
Safety access point out of Juniper Canyon

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To Plan <plan@crookcountyor.gov>

To the Crook County Commissioners,

Crook County has proposed constructing an access road from Lower Davis Loop to Highway 27 for several years. The stated purpose of this road is to provide an additional safety access point out of Juniper Canyon. While the goal of improving emergency access and traffic flow is important, the current proposal raises significant concerns among residents—particularly because it disregards community input and poses multiple risks.

According to community surveys, residents have consistently supported widening Juniper Canyon Road as the preferred solution to traffic congestion and emergency access challenges. Despite this, the County continues to prioritize an alternative route—one that cuts through or near a gated residential community and has now been added to the County's long-term transportation plan **without public support or transparent discussion.**

This plan has multiple flaws:

- **Increased Congestion and Safety Hazards:** The proposed access road would channel additional traffic through already congested areas, such as the intersection at Lynn and 3rd Street, near the Crook County Fairgrounds, Crook County High School, Crook County Christian School, and local parks with youth baseball fields. These areas are heavily trafficked by children and families. The increase in vehicles would raise the risk of accidents and pedestrian injuries.
- **Concerns About Road Grade and Winter Safety:** The proposed road's elevation and grade could become dangerous in winter conditions, especially if the road is not properly maintained. Slippery surfaces, poor visibility, and steep inclines can lead to serious accidents, injuries, and potential fatalities. The County must answer key questions: **Who will be responsible for maintenance? How often will the road be cleared in winter conditions? What emergency response protocols will be in place?**
- **Lack of Community Support:** The most concerning issue is that this plan appears to be moving forward without the consent or support of the residents who will be most impacted. Effective, community-centered planning requires transparent communication, open forums, and a willingness to reconsider proposals that generate legitimate public concern.

We recognize the need to address traffic and emergency access issues in Juniper Canyon. However, the current proposal is **not the appropriate solution.** We urge the County Commissioners to revisit this plan, seek broader community input, and prioritize alternatives—such as widening Juniper Canyon Road—that have demonstrated public support and carry fewer safety risks.

Respectfully,

Rick & Julie Christensen

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