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September 15, 2008

Jason Green
City Attorney
300 6th St.
Rapid City, SD 57701



Re: Dangerous Catron Boulevard turn

Dear Jason:

Enclosed are my letter of September 4 to Robert Ellis and his e-mail response of September 9. Per our discussion, I would like to appear before the Public Works Committee on Tuesday, September 30 at 12:30 p.m. I will request that the Public Works Committee prioritize this issue.

Thanks for your assistance.

Very truly yours,


James D. Leach

JDL/jlo
Enclosure

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September 4, 2008

Robert Ellis
Public Works Director
City of Rapid City
300 6th St.
Rapid City, SD 57701

Re: Dangerous Catron Boulevard turn

Dear Robert:


My wife and I frequently travel Catron Boulevard between Sheridan Lake Road and Highway 16. Our 17 year old daughter travels it daily to and from school. As you know, a large apartment complex has gone in on the south side of Catron Boulevard about half a mile east of Sheridan Lake Road.

Cars traveling on Catron toward Sheridan Lake Road stop to turn left into the apartment complex. It is a one-lane road downhill and there is no signal and no left turn lane. This is dangerous and could result in a serious multi-car collision if cars behind the turning car hit the turning car. It would be dangerous if the road were flat and cars traveled only 35 or 40 miles per hour, but since the road is downhill and cars are going at least the 50 mph speed limit, often faster, it is very dangerous in our opinion.

I don't know what the applicable highway codes say, but this is an unsafe condition. Please fix it before someone is badly injured.

Thank you for listening. Please let us know your thoughts.

Very truly yours,



James D. Leach

Jim Leach

From: "Ellis Robert" <Robert.Ellis@rcgov.org>
To: <jim@southdakotajustice.com>
Cc: "Tech Dale" <Dale.Tech@rcgov.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 09, 2008 11:50 AM
Subject: Turn Lane on Catron Blvd (Sheridan Lake Rd - HWY 16)

James,

Thank you for your letter inquiring about the need for a left-turn lane on Catron Boulevard for the entrance into the apartment complex. When this street was built some years ago we graded the subsurface to allow for the future installation of a left-turn lane. Making this improvement would require the installation of asphalt and changes to the pavement markings which is likely to cost approximately \$250K. This was originally included in the tax increment project plan in that area, but due to escalating construction costs there was not enough funding to complete that task. However, knowing that a turn lane will be needed sooner rather than later we will attempt to get it programmed in within our five year capital improvement plan.

Again, thank you for contacting us about this issue and feel free to call with any questions.

Robert Ellis, PE, PTOE
Public Works Director
City of Rapid City
Ph: (605) 394-4154
Fax: (605) 355-3083

9/12/2008