectively on the 3 segments going west; and

WHEREAS, the 3660 vehicle segment in Brown County is projected to be 5409 vehicles by 2030 per transportation plan study compiled in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the potential almost forty-eight percent (48%) traffic count increase in the next 15 years is further cause for concern;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Brown County Commission does hereby adopt, in its entirety, this resolution to urge State officials to provide adequate funding for this important project to expand such portion of highway at minimum from Aberdeen to Ipswich from two lane to four lane; and

Does direct its administrator to prepare and furnish a copy of this Resolution for submission to the Governor, South Dakota Congressional delegation and South Dakota Department of Transportation.

Adopted by a 5-0 vote this 8 day of December, 2015.

BROWN COUNTY

COMMISSION



Duane Sutton, Chairman

ATTEST:

Maxine Fischer

Maxine Fischer, County Auditor



EDMUNDS COUNTY - RESOLUTION 2015-12-1

EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF U.S. HIGHWAY 12 EXPANSION TO FOUR LANES

WHEREAS, in South Dakota, U.S. Highway 12 is a two-lane highway for approximately 21 miles between Aberdeen, South Dakota and Ipswich, South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, there have been numerous fatal wrecks on U.S. Highway 12 between Aberdeen, Ipswich and Mobridge; and

WHEREAS, it is urged that changes be made on U.S. Highway 12 due to eight fatalities in 2015 alone; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 traffic counts in the two-lane stretch between Aberdeen and Ipswich were 3660, 4010 and 3040 vehicles respectively on the three segments going west; and

WHEREAS, the 4010 vehicle segment in Edmunds County is projected to be 5700 vehicles by 2030 per transportation plan study compiled in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the potential of almost a 48 percent traffic count increase in the next 15 years is further cause for concern;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Edmunds County Commission does hereby adopt, in its entirety, this resolution to urge State and Federal officials to provide adequate funding for this important project to expand such portion of highway at minimum from Aberdeen to Ipswich from two-lane to four-lane highway; and

Does direct its auditor furnish a copy of this Resolution for submission to the South Dakota Governor, Congressional Delegation, and Department of Transportation.

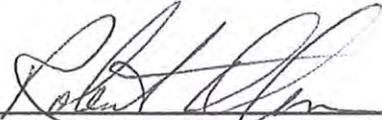
Vote of Edmunds County Commission: AYE 5 NAY 0

Dated this 8th day of December, 2015 at Ipswich, South Dakota.

ATTEST:



Keith Schurr,
Edmunds County Auditor

By 

Robert Olson, Chairman
Edmunds County Board
Of Commissioners

**CITY OF IPSWICH
RESOLUTION 2015-21
EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF U.S. HIGHWAY 12 EXPANSION TO FOUR LANES**

WHEREAS, in South Dakota, U.S. Highway 12 is a two-lane highway for approximately 21 miles between Aberdeen, South Dakota and Ipswich, South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, there have been numerous fatal wrecks on U.S. Highway 12 between Aberdeen, Ipswich and Mobridge; and

WHEREAS, it is urged that changes be made on U.S. Highway 12 due to eight fatalities in 2015 alone; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 traffic counts in the two-lane stretch between Aberdeen and Ipswich were 3660, 4010 and 3040 vehicles respectively on the three segments going west; and

WHEREAS, the 4010 vehicle segment in Edmunds County is projected to be 5700 vehicles by 2030 per transportation plan study compiled in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the potential of almost 48 percent traffic count increase in the next 15 years is further cause for concern;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Ipswich City Council does hereby adopt, in its entirety, this resolution to urge State and Federal officials to provide adequate funding for this important project to expand such portion of highway at minimum from Aberdeen to Ipswich from two-lane to four-lane highway; and

Does direct its Finance Officer to furnish a copy of this Resolution for submission to the South Dakota Governor, Congressional Delegation, and Department of Transportation.

Dated this 21st Day of December, 2015 for immediate passage:

Signed: 
LeRoy Kilber, Mayor

Attest: 
Amanda Anglin, Finance Officer



Commissioners address safety

The Edmunds County Commissioners approved a resolution expressing their support for expanding Highway 12 to four lanes.

The resolution, which they approved at their Dec. 8 meeting, cited safety and fatal accidents between Aberdeen and Mobridge.

Edmunds County Sheriff Todd Holtz has also urged local residents to contact the state about Highway 12 safety.

The Commissioners will send a copy of the resolution to the Governor, South Dakota's Congressional Delegation and the Department of Transportation.

The resolution, introduced by Commissioner Ed Miller, states:

WHEREAS, in South Dakota, U.S. Highway 12 is a two-lane highway for approximately 21 miles between Aberdeen, South Dakota and Ipswich, South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, there have been numerous fatal wrecks on U.S. Highway 12 between Aberdeen, Ipswich and Mobridge; and

WHEREAS, it is urged that changes be made on U.S. Highway 12 due to eight fatalities in 2015 alone; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 traffic counts in the two-lane stretch between Aberdeen and Ipswich were 3660, 4010 and 3040 vehicles respectively on the three segments going west; and

WHEREAS, the 4010 vehicle segment in Edmunds County is projected to be 5700 vehicles by 2030 per transportation plan study compiled in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the potential of almost a 48 percent traffic count increase in the next 15 years is further cause for concern;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Edmunds County Commission does hereby adopt, in its entirety, this resolution to urge State and Federal officials to provide adequate funding for this important project to expand such portion of highway at minimum from Aberdeen to Ipswich from two-lane to four-lane highway.

USA TODAY
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2015

SOUTH DAKOTA Aberdeen: Edmunds County Sheriff Todd Holtz has seen enough wrecks on U.S. Highway 12 and wants changes made, the *American News* reported. Highway 12 from the state Highway 45 intersection at Craven Corner into Brown County, where the highway divides west of Aberdeen, has historically been a bad stretch, he said.

Holiday gifts galore

Political presents 3B/Cyber Monday facts 5B

AmericanNews

Aberdeen, S.D.

Sunday, November 29, 2015

AberdeenNews.com



Motorists make their way east and west on U.S. Highway 12 near the intersection of 371st Avenue west of Mina Lake. The stretch of U.S. Highway 12 between Aberdeen and Mobridge has been the site of several fatal accidents in recent years. American News Photo by John Davis

Fatal wrecks across area cause concern

8 killed in 2015 on U.S. Highway 12 between Aberdeen, Mobridge; Edmunds County sheriff pleads for end to 'unneeded fatalities'

BY ELISA SAND
esand@aberdeennews.com

Diamond-shaped signs mark the spots along the state's highways where fatal accidents have occurred, but the Edmunds County Sheriff has seen enough wrecks in his county to know something needs to change along U.S. Highway 12.

"I'm urging the pub-

lic to contact the South Dakota Department of Transportation, contact the governor and contact their representatives in their district and talk about their concerns with the highway and these unneeded fatalities," Edmunds County Sheriff Todd Holtz said.

U.S. Highway 12 from the state Highway 45 intersection at Craven Cor-

ner into Brown County, where the highway divides west of Aberdeen, has historically been a bad stretch, he said.

"We have a lot of (grain) terminals out here, a lot of truck traffic, and there's just a lot of extra traffic on the road than ever before," Holtz said.

Just less than two weeks ago, another wreck, and more lives lost: Two

vehicles traveling in opposite directions hit head-on near Mina, killing three people.

A closer look

From the start of 2010 through the end of last month, there were nine accidents that resulted in fatalities in the 100 miles between Aberdeen and Mobridge, according to information from the state

Department of Public Safety. And those numbers don't include the crash last week a mile west of Mina in which three people were killed.

Those nine fatal accidents represent 1.4 percent of the 663 accidents between 2010 and the end of October along U.S. Highway 12 from Aber-

See Highway 12, 9A

Accident statistics

Crash data from U.S. Highway 12 between Aberdeen and Mobridge
 2015 (through October): 3 fatal crashes*, 7 injury crashes, 65 property damage crashes, 5 deaths*, 19 injured.

2014: 3 fatal crashes, 11 injury crashes, 107 property damage crashes, 6 deaths, 17 injured.

2013: No fatal crashes, 14 injury crashes, 95 property damage crashes, 23 injured.

2012: 2 fatal crashes, 12 injury crashes, 91 property damage crashes, 3 deaths, 20 injured.

2011: 1 fatal crash, 9 injury crashes, 107 property damage crashes, 1 death; 14 injured.

2010: No fatal crashes, 15 injury crashes, 121 property damage crashes, 23 injured.

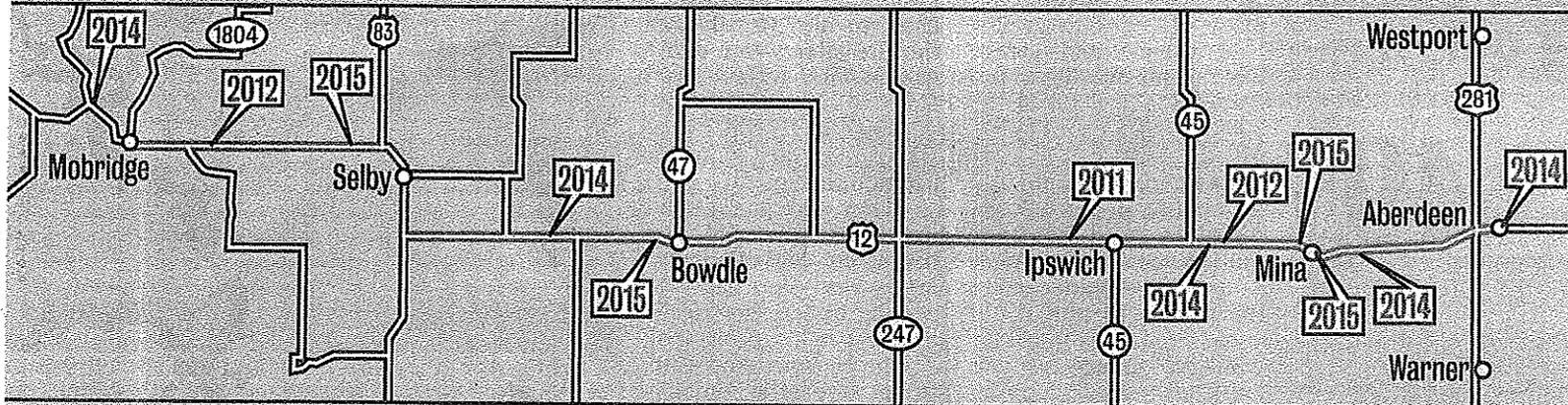
* Doesn't include a fatal crash last week in which three people died.

Source: South Dakota Department of Public Safety

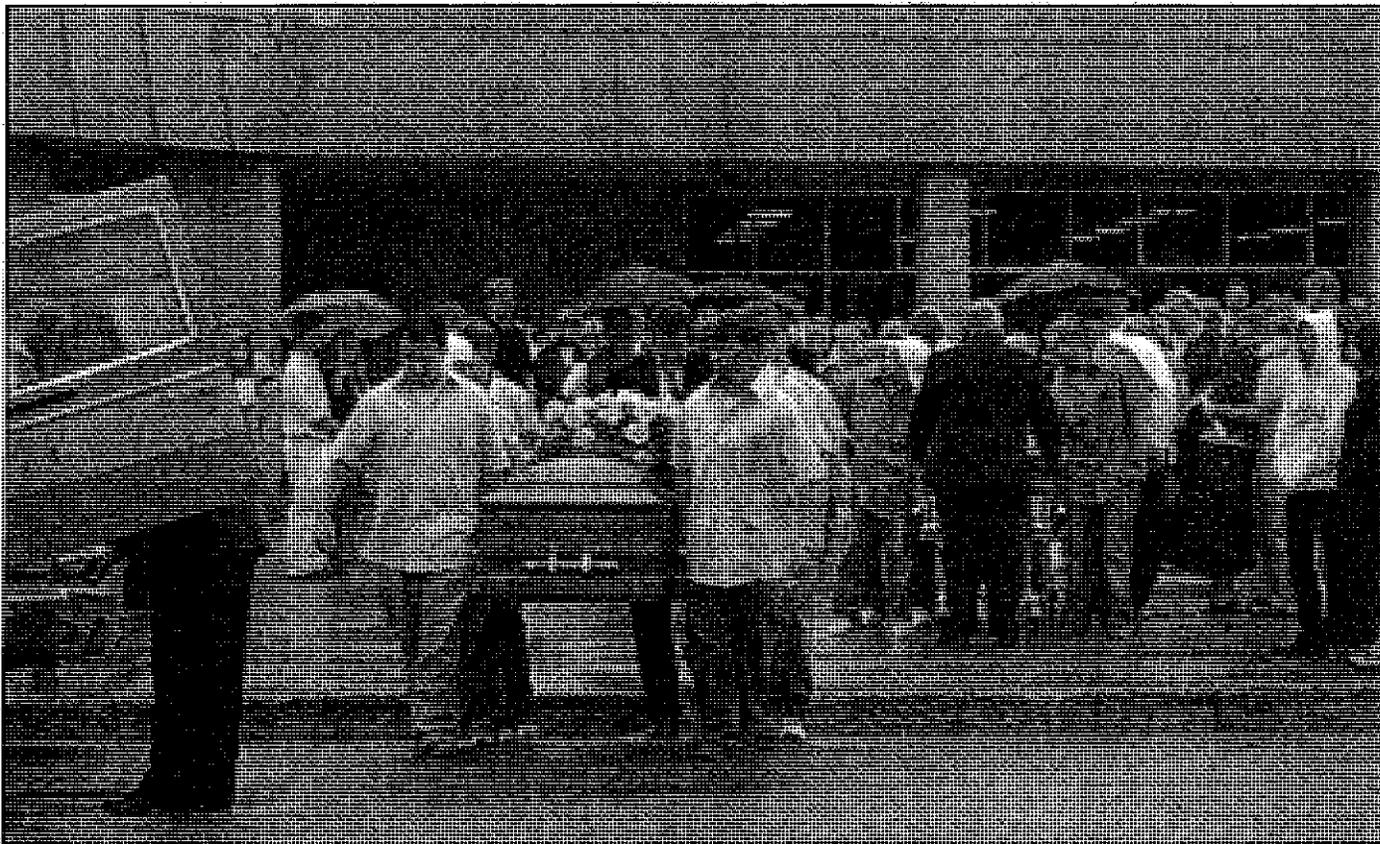
Fatal crashes in 2015 between Aberdeen and Mobridge

- May 17: 12 miles west of Bowdle, 1 killed, 5 injured.
- July 21: 4 miles west of Selby, 1 killed, 1 injured.
- Sept. 27: Mina overpass, 3 killed, 1 injured.
- Nov. 21: west of Mina, 3 killed.

Fatal crashes along U.S. Highway 12 in Brown, Edmunds and Walworth counties



MOURNING THE LOSS



American News Photo by Dawn Dietrich

Solidarity: The caskets of Adam Rohr and Shawn Thorne are carried by casketbearers wearing the pair's favorite colors during their funeral Wednesday at Ipswich High School. Rohr's favorite color was pink, while Thorne's was lavender.

Hundreds gather to say good-bye

26 Mar 2005 p. 1A

By Justin Wolfgang
American News Writer

Funeral services were held Wednesday for the three victims of what authorities are calling one of the worst car accidents they've ever seen.

Judith Huber, 59, of Bowdle, Shawn Thorne, 18, of Mina Lake, and Adam Rohr, 19, of Ipswich died Saturday evening in a three-vehicle accident on U.S. Highway 12 about a mile from Mina Lake. Huber was killed instantly when her car and a pickup driven by Thorne collided. Rohr was a passenger in that pickup. Rohr died in transit via ambulance to

Lives of accident victims celebrated with symbolism, faith, support

Avera St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen, while Thorne died at Innovis Hospital in Fargo, N.D., where he had been airlifted.

Services for Thorne and Rohr, best friends and 2004 graduates of Ipswich High School, were held together in the school's gym with close to 1,000 in attendance. The population of Ipswich is only around 900. The Rev. Thomas R. Clement conducted the services. He spoke of how the accident has touched everyone.

"This accident has had rippling effects throughout our community and our lives," he said.

He said those in attendance would celebrate the lives of Thorne and Rohr through the things the teens' held dear in life.

"We will celebrate Adam's life every time we happen to see an eight-ball roll across the pool table," he said. "And we will celebrate Shawn's life every time we

See VICTIMS, Page 6A

"This accident has had rippling effects throughout our community and our lives."

Rev. Thomas R. Clement

Funeral services for Adam Rohr and Shawn Thorne will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Ipswich High School gymnasium.



Charge filed in triple fatality

*Hub City man could
face up to year in jail
for role in accident*

By Emily Arthur
American News Writer

An Aberdeen man involved in a May 21 accident resulting in the death of three people has been charged with reckless driving.

If convicted of the misdemeanor, William Arndt, 41, could be sentenced to up to a year in county jail and/or up to a \$1,000 fine.

Shawn Thorne, 18, of Mina, Adam Rohr, 19, of Ipswich, and Judith Huber, 59, of Bowdle, were killed in the accident which occurred around 6 p.m. on U.S. Highway 12 near Mina Lake. William Arndt and his passenger Mary Arndt, 49, of Aberdeen were both injured.

According to the accident report, a pickup driven by William Arndt was eastbound when it rear ended a pickup driven by Thorne. Arndt became distracted when he tried to pick up a water bottle, the report said.

The collision sent Thorne's pickup into westbound traffic, striking a car driven by Huber.

Huber was killed on impact; Rohr, a passenger in Thorne's vehicle, died after being transported by ambulance to Avera St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen; and Thorne died later that night at Innovis Hospital in Fargo, N.D., where he had been airlifted following the accident.

All three vehicles were totalled. An investigation by the Highway Patrol ruled neither drugs nor alcohol were factors in the accident.

Edmunds County State's Attorney Vaughn Beck could not be reached for comment.

Reporter Emily Arthur (605) 622-2314 or
1-800-925-4100 ext. 314

Continued from Page 1A

see a surfboard."

Strong sense of faith: According to Miller Funeral Home in Bowdle, there were close to 200 in attendance at the services for Huber at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Bowdle.

She had been a home economics teacher in Fort Yates, N.D., and at Aberdeen Roncalli High School. She was also an Extension home economist in Brown County for a few years. She was the Farm Forum coordinator at the Aberdeen American News from 1993 to 2003 and was currently employed at the Alexander Mitchell Library in Aberdeen.

The Huber family said they have received numerous signs of support from the community.

"They've been really supportive," Judith's husband Oscar Huber said. "We've got so many letters and so many flowers. It really helps to take your mind off of the loss."

Oscar Huber said his family has dealt well with their loss because of their strong sense of faith.

"We don't have a choice on when we're born, or how or when we die," he said. "It makes me think there must be a higher power."

Judith Huber was remembered by her family as a great mother.

"She was a caring and very loving woman," said son Kirk Huber of Bowdle.

The deceased's brother Ben Sheppard of Casper, Wyo., said she was laid back and had a very accomplished life.

Judith was a master gardener and was an accomplished painter and needleworker.

Since her father passed away in 1981, she dedicated much of her time to researching genealogy since much of her own family history was not well recorded.

She formed a business called Prairie Family Publisher and printed a number

"We don't
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Oscar Huber

of directories for cemeteries across the region. The directories include an indexed listing of all the plots and background on all the people buried there. Her family said she walked hundreds of cemeteries in her lifetime.

"Lots of these cemeteries were abandoned, and she just wanted to help other people locate their ancestors," Oscar Huber said. "Sometimes she was asked to make a record of a cemetery and she would volunteer to do it."

Besides walking cemeteries and publishing indexes, she also wrote down the histories of local communities.

Accident details: The accident remains under investigation by the South Dakota Highway Patrol, but authorities say it appears that Thorne's eastbound pickup was rear-ended by a vehicle driven by William Arndt, 41, of Aberdeen, after the teen slowed to turn onto state Highway 134. Arndt and his passenger, Mary Arndt, 49, of Aberdeen, suffered serious injuries but survived the wreck.

The force of the impact from the collision with the Arndts' pickup knocked Thorne's pickup into the westbound lane, where Thorne's pickup and Huber's car collided.

American News

Aberdeen, S.D.

Friday, January 29, 2016

AberdeenNews.com

State DOT looking at U.S. 12 fatalities

10 deadly crashes in area west of Aberdeen since 2010

BY BOB MERCER
American News Correspondent

PIERRE — The stretch of U.S. Highway 12 west of Aberdeen is under a safety review that will include a future public meeting, state Transportation Secretary Darin Bergquist said Thursday. He told members of the state

Transportation Commission there have been suggestions from some area residents for a longer segment of divided four-lane highway. Bergquist said he couldn't recall another issue in recent times where his department received so many letters from the public.

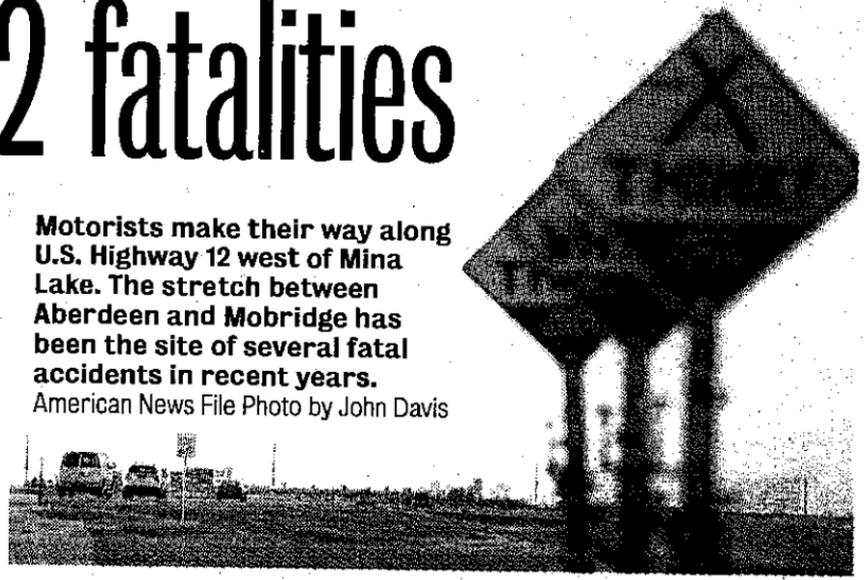
Since the start of 2010, there

have been 10 fatal crashes along U.S. 12 between Aberdeen and Mobridge, according to South Dakota Department of Public Safety data compiled by the American News. Five of those wrecks have been near Mina, claiming 11 lives, statistics

See Highway 12, 3A

Motorists make their way along U.S. Highway 12 west of Mina Lake. The stretch between Aberdeen and Mobridge has been the site of several fatal accidents in recent years.

American News File Photo by John Davis



HIGHWAY 12

From 1A

show. In each instance, the vehicles were traveling in opposite directions, and one of the vehicles crossed the center line.

Many factors contribute to crashes, including alcohol and distracted driving, Bergquist said.

"We can't design out that driver behavior," he said.

A roadway safety inspection team visited the segment recently as the first step, according to Bergquist.

He said DOT officials are now reviewing accident records and data. Next up is setting a local public meeting. The date and location haven't been determined.

Bergquist said he would take the findings, meeting report and any recommendations on reducing fatalities to the commission.

"Certainly we're aware of the issue. We're engaged in the issue. It's not something that's going to be solved overnight," he said.

Follow @pierremercier on Twitter.

Accident leaves two dead

22 May 2005 p. 1A, 6A

By Ian H. Fennell
American News Writer

Three others also injured in three-vehicle incident near Mina Lake

An Ipswich man and a Bowdle woman died in a three-vehicle crash early Saturday evening near Mina Lake in Edmunds County.

A man and woman from Aberdeen and a man authorities would only identify as being from Edmunds County suffered serious injuries in the 6 p.m. crash on U.S. Highway 12 and state Highway 134.

The identities of those

killed and injured were not being released Saturday night because some family members had not yet been notified, authorities said.

One of the injured, the Edmunds County man, was airlifted by emergency helicopter from the scene to Avera St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen and from there it is believed he was flown to a hospital in

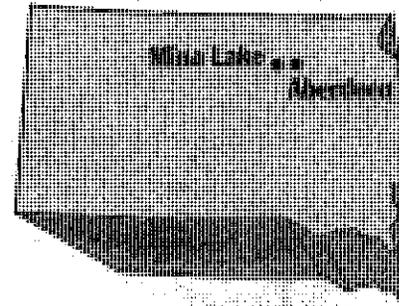
Fargo, N.D.

Authorities said he's in critical condition. The Aberdeen man and woman remained at St. Luke's Friday night receiving treatment. It's believed they are in serious condition.

All three vehicles were traveling on U.S. Highway 12. According to the South Dakota Highway Patrol, the Bowdle woman who died was traveling

alone in a westbound car. The two pickups involved were eastbound. The Aberdeen man and woman were in one, and the Ipswich man who died and the other Edmunds County man were in the other.

All three of the vehicles were totaled and some of the occupants, including the man



See ACCIDENT, Page 6A

Continued from Page 1A

counseling.

who died, were not wearing seat belts, according to the Highway Patrol.

The Bowdle woman died at the scene, while the Ipswich man was pronounced dead at St. Luke's, authorities said. The Aberdeen man and woman were transported to St. Luke's by Ipswich Ambulance and Aberdeen Fire and Rescue. The Aberdeen Rural Fire Department also responded to the accident.

The accident was reported via a 911 cell phone call by a passing motorist. U.S. Highway 12 was closed for about two hours while emergency personnel responded to the scene.

Edmunds County Sheriff Laurie Gerdes said the carnage at the scene was so intense that the county's critical incident stress debriefing team will visit with responders to see if anyone needs

"We're going to make a debriefing available Monday," he said. "We'll keep an eye on them to make sure they don't get depressed. If anyone wants to talk to someone, (the team) will be available."

The accident occurred about a mile from Mina Lake on a stretch of U.S. Highway 12 that has good visibility and no reputation for accidents.

"It's just wide-open country out there," Gerdes said.

The Highway Patrol is investigating the accident.

"We're still checking into everything. We're not sure what happened," Trooper Rob Weinmeister said.

Gerdes said the occupants of one and possibly two of the vehicles were returning from graduation ceremonies at Ipswich High School.

He said he expects it to take "a few days" for authorities to figure out exactly how the accident happened.

Crash claims 3rd life

23 May 2005 p. 1A

Mina teenager dies; Bowdle, Ipswich residents also killed

By Ian H. Fennell
American News Writer

A third individual has died as a result of injuries suffered in what authorities are calling a "horrible" three-vehicle accident Saturday

Shawn Thorne, 19, of Mina, died late Saturday night at Innovis Hospital in Fargo, N.D., where he was airlifted following the wreck, the South Dakota Highway Patrol reported.

Also dead as a result of the 6 p.m. accident are Judith Huber, 59, of Bowdle, and Adam Rohr, 19, of Ipswich. Huber was killed on impact, while Rohr died after being transported by ambulance to Avera St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen.

The two other people involved in the accident suffered critical injuries. Mary Arndt, 49, of Aberdeen, was being treated at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls on Sunday, according to authorities. She was airlifted there after being first transported by ambulance to St. Luke's. William Arndt, 41, of Aberdeen, was also transported to St. Luke's by ambulance. He remained there Sunday.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol described the accident as one of the worst it's dealt with in recent memory in the Aberdeen area.

The Highway Patrol said the accident occurred when an eastbound pickup driven by William Arndt collided with the rear of the pickup occupied by Thorne and Rohr. The force of the impact pushed the Thorne and Rohr pickup into the path of a westbound car driven by Huber.

Mary Arndt was a passenger in William's pickup; the Highway Patrol said that it's still trying to determine whether Thorne or Rohr was driving their pickup. Thorne was airlifted by emergency helicopter from the scene to St. Luke's prior to being flown on to Innovis in Fargo.

All three vehicles were totaled. The Highway Patrol reported that none of the victims were trapped in or ejected from their vehicles.

Some of the victims were not wearing seat belts.

The Highway Patrol said that its investigation will likely take most of the week. Preliminary findings indicate that drugs, alcohol and vehicle speed were not factors in the crash, the Highway Patrol reported.

The accident occurred near Highway 12's intersection with state Highway 134 about one mile from Mina Lake. The Highway Patrol said it's still trying to determine if the Thorne/Rohr pickup was slowing down to turn onto the state road when rear-ended.

The Highway Patrol plans to reconstruct the accident sometime today.

Edmunds County authorities said Saturday that the stretch of road where the wreck occurred has good visibility and is not known as a high accident area.

The accident resulted in Highway 12 being closed for two hours.

Residents grieve in wake of accident

24 July 2005 p.1A, 11A
*Three area lives lost
in tragic collision
on U.S. Highway 12*

By Justin Wolfgang
American News Writer

Grief has struck Edmunds County after three residents were killed in a three-vehicle accident near Mina Lake on Saturday evening.

Shawn Thorne, 18, of Mina Lake, and Adam Rohr, 19, of Ipswich, were traveling in a pickup to a reception after the high school graduation in Ipswich when the accident occurred at 6 p.m. on U.S. Highway 12 about a mile from Mina Lake.

Rohr died while in transit by ambulance to Avera St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen. Thorne was pronounced dead after being airlifted from St. Luke's to Innovis Hospital in Fargo, N.D.



Huber



Rohr

Judith Huber, 59, of Bowdle, was also killed in the accident. She died on impact when her westbound car and the eastbound Rohr-Thorne pickup collided.

Authorities said the pickup, driven by Thorne, had been rear-ended and knocked into the westbound lane by another eastbound pickup, driven by William Arndt, 41, of Aberdeen.

Arndt and his passenger, Mary Arndt,
See TRAGEDY, Page 11A

Continued from Page 1A

49, also of Aberdeen, remain in St. Luke's and Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, respectively, but are expected to recover.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol said the accident remains under investigation, but it appears Thorne was slowing down to turn onto state Highway 134 at the time of impact.

Rohr and Thorne were both 2004 graduates of Ipswich High School and were active in sports and other activities. Thorne played football and wrestling and competed in the state wrestling tournament in 2004. Rohr played golf, was a basketball statistician, a line judge for volleyball and participated in band.

Memories: Kade Eulberg graduated on Saturday from Ipswich High and was close friends with Rohr and Thorne.

"We were like brothers," he said. "I just keep thinking they are going to come back and walk through the door."

Ipswich High School Principal Trent Osborne remembers Rohr and Thorne as outgoing students.



Thorne

"They both liked to have fun and were well known," Osborne said. "They were very good friends."

High school counselor Bill Reinschmidt also remembered them as friends.

"They were quite close," Reinschmidt said. "They went to school together, they worked together and they died together."

Eulberg said Rohr and Thorne were popular as students and that "not one person didn't like them."

Ipswich wrestling coach Wade Rausch said Thorne was a great student and had lots of friends.

"He always had a free spirit. He could hang out with any crowd and feel comfortable," Rausch said.

The news of the tragedy spread quickly Saturday through the Ipswich and Mina Lake communities and students began to gather with friends and family to grieve.

An organized gathering was held at Mina Lake on Sunday night with a campfire where students shared memories of the two.

Osborne said some students came across the accident while traveling to a graduation reception and recognized the pickup in which Rohr and Thorne were

(See next sheet)

Osborne is a former volunteer responder in Leola, where he used to teach. He said he quit responding to calls after a similar incident claimed a student's life there.

"That was enough for me," he said.

Counseling: Osborne said providing counseling to students is difficult because the school year ended on Friday. But students can come to the school if they need someone to talk to.

Reinschmidt said if the accident had happened during the regular school year, the district would have taken steps to help the students cope.

"We would have brought in a crisis team of counselors, priests and pastors so the students would have an opportunity to just talk," he said. "The summer gives the students a grieving period although."

Eulberg said he has coped with the tragedy by surrounding himself with friends.

"I have been with my close friends pretty much the whole time since I heard the news," he said.

Darrell Luond has lived in Ipswich for 24 years and once employed Rohr at the meat market he owns.

"The whole accident has a big effect on the town," he said. "We're pretty tight knit here."

The Rev. Robin Wanner-Schaunaman of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Bowdle will officiate at the service for Huber.

"We have seen great support from the community," Wanner-Schaunaman said. "But the family is taking it very hard."

Friends pay tribute to accident victims

15 May 2005 p 3A

By Justin Wolfgang
American News Writer

Friends of the two Edmunds County teens killed in Saturday night's accident near Mina Lake have designed T-shirts to memorialize their lives.

Shawn Thorne, 18, of Mina Lake, and Adam Rohr, 19, of Ipswich, were traveling together to their friend Brandon Bortz's graduation reception at Mina Lake when they were involved in a three-vehicle accident on U.S. Highway 12.

Thorne was airlifted by emergency helicopter to Fargo, N.D., where he died later Saturday night. Rohr was pronounced dead while in transit via ambulance to Avera St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen. Also killed in the accident was Judith Huber, 59, of Bowdle. She died on impact when her car and the pickup driven by Thorne collided.

Funeral services for Thorne and Rohr will be held together at 10:30 a.m. today in the Ipswich High School gym. Services for Huber will be held at 2 p.m. today at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Bowdle.

Bortz, Kade Eulberg and Matthew Drayer designed the T-shirts commemorating Thorne and Rohr on Sunday. The shirts include a poem written by Rohr titled "The Boys of Summer" printed on the back.

They were printed in pink and lavender — pink was Rohr's favorite color and lavender was Thorne's.



American News Photo by Scott Waltman

Remembering their friends: The friends of Shawn Thorne, 18, of Mina Lake, and Adam Rohr, 19, of Ipswich, have created T-shirts remembering the two teens killed in a weekend accident in Edmunds County. The friends with one of the T-shirts are pictured as follows: front row from left, Alyssa Jeschke and Lexi Elsen; second row from left, Shane Whiteside, Matthew Drayer, Brandon Bortz, Kade Eulberg and Brandon Mulvenna; and back row from left T.J. Walth, Mike Pegones, Abby Nelson, Lance Mardian and Justin Samson.

7 mel)

**Funeral services for
Shawn Thorne, 18, of Mina
Lake, and Adam Rohr, 19,
of Ipswich, will be held
together at 10:30 a.m.
today in the Ipswich High
School gym.**

**Services for Judith Huber,
59, of Bowdle, will
be held at 2 p.m. today
at St. Paul's Lutheran
Church in Bowdle.**

Drayer said he remembered how Thorne and Rohr would buy the same shirts and shoes but with different colors without even knowing.

Friends described the two as "joined at the hip."

Ochsner said Thorne once showed up for one of their dates and had brought Adam along with him.

"I was pretty much dating both of them," she said. "Eighty percent of the time I would call Shawn's cell phone and Adam would answer."

Friends said Thorne and Rohr were more known by

their nicknames, "Stan" for Rohr and "Dorn" for Thorne.

"Adam gave himself the nickname 'Stan,' but we called Shawn 'Dorn' because it was easier than Thorne," Bortz said.

Friends also said Thorne and Rohr were big fans of fast-food restaurants like McDonald's and Taco Bell.

"I remember us laying down a \$20 bill at McDonald's just for food on the dollar menu," Bortz said.

Both Thorne and Rohr had aspirations of being musicians at one time or another and were both avid guitar players.

"Just a couple weeks ago they stayed up until 3 in the morning just playing their guitars," Ochsner said.

When asked about their personalities, Nelson said the best way to describe Thorne and

Rohr was to "look at all of us," referring to herself and the group of friends gathered to reminisce. She said the deceased will live on through all of their friends.

Thorne had started taking classes at Northern State University, and Jeschke said he had thought of someday starting his own business.

Several of Thorne and Rohr's friends were planning on getting tattoos with a design and the date and time of the crash on their arms later this week.

Friends of Thorne and Rohr expressed concern over rumors being spread concerning the cause of the accident. The South Dakota Highway Patrol's investigation is ongoing, but preliminary findings indicate that drugs, alcohol and speeding were not factors in the crash.

Friends planned on wearing the T-shirts at the funeral today. The shirts were printed by Print On It of Aberdeen. Drayer graduated from Ipswich High School in 2004 with Thorne and Rohr. Bortz and Eulberg are 2005 Ipswich graduates.

The T-shirts have an eight-ball on one sleeve and a surfboard on another in memory of Thorne and Rohr.

"The eight-ball is because we used to hang out and play pool for hours," Eulberg said.

Thorne had shown interest in surfing, but his friends said he had little experience other than a trip to Australia.

Sam Ochsner, an Aberdeen Roncalli High School graduate, had been dating Thorne and has been overwhelmed with support since the fatal crash.

"My phone rang throughout the night Saturday," Ochsner said. "Every 30 minutes my voice mail is full."

Abby Nelson, an Aberdeen Central High student, remembers Rohr and Thorne for their taste and style.

Viewpoints

OUR VOICE

U.S. Highway 12 dangers catch state's attention

Residents of this region have long known the dangers of U.S. Highway 12 between Aberdeen and Mobridge.

Since 2010 along those approximate 100 miles, there have been more than 660 crashes, 18 deaths and more than 115 injuries.

Now the rest of the state is getting that message, thanks to you who have made your voice heard.

The stretch of U.S. Highway 12 west of Aberdeen is under a state Department of Transportation safety review that will include a future public meeting.

State Transportation Secretary Darin Bergquist last week told members of the DOT Commission there have been suggestions from some area residents for a longer segment of divided four-lane highway. Bergquist said he couldn't recall another issue in recent times where his department received so many letters

For those of you who acted on this issue, you turned a regional concern into a statewide concern. When such issues arise, let this be a shining example that you have to go beyond local coffee shop talk and let those in charge know what is going on to get results.

Maybe, or maybe not, an extension of the four-lane highway would be a cost-effective answer. But the point is, the right people are now looking for answers.

Late last year, reporter Elisa Sand reported on the dangers of that part of the highway and put the numbers together. Many readers hooked into that story, which put hard numbers behind what all of us suspected.

But it was Edmunds County Sheriff Todd Holtz who said it best in her story.

"I'm urging the public to contact the South Dakota Department of Transportation, contact the governor and contact their representatives in their district and talk about their concerns with the highway and these unneeded fatalities," Holtz said.

His words spurred some locals into action. Thank you Sheriff Holtz and those who took his message to heart.

Now, this state transportation study doesn't relieve of us of our own stupidity. On any road, we still shouldn't drink and drive, be distracted by things like our phones or drive carelessly such as at a high rate of speed in slick conditions.

When we do those things, we are just asking for trouble.

Five of the fatal wrecks have been near Mina since 2010, claiming 11 lives, statistics show. A roadway safety inspection team has visited west Highway 12 and DOT officials are now reviewing ac-

"Certainly we're aware of the issue," Bergquist said.

"We're engaged in the issue. It's not something that's going to be solved overnight."

It is all the first step in a multi-step process. But it is a step in the right direction to make driving between Aberdeen and Mobridge less perilous.

Stay tuned, involved and safe when driving Highway 12.

— American News Editorial Board

Fatal wrecks across area cause concern Hide Details

Aberdeen American News (SD) - November 29, 2015 [Browse Issues](#)
 Author/Byline: Elisa Sand esand@aberdeennews.com Section: Local Readability: >12 grade level (Lexile: 1420)

Diamond-shaped signs mark the spots along the state's highways where fatal accidents have occurred, but the Edmunds County Sheriff has seen enough wrecks in his county to know something needs to change along U.S. Highway 12.

"I'm urging the public to contact the South Dakota Department of Transportation, contact the governor and contact their representatives in their district and talk about their concerns with the highway and these unneeded fatalities," Edmunds County Sheriff Todd Holtz said.

U.S. Highway 12 from the state Highway 45 intersection at Craven Corner into Brown County, where the highway divides west of Aberdeen, has historically been a bad stretch, he said.

"We have a lot of (grain) terminals out here, a lot of truck traffic, and there's just a lot of extra traffic on the road than ever before," Holtz said.

Just less than two weeks ago, another wreck, and more lives lost: Two vehicles traveling in opposite directions hit head-on near Mina, killing three people.

A closer look

From the start of 2010 through the end of last month, there were nine accidents that resulted in fatalities in the 100 miles between Aberdeen and Mobridge, according to information from the state Department of Public Safety. And those numbers don't include the crash last week a mile west of Mina in which three people were killed.

Those nine fatal accidents represent 1.4 percent of the 663 accidents between 2010 and the end of October along U.S. Highway 12 from Aberdeen to Mobridge, the statistics show. With last week's wreck folded in, 18 people have died on the highway in not quite six years.

Since 2010, five of the 10 fatal accidents (including last week's) were near Mina:

- Nov. 21: Two vehicles traveling in opposite directions collided a mile west of Mina. Michael Schlosser, 59, of Aberdeen; Kelly Pierce, 42, of Mellette; and Christopher M. McCoy, 32, of Ipswich, died.
- Sept. 27: Two vehicles traveling in opposite directions collided near the Mina overpass. Shelby Jo Thayer, 23, of Aberdeen; Frieda Trautman, 86, of Eureka and Charles J. Neuharth, 62, of Eureka, died.
- July 17, 2014: A car and semi traveling in opposite directions collided 2 miles east of Mina. Maury Victor Morisch, 48, of Aberdeen died.
- Jan. 3, 2014: A sport utility vehicle and semi traveling in opposite directions collided 6 miles east of Ipswich. Lavinena E. Guthmiller, 78, and Evelyn K. Scheuffele, 76, both of Eureka, died.
- Dec. 7, 2012: A pickup and van traveling in opposite directions collided 7 miles east of Ipswich. Henry Huft, 82, and Donnis Huft, 77, both of Bowdle, died.

Different circumstances

The crashes weren't in exactly in the same place and the reasons for the accidents differ. Lee Axdahl, director of the Office of Highway Safety, said these are just a couple reasons why it's difficult to evaluate highway safety.

Statewide there were 17,346 accidents in 2014, according to Department of Public Safety records. Of those accidents 136 — about 0.8 percent — were fatal.

"If you were to plot out the fatalities, it's spread out across the state, which makes it difficult, with tens of thousands of county roads and interstates, to always have the law enforcement out there to prevent accidents," Axdahl said.

Axdahl said statistics from all crash reports across the state are processed each year by the Department of Public Safety, and the factors that contribute to those accidents are evaluated to see why the crashes happened and if any mitigating action is needed.

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As an example, he said, a high number of alcohol-related accidents could result in more frequent sobriety checkpoints. If

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there's a structural change that can improve the safety of a road, he said, the DOT evaluates the area.

Highway evaluations

Day County Sheriff Barry Hillestad said that type of safety evaluation is happening now along the curves of U.S. Highway 12 near Andover, about 35 miles east of Aberdeen. Department of Public Safety statistics show two fatal accidents along the curves east of Andover this year and one each in 2013 and 2014.

"A lot of it has been alcohol-involved crashes in that area," Hillestad said.

That was the case in the most recent fatal crash, involving the driver of a van who was heading the wrong direction on the divided highway and ran into a recreational vehicle, he said.

A Minnesota man was killed in that crash in the early morning hours of Oct. 25. Others were injured when the vehicles collided in the westbound lanes.

Even though alcohol has been a factor in some of the Day County crashes, the DOT did a review of the road because of the high rate of crashes, Hillestad said. He said some remedies discussed include modifying the road surface for increased traction, changing signage and adjusting culverts.

Phil Dwight, area engineer for the state DOT, said there has been talk of a high-friction surface near Andover, but there are no immediate plans.

Realigning a culvert in that area has also been discussed. That's because two recent fatal accidents involved vehicles leaving the road and hitting a 5-foot wide culvert, Dwight said.

"It shows us we need to do something," he said.

Dwight said similar safety conversations are planned in reference to the stretch of highway near Mina.

Edmunds Sheriff Holtz said he has no doubt increased traffic and increased wild animal collisions factor into highway safety. With more animal crashes, Holtz said, drivers tend to slow down, which leads to bottlenecks along the highway.

"A four-lane highway is a tremendously good idea to help curb this and give room for error," he said.

Laura Hanson, an employee at Glacial Lakes Energy a mile west of Mina, said she hasn't noticed a significant increase in traffic during the five years she's worked at the plant, but highway traffic is steady.

"I relate the number (of fatal accidents) to human error," she said.

The DOT tracks traffic along U.S. Highway 12 and has counts for Walworth County west of Glenham and Brown County west of Groton, but no data specific to Edmunds County. Both of the other stretches show a predominant increase in traffic from 2014 to this year. Brown County traffic, at 2,400 to 3,400 vehicles per day, is about triple the Walworth County traffic of 760 to 1,200 vehicles per day, the statistics show.

Another option would be the addition of rumble strips along the center of the highway, Holtz said. That's something he's seen in Wisconsin, Minnesota and North Dakota.

Hanson said she agrees with Holtz "100 percent" about the rumble strips. She's aware of their use in North Dakota and said they help in alerting drivers that they are crossing that center line.

No easy answers

The recent increase in fatal accidents along U.S. Highway 12 has some officials perplexed.

"We're not sure if it's distracted driving or road conditions," Brown County Chief Deputy Tom Schmidt said. "It's got us all kinds of confused."

These fatalities are only a fraction of the accidents happening along the highway between 2010 and the end of October. Of the 663 crashes between Aberdeen and Mobridge, 88.3 percent were accidents where only property was damaged and no one was injured. The remaining 10.3 percent of the accidents were nonfatal injury accidents where 116 people were hurt.

The common causes of most injuries, if not deaths, stem from drivers not wearing seatbelts, using alcohol and driving too fast, Axdahl said.

"The thing that we just continue to stress from this end is that we really, absolutely have solid evidence that if you buckle up, your odds of surviving these crashes improves. Two-thirds of our fatalities are unbelted. The evidence is not anecdotal, (it's) proven," Axdahl said.

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Fatal wrecks across area cause concern  [Hide Details](#)

Aberdeen American News (SD) - November 29, 2015 [Browse Issues](#)

Author/Byline: Elisa Sand esand@aberdeennews.com Section: Local Readability: >12 grade level (Lexile: 1420)

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Three dead in Saturday accident [Hide Details](#)

Aberdeen American News (SD) - November 22, 2015 [Browse Issues](#)

Author/Byline: kathy.jensen@aberdeennews.com Section: Local Readability: 9-12 grade level (Lexile: 1110)

Fatal accident: Christopher Michael McCoy, of Ipswich, was killed in a car accident on Highway 12 Saturday. His name was wrong in this story, from information provided by South Dakota Highway Patrol. The name has been corrected below. We regret the error.

Three people, including an Aberdeen doctor, were killed Saturday afternoon in an accident 1 mile west of Mina on U.S. Highway 12.

Michael Schlosser, 59, of Aberdeen was westbound in a 2008 GMC Sierra K150 pickup when he was struck by Kelly Pierce, 42, of Mellette, according to a South Dakota Highway Patrol news release.

Pierce was eastbound in a 2014 Dodge Dart and crossed the center line, according to the release.

Christopher Michael McCoy, 32, of Ipswich was a passenger with Pierce, the release said.

All three were pronounced dead at the scene. Schlosser and McCoy were wearing seatbelts, the release said.

Schlosser was an emergency room doctor at Avera St. Luke's Hospital.

"Our prayers and condolences are with Dr. Schlosser's family and the families of the other victims," Todd Forkel, regional president and CEO, said in a news release.

"Dr. Schlosser set a great example with his bedside manner and how he always took time to be a teacher to his co-workers. He will be deeply missed."

The accident closed U.S. Highway 12 for several hours and traffic was diverted. The Ipswich Fire Department and the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks helped direct traffic.

The Edmunds County Sheriff's Office, Brown County Sheriff's Office, Aberdeen Fire and Rescue and Ipswich Ambulance also responded to the scene.

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[Next](#)**Funeral times set for two in Mina accident**[Hide Details](#)*Aberdeen American News (SD) - October 9, 2015* [Browse Issues](#)*Author/Byline: Kathy Jensen kjensen@aberdeennews.com Section: Local Readability: 6-8 grade level (Lexile: 1010)*

A funeral service for two people killed in a Sept. 27 wreck near Mina is Saturday.

The services for both Frieda Trautman, 86, of Eureka, and Charles J. Neuharth, 62, of Eureka, will be 10 a.m. Saturday at the Eureka High School gymnasium. The Rev. James Grossmann will officiate.

Neuharth, 62, crossed the center line on U.S. Highway 12 after losing control of his vehicle, according to the South Dakota Highway Patrol. He struck a vehicle driven by **Shelby** Jo Thayer, 23, according to the accident report.

Trautman and Marilyn Neuharth, of Eureka, were passengers of Charles Neuharth.

Marilyn Neuharth, 62, remained in a Minneapolis hospital Thursday afternoon. A Hennepin County Medical Center nursing supervisor said she was in critical but stable condition.

Thayer's funeral was Oct. 1.

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Shelby Jo Thayer Hide Details

Aberdeen American News (SD) - September 30, 2015 Browse Issues

Author/Byline: Staff Writer Section: Obituaries Readability: 8-12 grade level (Lexile: 1100)

Aberdeen: Funeral service for Shelby Jo Thayer, 23, of Aberdeen and formerly of Forbes, N.D., will be 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, 2015, Zion Lutheran Church in Ellendale.

Burial will be in Aurdal Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at the church and one hour prior to the service, with a prayer service at 7 pm.

Shelby died Sunday, Sept. 27, 2015, from injuries sustained from a motor vehicle accident near Mina.

Shelby Jo Thayer was born Nov. 19, 1991, in Aberdeen. She began school in Hecla. In second grade, her family moved to Forbes, N.D. She attended Leola High School and graduated with honors in May 2010. On July 7, 2012, she gave birth to the light of her life, Easton Michael. Prior to her death, she held several administrative positions and worked as a waitress at various local venues.

In high school, Shelby loved to perform; she enjoyed playing the saxophone and being a member of the Leola High School show choir. She was a member of the oral interpretation team and Leola FBLA, serving as a state officer for South Dakota FBLA. Shelby was active in Girl Scouts, 4-H and a cast member in the high school plays. She enjoyed music, photography and was an avid reader. With a talent for hairdressing, she was called upon by many to style hair for formal occasions.

Shelby's smile could light up a room and her genuine concern for others touched the lives of many. Her son will continue to bring this light into the world of her family as he shares her smile and contagious laugh.

Grateful for having shared her life are her son, Easton; her fiance, Alan Petersen of Ipswich, and his daughter, Charlie; parents: Darci and Michael Wolff of Forbes, N.D., and Scott and Brenda Thayer of Aberdeen. Shelby is also survived by a brother, Landon (Alesha) Thayer of Forbes; three sisters: Lexi Thayer (Andrew Hoffman) of Aberdeen and Grace and Avery Wolff of Forbes; and a stepbrother, Dillon Spurr of Leola. She also leaves maternal grandparents, Robert and Gayle Lloyd of Hecla; paternal grandparents, Danny and Elaine Thayer of Cogswell, N.D.; as well as stepgrandparents, Ted and Karen Wolff of Forbes and Arthur Bretsch of Aberdeen. She is survived by three nieces; a nephew; and several aunts, uncles and cousins; who will miss her dearly.

Shelby was preceded in death by maternal great-grandparents: Ernest (Bud) Frohling and Ernest and Florence Lloyd; paternal great-grandparents: Delmar and Mavis Thayer, Henry Bernstein and Beverly Adolf; and stepgrandmother Donna Bretsch.

Carlsen Funeral Home of Ellendale has been entrusted with arrangements.

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Investigation continues in fatal Mina accident  Hide Details

Aberdeen American News (SD) - September 30, 2015 [Browse Issues](#)

Author/Byline: Kathy Jensen kjensen@aberdeennews.com Section: Local Readability: 10-12 grade level (Lexile: 1190)

No new information was available Tuesday concerning an investigation into the two-vehicle accident near Mina that killed three people.

"The investigation is still continuing," said Tony Mangan, public information officer for the South Dakota Department of Safety.

Charles J. Neuharth, 62, of Eureka was traveling east on U.S. Highway 12 on Sunday when he lost control, crossing the center line and hitting a vehicle driven by Shelby Thayer, 23, of Aberdeen.

Both Neuharth and Thayer were killed in the collision, as was Frieda Trautman, 86, of Eureka, who was a passenger Neuharth's vehicle.

Another passenger with Neuharth, Marilyn Neuharth, 62, of Eureka suffered life-threatening injuries, according to the South Dakota Highway Patrol.

She was transferred to a hospital in Minneapolis, Mangan said. The specific hospital was not available, he said.

Funeral arrangements for Charles Neuharth and Trautman are still pending with Carlsen Funeral Home of Eureka.

The funeral service for Thayer will be 10 a.m. Thursday at Zion Lutheran Church in Ellendale, N.D. Visitation is today from 5 to 7 p.m. at the church, with a prayer service at 7 p.m. There will also be visitation one hour prior to the funeral.

"She was the light of everything. Her smile lit up the room," Thayer's mother, Darci Wolff, said Tuesday. "She was a very fun, loving young lady."

Family was very important to Thayer and she was very close to her family members, Wolff said.

"Her little boy was her world," Wolff said. "She spent a lot of time going to her siblings' activities."

Thayer had one brother, three sisters and a stepbrother.

"Anyone who was down, she was going to pick them up and try to help, no matter what," Wolff said, remembering her daughter as a caring and generous person.

Thayer was engaged to Alan Petersen, an Edmunds County sheriff's deputy.

Thayer graduated from Leola High School in 2010.

The Neuharth family declined comment on the accident.

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Youngest victim in Mina-area accident was a mother  [Hide Details](#)

Aberdeen American News (SD) - September 29, 2015 [Browse Issues](#)

Author/Byline: Kathy Jensen kjensen@aberdeennews.com Section: Local Readability: 8-12 grade level (Lexile: 1100)

An Aberdeen woman who was one of three people killed in a Sunday afternoon wreck near Mina had a young son and was engaged to be married.

Shelby Jo Thayer, 23, was westbound on U.S. Highway 12 driving a 2011 Dodge Avenger when her vehicle was struck, according to the South Dakota Highway Patrol.

A Jeep Grand Cherokee, driven by Charles J. Neuharth, 62, of Eureka was traveling east on U.S. Highway 12 when he lost control and crossed the center line, according to the release. The Jeep hit "nearly head on" with Thayer's vehicle, according to the release.

Neuharth was also killed in the collision. So was Frieda Trautman, 86, of Eureka, who was a passenger in the Jeep.

Another passenger in the Jeep, Marilyn Neuharth, 62, of Eureka suffered life-threatening injuries, according to the Highway Patrol. She was transferred. A condition update was not available Monday night.

Thayer was a bartender at Rohly's Bar and became part of the tight-knit family there, her friends said Monday evening.

"She was my adopted daughter. She was beautiful and as loving as you could possibly get," Rebekah LeFort said.

"She was loved by all at Rohly's. Rohly's family will always love and miss her," LeFort said.

"If you didn't fall in love with her in the first five minutes, you weren't there for five minutes," Devin Rathert, another of Thayer's friends, said. "She loved her friends."

For Miranda McConaughey, Rebekah LeFort and Narciss LeFort, Thayer was more than a friend, she was family.

"She brought our daughter (Miranda) back from Rapid City and become part of our family. She adopted us," Rebekah LeFort said.

"She was always there for me," McConaughey said. "I'll never forget her. She was an amazing friend and sister. She would have done anything for anyone. "

Thayer had a son, Easton, 3, and was engaged to Alan Petersen, according to information posted on the Facebook page for the Edmunds County Sheriff's Office. Petersen is an Edmunds County deputy.

"She adored her son, Easton. Her son was her world," Rebekah LeFort said. "She had an amazing fiance, Alan Petersen. He was a huge part of her life."

Thayer loved to play beanbags and was an excellent bartender, her friends said.

A candle and balloon vigil for Thayer is set for Saturday at 7 p.m. at Rohly's.

Funeral services for Thayer will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Zion Lutheran Church in Ellendale, N.D. Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at the church, with a prayer service at 7 p.m.

Funeral arrangements for Trautman and Charles Neuharth are pending with Carlsen Funeral Home of Eureka.

The wreck happened around 3 p.m. on U.S. Highway 12 at mile marker 278, according to the release. That's near the Mina overpass.

Dateline: Aberdeen, SD Record: ac2c9deed410c85577dea1e5d94e7c984d91c351

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Aberdeen, Ipswich residents injured in U.S. Highway 12 collision [Hide Details](#)

Aberdeen American News (SD) - September 28, 2013 [Browse Issues](#)

Author/Byline: Staff reports American News Section: Living Readability: 6-8 grade level (Lexile: 1040)

An Aberdeen man and two Ipswich residents were injured in an accident Friday afternoon east of Ipswich.

Sheilan Walz, 57, of Aberdeen was westbound on U.S. Highway 12 when he approached a vehicle waiting to make a left turn onto 365th Ave., according to Trooper T.J. Serr of the South Dakota Highway Patrol.

At the same time, a vehicle driven by Wesley Stern, 70, of rural Ipswich was eastbound approaching the same intersection on U.S. Highway 12, according to Serr.

The driver of the vehicle that had been waiting to turn turned right instead to avoid a collision with Walz's pickup, according to Serr. Walz then crossed the center line and collided nearly head-on with the Stern vehicle.

Walz and Stern's passenger — Sylvia Stern, 67, of rural Ipswich — were transported by Ipswich Ambulance to Avera St. Luke's Hospital. Wesley Stern was transported by Aberdeen Fire and Rescue to Avera St. Luke's, according to Serr.

Wesley Stern was listed in fair condition and Sylvia Stern was in serious condition as of late Friday night, according to a nursing supervisor at Avera St. Luke's. Walz was transferred to another hospital. His condition and location were not known.

Also responding to the scene were the Ipswich Fire Department and the Edmunds County Sheriff's Department. The accident is still under investigation by the Highway Patrol.

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Aberdeen man's condition upgraded from critical to fair  [Hide Details](#)

Aberdeen American News (SD) - October 3, 2013 [Browse Issues](#)

Author/Byline: Scott Feldman sfeldman@aberdeennews.com **American News** **Section:** News

Readability: >12 grade level (Lexile: 1350)

An Aberdeen man who was injured in collision Friday afternoon about 6 miles east of Ipswich has been upgraded from critical to fair condition, a spokeswoman for Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls said.

After a near head-on collision between two vehicles on U.S. Highway 12 near 365th Avenue, Shielan Walz was taken to Avera St. Luke's Hospital and was later transferred to Avera McKennan Hospital, where he was originally listed in critical condition, according to a nursing supervisor.

Two Ipswich residents, Wesley **Stem**, 70, and **Sylvia Stem**, 67, were also injured in the collision. **Wesley Stem** remains at Avera St. Luke's Hospital in fair condition, a nursing supervisor said.

The condition of **Sylvia Stem**, who was initially taken to Avera St. Luke's before she was flown to McKennan, was unavailable Wednesday night.

The incident is still under investigation, said Lt. Doug Coughlin of the South Dakota State Highway Patrol.

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OR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, Sept. 28, 2015

CONTACT: Capt. Rob Weinmeister, Lt. Caleb Walters, Lt. Doug Coughlin
South Dakota Highway Patrol, 605-626-2286 OR
Tony Mangan, Department of Public Safety, 605-773-6196

Edmunds County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash

Where: U.S. Highway 12, mile marker 278, near Mina overpass

When: 3:12 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 27, 2015

Driver 1: Shelby Thayer, 23, Aberdeen, S.D., Fatal

Vehicle: 2011 Dodge Avenger

Driver 2: Charles Neuharth, 62, Eureka, S.D., Fatal

Passengers: Marilyn Neuharth, 62, Eureka, S.D., Life-Threatening Injuries

Frieda Trautman, 86, Eureka, S.D., Fatal

Vehicle: 2002 Jeep Grand Cherokee

MINA, S.D. – Three people died in a two-vehicle accident that occurred Sunday afternoon near Mina, S.D.

A Jeep Grand Cherokee, driven by Charles Neuharth, 62, Eureka, S.D., was traveling east on U.S. Highway 12 when he lost control and the vehicle crossed the center line. The Jeep collided nearly head on with a westbound 2011 Dodge Avenger, driven by Shelby Thayer, 23, Aberdeen, S.D.

Both drivers were killed as was Frieda Trautman, 86, Eureka, S.D., who was a passenger in the Neuharth vehicle. Another passenger in the same vehicle, Marilyn Neuharth, 62, Eureka, S.D., sustained life-threatening injuries.

All three occupants of the Jeep were wearing seatbelts. Thayer was not wearing a seatbelt.

The Highway Patrol continues to investigate. Other agencies responding to the scene were the Edmunds County Sheriff's Office, Brown County Sheriff's Office, Brown County Fire and Rescue, Ipswich Fire and Rescue and Avera Care Flight.

The Highway Patrol is part of the state Department of Public Safety.

SD Couple Dies In Multi-Vehicle Crash Near Ipswich

December 7, 2012, 7:54 PM

NEAR IPSWICH, SD - A multi-vehicle crash near Ipswich Friday morning kills a South Dakota couple.

0

G+1

Authorities say 82-year-old Henry Huft was driving on Highway 12 east of Ipswich when he lost control of his pickup. The pickup then collided with a van, went into the ditch and was hit by another vehicle.

Huft and his wife Donnis, of Bowdle, died in the crash. Neither were wearing their seatbelts.

The driver of the van, Douglas Kenny, 54, was wearing his seatbelt. He has serious injuries.

10

The third vehicle, driven by a minor, went into the ditch to avoid the crash. That vehicle struck the driver's side of the Huft's vehicle in the ditch.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating.

OR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Saturday, Jan. 4, 2013

CONTACT: Capt. Rob Weinmeister, Lt. Caleb Walters or Lt. Doug Coughlin,
S.D. Highway Patrol, 605-626-2286

Edmunds County Fatal Crash

What: Three-vehicle fatal crash

Where: US Highway 12, six miles east of Ipswich, SD

When: Friday, Jan. 3, 2014, 3:26 p.m.

Driver 1: Stephen Donald Simon, 19, Groton, SD, minor injuries

Vehicle 1: 1997 Freightliner semi-truck with trailer

Driver 2: Lavinena E. Guthmiller, 78, Eureka, SD, fatal

Passenger 1: Evelyn Katharina Scheuffele, 76, Eureka, SD, fatal

Vehicle 2: 1998 Ford Explorer

Driver 3: Hedi Noel Schauer, 29, Ashley, ND, no injuries

Vehicle 3: 2005 Chevrolet Malibu

IPSWICH, S.D. – Two Eureka, S.D., women died in a three-vehicle crash on U.S. Highway 12 about six miles east of Ipswich on Friday, Jan. 3.

Lavinena E. Guthmiller, 78, was westbound driving a 1998 Ford Explorer. Her vehicle slid sideways on an icy patch of highway into the eastbound lane where it collided with an eastbound 1997 Freightliner semi-truck hauling a load of baled hay.

Guthmiller's vehicle entered the south ditch. She was thrown from the vehicle and was dead at the scene. A passenger, Evelyn Katharina Scheuffele, 76, also died in the crash. Neither occupant was wearing a seatbelt.

After the collision, the Freightliner entered the north ditch, where it struck a 2005 Chevrolet Malibu. Stephen Donald Simon, 19, of Groton, S.D., was driving the Freightliner. He suffered minor injuries. He wasn't wearing a seatbelt.

Hedi Noel Schauer, 29, of Ashley, N.D., was driving the Chevrolet. She said she drove into the ditch to try to avoid the first crash. Schauer, who was wearing a seatbelt, and a minor passenger in a child seat, were not injured.

No further information is immediately available.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating. Edmunds County Sheriff's Office, Ipswich Ambulance, Ipswich Fire Department and Aberdeen Fire and Rescue assisted.

Three people are dead following a two-vehicle crash west of Mina that forced the closure of U.S. Highway 12 for more than 2 hours.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says the crash happened around 2:45 p.m. Saturday, when a pickup truck traveling west on Highway 12 was struck by a car that was eastbound and crossed the center line.

Authorities say the pickup's driver, 59-year-old Michael Schlosser, and the car's two occupants, 42-year-old Kelly Pierce and 32-year-old Christopher McCoy, were pronounced dead at the scene.

The Aberdeen American News reports Schlosser, of Aberdeen, was an emergency room doctor at Avera St. Luke's Hospital.

Authorities say Pierce, of Mellete, was driving the car that struck the pickup. They say Schlosser and McCoy, of Ipswich, were wearing seatbelts.

The Highway Patrol says the crash remains under investigation.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015

CONTACT: Capt. Rob Weinmeister, Lt. Caleb Walters, Lt. Doug Coughlin South Dakota Highway Patrol, 605-626-2286 OR Tony Mangan, Department of Public Safety, 605-773-6196

Edmunds County Fatal Crash

What: Two-vehicle fatal crash

Where: U.S. Highway 12, mile marker 273, one mile west of Mina, S.D.

When: 2:45 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015

Driver No. 1: Michael Schlosser, 59, Aberdeen, S.D., Fatal Injuries

Vehicle: 2008 GMC Sierra K150 Pickup

Driver No. 2: Kelly Pierce, 42, Mellette, S.D., Fatal Injuries

Passenger: Christopher McCoy, 32, Ipswich, S.D., Fatal Injuries

Vehicle: 2014 Dodge Dart

MINA, S.D. – Three people were killed in a two-vehicle crash that occurred Saturday afternoon, one mile west of Mina, S.D.

A 2008 GMC Sierra K150 pickup was traveling west on U.S. Highway 12. It was struck by a 2014 Dodge Dart which was eastbound and crossed the center line.

All three occupants were pronounced dead at the scene: Michael Schlosser, 59, of Aberdeen, who was driving the pickup; Kelly Pierce, 42, of Mellette, S.D., who was driving the Dodge Dart and his passenger, Christopher McCoy, 32, Ipswich. Schlosser and McCoy were wearing seatbelts.

Because of the crash, that section of U.S. Highway 12 was closed to traffic for 2 ½ hours.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol continues to investigate. Other agencies responding to the scene were Edmunds County Sheriff's Office, Brown County Sheriff's Office, Aberdeen Fire and Rescue, Ipswich Ambulance, state Game, Fish and Parks Department, Edmunds County Coroner, Brown County Coroner and Ipswich Fire Department.

The Highway Patrol is part of the state Department of Public Safety.

MINA, SD - Three people were killed in a crash near Mina, South Dakota, Sunday afternoon.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says Charles Neuharth, 62, of Eureka, lost control of his Jeep Grand Cherokee as he was driving east on U.S. Highway 12. The Jeep crossed the center line and collided nearly head on with Dodge Avenger, which was headed west. Neuharth and the other driver, Shelby Thayer, 23, of Aberdeen, both died.

A passenger in the Jeep, Frieda Trautman, 86, of Eureka also died. Another passenger in the Jeep has life-threatening injuries.

Troopers with the Highway Patrol continue to investigate.

ABERDEEN — Diamond-shaped signs mark the spots along the state's highways where fatal accidents have occurred, but the Edmunds County sheriff has seen enough wrecks in his county to know something needs to change along U.S. Highway 12.

"I'm urging the public to contact the South Dakota Department of Transportation, contact the governor and contact their representatives in their district and talk about their concerns with the highway and these unneeded fatalities," Edmunds County Sheriff Todd Holtz told the American News.

Highway 12 from the state Highway 45 intersection at Craven Corner into Brown County, where the highway divides west of Aberdeen, has historically been a bad stretch, he said.

"We have a lot of (grain) terminals out here, a lot of truck traffic, and there's just a lot of extra traffic on the road than ever before," Holtz said.

About two weeks ago, another wreck, and more lives lost: Two vehicles traveling in opposite directions hit head-on near Mina, killing three people.

From the start of 2010 through the end of last month, there were nine accidents that resulted in fatalities in the 100 miles between Aberdeen and Mobridge, according to information from the state Department of Public Safety. And those numbers don't include the crash near Mina.

Those nine fatal accidents represent 1.4 percent of the 663 accidents between 2010 and the end of October along U.S. Highway 12 from Aberdeen to Mobridge, the statistics show. With the wreck near Mina folded in, 18 people have died on the highway in not quite six years.

Lee Axdahl, director of the Office of Highway Safety, said it's difficult to evaluate highway safety.

Statewide there were 17,346 accidents in 2014, according to department records. Of those accidents 136 — about 0.8 percent — were fatal.

"If you were to plot out the fatalities, it's spread out across the state, which makes it difficult, with tens of thousands of county roads and interstates, to always have the law enforcement out there to prevent accidents," Axdahl said.

Axdahl said statistics from all crash reports across the state are processed each year by the Department of Public Safety, and the factors that contribute to those accidents are evaluated to see why the crashes happened and if any mitigating action is needed.

"From our angle, we look at the data and use that data to try to figure out where in the state something might happen next," Axdahl said.

As an example, he said, a high number of alcohol-related accidents could result in more frequent sobriety checkpoints. If there's a structural change that can improve the safety of a road, he said, the DOT evaluates the area.

Day County Sheriff Barry Hillestad said that type of safety evaluation is happening now along the curves of U.S. Highway 12 near Andover, about 35 miles east of Aberdeen. Department of Public Safety statistics show two fatal accidents there this year and one each in 2013 and 2014.

"A lot of it has been alcohol-involved crashes in that area," Hillestad said.

Even though alcohol has been a factor in some of the Day County crashes, the DOT did a review of the road because of the high rate of crashes, Hillestad said. He said some remedies discussed include modifying the road surface for increased traction, changing signage and adjusting culverts.

Phil Dwight, area engineer for the state DOT, said there has been talk of a high-friction surface near Andover, but there are no immediate plans.

Realigning a culvert in that area has also been discussed. That's because two recent fatal accidents involved vehicles leaving the road and hitting a 5-foot wide culvert, Dwight said.

"It shows us we need to do something," he said.

Dwight said similar safety conversations are planned in reference to the stretch of highway near Mina.

Edmunds Sheriff Holtz said he has no doubt increased traffic and increased wild animal collisions factor into highway safety. With more animal crashes, Holtz said, drivers tend to slow down, which leads to bottlenecks along the highway.

"A four-lane highway is a tremendously good idea to help curb this and give room for error," he said.

The DOT tracks traffic along U.S. Highway 12 and has counts for Walworth County west of Glenham and Brown County west of Groton, but no data specific to Edmunds County. Both of the other stretches show a predominant increase in traffic from 2014 to this year. Brown County traffic, at 2,400 to 3,400 vehicles per day, is about triple the Walworth County traffic of 760 to 1,200 vehicles per day, the statistics show.

Another option would be the addition of rumble strips along the center of the highway, Holtz said. That's something he's seen in Wisconsin, Minnesota and North Dakota.

The recent increase in fatal accidents along U.S. Highway 12 has some officials perplexed.

"We're not sure if it's distracted driving or road conditions," Brown County Chief Deputy Tom Schmidt said. "It's got us all kinds of confused."

Fatal wrecks across area cause concern

2015-11-29 | American News



Nov. 29--Diamond-shaped signs mark the spots along the state's highways where fatal accidents have occurred, but the Edmunds County Sheriff has seen enough wrecks in his county to know something needs to change along U.S. Highway 12.

"I'm urging the public to contact the South Dakota Department of Transportation, contact the governor and contact their representatives in their district and talk about their concerns with the highway and these unneeded fatalities," Edmunds County Sheriff Todd Holtz said.

U.S. Highway 12 from the state Highway 45 intersection at Craven Corner into Brown County, where the highway divides west of Aberdeen, has historically been a bad stretch, he said.

"We have a lot of (grain) terminals out here, a lot of truck traffic, and there's just a lot of extra traffic on the road than ever before," Holtz said.

Just less than two weeks ago, another wreck, and more lives lost: Two vehicles traveling in opposite directions hit head-on near Mina, killing three people.

A closer look

From the start of 2010 through the end of last month, there were nine accidents that resulted in fatalities in the 100 miles between Aberdeen and Mobridge, according to information from the state Department of Public Safety. And those numbers don't include the crash last week a mile west of Mina in which three people were killed.

Those nine fatal accidents represent 1.4 percent of the 663 accidents between 2010 and the end of October along U.S. Highway from Aberdeen to Mobridge, the statistics show. With last week's wreck folded in, 18 people have died on the highway in not quite six years.

Since 2010, five of the 10 fatal accidents (including last week's) were near Mina:

-- Nov. 21: Two vehicles traveling in opposite directions collided a mile west of Mina. Michael Schlosser, 59, of Aberdeen; Kelly Pierce, 42, of Mellette; and Christopher M. McCoy, 32, of Ipswich, died.

-- Sept. 27: Two vehicles traveling in opposite directions collided near the Mina overpass. Shelby Jo Thayer, 23, of Aberdeen; Frie Trautman, 86, of Eureka and Charles J. Neuharth, 62, of Eureka, died.

-- July 17, 2014: A car and semi traveling in opposite directions collided 2 miles east of Mina. Maury Victor Morisch, 48, of Aberdeen died.

-- Jan. 3, 2014: A sport utility vehicle and semi traveling in opposite directions collided 6 miles east of Ipswich. Lavinena E. Guthmiller, 78, and Evelyn K. Scheuffele, 76, both of Eureka, died.

-- Dec. 7, 2012: A pickup and van traveling in opposite directions collided 7 miles east of Ipswich. Henry Huft, 82, and Donnis Hul 77, both of Bowdle, died.

Different

circumstances

The crashes weren't in exactly the same place and the reasons for the accidents differ. Lee Axdahl, director of the Office of Highway Safety, said these are just a couple reasons why it's difficult to evaluate highway safety.

Statewide there were 17,346 accidents in 2014, according to Department of Public Safety records. Of those accidents 136 -- about 0.8 percent -- were fatal.

"If you were to plot out the fatalities, it's spread out across the state, which makes it difficult, with tens of thousands of county roads and interstates, to always have the law enforcement out there to prevent accidents," Axdahl said.

Axdahl said statistics from all crash reports across the state are processed each year by the Department of Public Safety, and the factors that contribute to those accidents are evaluated to see why the crashes happened and if any mitigating action is needed.

"From our angle, we look at the data and use that data to try to figure out where in the state something might happen next," Axdahl said.

As an example, he said, a high number of alcohol-related accidents could result in more frequent sobriety checkpoints. If there's structural change that can improve the safety of a road, he said, the DOT evaluates the area.

Highway evaluations

Day County Sheriff Barry Hillestad said that type of safety evaluation is happening now along the curves of U.S. Highway 12 near Andover, about 35 miles east of Aberdeen. Department of Public Safety statistics show two fatal accidents along the curves east of Andover this year and one each in 2013 and 2014.

"A lot of it has been alcohol-involved crashes in that area," Hillestad said.

That was the case in the most recent fatal crash, involving the driver of a van who was heading the wrong direction on the divided highway and ran into a recreational vehicle, he said.

A Minnesota man was killed in that crash in the early morning hours of Oct. 25. Others were injured when the vehicles collided in the westbound lanes.

Even though alcohol has been a factor in some of the Day County crashes, the DOT did a review of the road because of the high rate of crashes, Hillestad said. He said some remedies discussed include modifying the road surface for increased traction, changing signage and adjusting culverts.

Phil Dwight, area engineer for the state DOT, said there has been talk of a high-friction surface near Andover, but there are no immediate plans.

Realigning a culvert in that area has also been discussed. That's because two recent fatal accidents involved vehicles leaving the road and hitting a 5-foot wide culvert, Dwight said.

"It shows us we need to do something," he said.

Dwight said similar safety conversations are planned in reference to the stretch of highway near Mina.

Edmunds Sheriff Holtz said he has no doubt increased traffic and increased wild animal collisions factor into highway safety. With more animal crashes, Holtz said, drivers tend to slow down, which leads to bottlenecks along the highway.

"A four-lane highway is a tremendously good idea to help curb this and give room for error," he said.

Laura Hanson, an employee at Glacial Lakes Energy a mile west of Mina, said she hasn't noticed a significant increase in traffic during the five years she's worked at the plant, but highway traffic is steady.

"I relate the number (of fatal accidents) to human error," she said.

The DOT tracks traffic along U.S. Highway 12 and has counts for Walworth County west of Glenham and Brown County west of Groton, but no data specific to Edmunds County. Both of the other stretches show a predominant increase in traffic from 2014 to this year. Brown County traffic, at 2,400 to 3,400 vehicles per day, is about triple the Walworth County traffic of 760 to 1,200 vehicles per day, the statistics show.

Another option would be the addition of rumble strips along the center of the highway, Holtz said. That's something he's seen in Wisconsin, Minnesota and North Dakota.

Hanson said she agrees with Holtz "100 percent" about the rumble strips. She's aware of their use in North Dakota and said they help in alerting drivers that they are crossing that center line.

No easy answers

The recent increase in fatal accidents along U.S. Highway 12 has some officials perplexed.

"We're not sure if it's distracted driving or road conditions," Brown County Chief Deputy Tom Schmidt said. "It's got us all kinds of confused."

These fatalities are only a fraction of the accidents happening along the highway between 2010 and the end of October. Of the 663 crashes between Aberdeen and Mobridge, 88.3 percent were accidents where only property was damaged and no one was injured. The remaining 10.3 percent of the accidents were nonfatal injury accidents where 116 people were hurt.

The common causes of most injuries, if not deaths, stem from drivers not wearing seatbelts, using alcohol and driving too fast, Axdahl said.

"The thing that we just continue to stress from this end is that we really, absolutely have solid evidence that if you buckle up, your odds of surviving these crashes improves. Two-thirds of our fatalities are unbelted. The evidence is not anecdotal, (it's) proven," Axdahl said.

Holtz said he recently spoke with local students about changing their driving habits and avoiding distractions in the vehicle like answering phones or text messaging.

"It takes a minimum of 30 days to change a habit," he said. "After 45 days, it doesn't become such a big thing."

Follow @ElisaSand_aan on Twitter.

Crash data from U.S. Highway 12 between Aberdeen and Mobridge

2015 (through October): 3 fatal crashes*, 7 injury crashes, 65 property damage crashes, 5 deaths*, 19 injured.

2014: 3 fatal crashes, 11 injury crashes, 107 property damage crashes, 6 deaths, 17 injured.

2013: No fatal crashes, 14 injury crashes, 95 property damage crashes, 23 injured.

2012: 2 fatal crashes, 12 injury crashes, 91 property damage crashes, 3 deaths, 20 injured.

2011: 1 fatal crash, 9 injury crashes, 107 property damage crashes, 1 death; 14 injured.

2010: No fatal crashes, 15 injury crashes, 121 property damage crashes, 23 injured.

* Doesn't include a fatal crash last week in which three people died.

Source: South Dakota Department of Public Safety

Fatal crashes in 2015 between Aberdeen and Mobridge

-- May 17: 12 miles west of Bowdle, 1 killed, 5 injured.

-- July 21: 4 miles west of Selby, 1 killed, 1 injured.

-- Sept. 27: Mina overpass, 3 killed, 1 injured.

American News

Aberdeen, S.D.

Sunday, November 22, 2015

AberdeenNews.com

Three dead in Saturday accident

Aberdeen doctor among those killed

BY KATHY JENSEN
kjensen@aberdeennews.com

Three people, including an Aberdeen doctor, were killed Saturday afternoon in an accident 1 mile west of Mina on U.S. Highway 12.

Michael Schlosser, 59, of Aberdeen was westbound in a 2008 GMC Sierra K150 pickup when he was struck by Kelly Pierce, 42, of Mellette, according to a South Dakota Highway Patrol news release.

Pierce was eastbound

in a 2014 Dodge Dart and crossed the center line, according to the release.

Michael McCoy, 32, of Ipswich was a passenger with Pierce, the release said.

All three were pronounced dead at the

scene. Schlosser and McCoy were wearing seatbelts, the release said.

Schlosser was an emergency room doctor at Aveira St. Luke's Hospital.

"Our prayers and condolences are with Dr. Schlosser's family and the

families of the other victims," Todd Forkel, regional president and CEO, said in a news release.

"Dr. Schlosser set a great example with his bedside manner and how he always took time to be a teacher to his co-workers. He will be deeply missed."

The accident closed U.S. Highway 12 for several hours and traffic was

diverted. The Ipswich Fire Department and the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks helped direct traffic.

The Edmunds County Sheriff's Office, Brown County Sheriff's Office, Aberdeen Fire and Rescue and Ipswich Ambulance also responded to the scene.

Follow @kjensen_AAN on Twitter.

es Matt Damon in 'The Martian' 3E

American News

Thursday, October 1, 2015

AberdeenNews.com

Petition effort underway

City puts public vote on \$8M project

Aberdeen City Council put a new library, said that distributing petitions to about 30 circulators will be working to obtain signatures needed to give voters the authority to approve or deny the job. The council held its approval Monday to

the financing plan for the project, which commits \$5.9 million in city funds for a new library. The Alexander Mitchell Public Library Foundation has pledged to raise \$2.1 million toward the project.

The ordinance outlines the financing with two separate

bond issues — one for the foundation's commitment and one for the city's.

The foundation has indicated that \$600,000 in cash will be available for the new library, so the bond financing proposal includes \$1.5 million in taxable bonds that will be paid over the first five years.

See Petition, 5A

NEWS & NOTES

MINA

Crash survivor critical but stable

A woman injured in a Sunday afternoon crash near Mina was in critical but stable condition on Wednesday evening, said a nursing supervisor at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis.

Marilyn Neuharth, 62, was the sole survivor of the wreck. She sustained life-threatening injuries, according to a news release from the South Dakota Highway Patrol.

Neuharth and Frieda Trautman, 86, were passengers in a Jeep Grand Cherokee driven by Charles J. Neuharth, 62, the release said.

Charles Neuharth crossed the center line on U.S. Highway 12 after losing control of his vehicle and hit almost head-on a Dodge Avenger driven by Shelby Thayer, 23, the Highway Patrol said.

Charles Neuharth, Trautman and Thayer were killed.

Funeral arrangements are still pending for Neuharth and Trautman.

— Reporter Kathy Jensen; follow [kjensen_AAN](#) on Twitter.

FESTIVAL



ABERDEEN

Victim identified in shed-moving accident

The man who died in a Tuesday forklift accident in Aberdeen has been identified as Jason Alden, 43, of Mellette, authorities have said.

Alden was pinned under a storage shed Tuesday morning, according to a news release from the Aberdeen Police Department. He was assisting

Inside