

December 10, 2011

Mr. Larry Hickenbottom, Chairman
Custer County Board of Supervisors
Custer County Court House
Broken Bow, NE 68822

Re: Medical Center's Concern for Public Safety on Highway 2

Dear Mr. Hickenbottom,

We the members of the Jennie M. Melham Memorial Medical Center's Board of Directors, Medical Staff and Administration would like to voice our deep concern over a very dangerous traffic condition that has developed on Highway 2 on the west side of the Broken Bow's city limits. This condition comes about due to the tremendous business growth, which has increased vehicle traffic in this area. The addition of the Department of Health & Human Services Office, Pamida, Mid Plains Community College, Sargent Irrigation, AgLand ATV, Trotters Truck Stop, Taco Johns, the Lomax Office Building and the Heritage Bank has created a deadly situation that requires immediate action.

The huge expansion of local traffic turning on and off of Highway 2 in a span of less than one mile makes for a very hazardous traffic condition that must be addressed soon before we begin to see more traffic accidents and fatalities. It would appear that at the very least this additional traffic has created the need for a turning lane and reduced speeds on this very busy stretch of road. The two mile stretch of Highway 2 traveling west from Broken Bow to Merna is already well known as a public safety hazard to our community as is evidenced by the large number of accidents and traffic fatalities that have occurred there in the past few years. We all know at least one person from our community that has been hurt on this stretch of road. Despite what the Nebraska Department of Roads tell us – *one lost life is too many!*

We would ask that the Custer County Board of Supervisors take whatever action is needed to implement changes to this hazardous major highway on the edge of our community. The public's safety should be considered in light of the drastic change to the traffic pattern in this area. It is our hope that the Custer County Board of Supervisors will encourage the Nebraska Department of Roads to address this major change in traffic conditions in our community. Previous traffic counts and studies mean nothing when an area has grown as much as this area of our community has in the past year. With the continued expansion of our community to the west we feel that now is the time to act before anyone else is hurt or killed on this stretch of Highway 2.

Mr. Larry Hickenbottom, Chairman
Custer County Board of Supervisors
November 28, 2011

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Thank you in advance for your consideration and timely response to this request for action. We all live here and want our community to be safe for our families, neighbors and the many travelers who visit our region on Highway 2.

Sincerely,

Mr. Dan Zach
Chairman

Mr. John Smith
Vice Chairman

Mr. Jim Scott
Treasurer

Mrs. Joyce Richardson
Secretary

Mr. Don Cantrell
Board Member

Mr. Michael J. Steckler
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Dr. Shawn Lawrence
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Dr. David Minnick

Dr. Angela Pruden

Dr. Keith Gautreaux

Dr. Julie Lindstrom

Dr. Melinda Barratt

Katrina White PA

Kristin Dunbar PA

Tim Johnson CRNA

John Evans CRNA

Cc: Gov. Dave Heinemann - Nebraska State Governor
Mr. Ronald W. Books - Highway Commissioner
Mr. Gary Thayer - District 6 - District Engineer