

RESOLUTION NO. R21 -24

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO REQUEST A TRAFFIC STUDY FOR A PORTION OF WEST MAIN STREET WITHIN THE CITY OF LAUREL.

WHEREAS, City Staff has recommended the Mayor and City Council consider requesting a traffic study on West Main Street, from the intersection of 4th Avenue to the 900 Block of West Main Street to determine if a lower speed limit is appropriate as well as installing a four way stop at West Main Street and 5th Avenue due to high traffic volume at the intersection; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor met with Staff and determined that a traffic study is appropriate and necessary due to the City's growth and increased traffic in the areas identified by Staff; and

WHEREAS, based on the recommendations of the City Staff and Mayor, the City Council has determined requesting a traffic study for the area identified herein is in the City's best interest at this time.

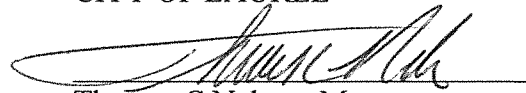
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, that the Mayor is hereby requested and authorized to submit a written request to the Montana Department of Transportation ("MDOT") on the City's behalf, requesting a traffic study that is consistent with the recommendations from City Staff which are attached hereto and incorporated herein.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council on April 13, 2021 by Council Member Wilke.

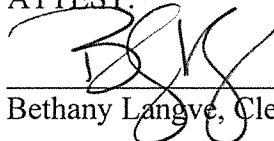
PASSED and APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana this 13th day of April 2021.

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR this 13th day of April 2021.

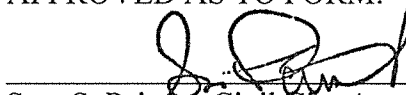
CITY OF LAUREL


Thomas C Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Bethany Langve, Clerk/Treasurer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Sam S. Painter, Civil City Attorney

CITY HALL
115 W. 1ST ST.
PLANNING: 628-4796
WATER OFC.: 628-7431
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City Of Laurel

P.O. Box 10
Laurel, Montana 59044



Office of the City Planner

January 13, 2021

Regarding the Need for a Traffic/Speed Study at the Intersection of West Main Street and 5th Avenue.

Mr. Mayor and City Council,

I would like to have City Council discuss approving the submittal of a letter to MDT to study the intersection of West Main Street and 5th Avenue. Chief Langve contacted me in the fall to discuss the need for a traffic and/or speed study at the intersection of West Main Street and 5th Avenue. Increased development on the western edge of Laurel and the recent opening of the West Laurel Interchange will bring increased traffic volume into the city. He would like to see some sort of traffic/speed mitigation to handle the steady increase in traffic in that area.

Chief Langve and I would like to see this intersection studied by MDT. MDT can conduct a traffic/speed study of the situation after receiving a letter from the City Council officially stating the request. I would be happy to draft the text of a letter to provide to MDT on behalf of the City Council. I have also provided Chief Langve's letter on the situation. Please let me know if you have any questions about this request. Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Nicholas Altonaga, CFM

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

Planning Director



LAUREL POLICE DEPARTMENT

215 West 1st Street, Laurel, MT 59044 Phone: 406-628-8737 Fax: 406-628-4641

Chief of Police Stanley J Langve

September 30, 2020

To whom it may concern,

I am writing regarding traffic concerns on West Main Street in Laurel, MT. Currently the speed limit increases from 25 MPH to 35 MPH as you are west bound on West Main Street near the intersection with 4th Avenue. It then increases to 45 MPH around the 900 Block of West Main Street.

I am a lifelong resident of Laurel and this has been the speed limit configuration for as long as I can recall. Both as a resident and a Police Officer, I have noticed many changes in Laurel over the decades. The City of Laurel is growing as is the area surrounding Laurel. This has meant an increase in businesses, population density, and vehicle traffic. I have long believed that the 35 MPH speed limit from 4th Avenue to the 900 block of West Main Street was too fast and should be reduced to 25 MPH out to the west of Wood's Powr -Grip. With the recent improvements of the West Laurel interchange there will be significant increases to vehicle traffic and development to the west side of Laurel. In my opinion, this is a change that is decades overdue.

I also support a study to determine the feasibility of making the intersection of West Main Street and 5th Avenue a 4-way stop. There is significant traffic that uses the 5th Avenue crossing due too refinery traffic and the Laurel South School. With West Main being a through street, it creates a significant hazard with vehicles and school busses attempting to navigate the increased traffic flow aggravated by the 35 MPH speed zone. A 4-way stop would help traffic getting onto and leaving south 5th Avenue. It would also greatly increase the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians attempting to cross West Main Street.

These two easily implemented and inexpensive measures could be put into place quickly and greatly increase the safety of our motoring, bicycling, and pedestrian public.

Respectfully,

Chief Stanley J. Langve