

March 12, 2021

To: CDOT Director Lew, CDOT Region 3 Manager Goolsby, CDOT Program Director Znamenacek, Transportation Commissioner Secretary Stockinger and Transportation Commissioner Liason Uebelher

I “attended” the Zoom meeting on February 17, 2021. I joined the meeting as you were discussing pedestrian safety and public safety campaigns. Commissioner Zink stated that safety is why you do anything such as passing lanes. He also stated that you needed to be “proactive even if numbers are not large for fatalities.” Several members stated their concerns for being sure to promote aggressive public safety campaigns.

You then went on to the next agenda item CO Highway 149 Pilot Program. Some addressing the undocumented perceived economic benefit, the low traffic violations or accidents and that it was “just a short distance of Hwy 149 that the OHVs were driving on.” It was as if the previous discussion about safety never happened or that any of those safety concerns applied here. Your decision on whether this program should be continued must be purely based on safety on the highway. Not convenience for OHV riders or economic impact for our community.

The Consumer Federation of America, ATV Safety Institute, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Artic Cat, Polaris, Kawasaki to just name a few clearly state for many, many reasons that OHVs should not operate on roads even at speeds as low as 10 mph. I think these are the facts to consider on whether this program should continue.

I also think an area of high concern for safety is the shoulder of Highway 149 between 8 ½ Street to Henson Street. This shoulder is used by pedestrians and bicyclists extensively along with vehicles often with trailers attached parking there. OHVs will also use this shoulder to access other neighborhoods to avoid the use of Highway 149 if they are no longer allowed on the highway and I think it is a tremendous safety concern. It will need to be made very clear OHVs may not use this shoulder as it is highly congested with traffic and that pedestrians and bicyclists need to use this area safely without concern of OHV traffic.

Please make your decision based on safety for all on Highway 149. No other considerations should come into the decision making process except safety. That has to be your only consideration. Thank you all so very much for the time and thought you will put into this extremely important decision.

With hopes for a safer community,

Joanie [REDACTED]