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To the Road Advisory Committee:

I support Apryl Smith's efforts to have guardrails installed at critical points along Jasper-Lowell Road. It would seem that the reality of two fatalities in five years along this stretch would be reason enough to move this project to a priority high enough for funding as soon as possible.

I frequently drive this route into Springfield, as do many residents of the Lowell-Fall Creek area. We count on our children, spouses and friends to be able to make it home safely. However, the presence of an unguarded, narrow shoulder next to a fast moving river on one side of the road coupled with a narrow shoulder at the bottom of a steep, wooded hillside on the other side makes traveling this road very dangerous. While we appreciate the work the County has done on this road, a deer jumping out into the traffic lanes from the hillside or a patch of ice under the shade of the hillside or a roadside tree can be fatal. Guardrails on this stretch of road would at least give drivers the ability to stay on the roadbed and avoid crashing into the river.

We all realize how tight budgets are these days but given the safety record on this stretch of road and the potential for additional tragedies involving school children, commercial service providers, out-of-town visitors and residents of the area, installing guardrails would be an investment in safety that would merit moving this project above other lower priority projects for funding as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Maureen Weathers