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Committee for improving the secondary roads in Montana

I represent an organization of concerned citizens who believe that we need to improve the secondary roads and highways in Montana. Improvement of these roads will decrease the number of accidents and fatalities that have happened on the secondary roads and highways.

Each year the Transportation Commission allocates funds for the Secondary Highway System from federal aid funds is available in the State Transportation Improvement Program category of fund. The federal share this program is 86.58 percent with the state providing 13.42 percent matching funds. Those funds are primarily used to restore, preserve, or reconstruct roads or bridges.

The funds are now allocated to the States five financial districts based on the above formula. Eligible improvements include reconstruction of a particular road way to a paved or gravel road. Other improvements include railroad crossing services and epoxy stripping.

Each district receives a proportion that is computed on the following basis:

- 30% in the ratio of land area in each district to the total land area in the state
- 35% in the ratio of the rural population in each district to the total rural population in the state
- 30% in the ratio of the rural road mileage in each district to the total rural road mileage in the state
- 5% in the ratio of the rural bridge square footage in each district to the total rural bridge square footage in the state

The information above was obtained from the state website.

My position is that the state should select counties based on need and give them enough money to repair all of their secondary roads. In addition, the state will provide equipment the counties need for completion and all of the materials to make the roads safer and easier to negotiate. The state government should inspect the roads to make sure they are safe for travel. The secondary roads should have police, guard rails, and available cell services for calling in accidents.

I will support the party that will take action for the improvement of all secondary roads and highways.

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