



C.E. Britton for
Linda Brown, Chairman
Marie S. Dillenbeck, Clerk

June 23, 2004

Alabama Department of Transportation
Johnny Harris, Division Engineer
PO Box 550
Guntersville, AL 35976

Dear Mr. Harris,

Subject: Skyline Bridge, Alabama Highway 117, Mentone Alabama

A request for a thorough and immediate investigation as to what can be done to make this bridge safer is made by the members of the Council of the Town of Mentone.

Because of the large number of transfer trucks, logging trucks and buses that cross this bridge daily, we are very concerned about the unsafe conditions. It is almost impossible for a large truck to enter this bridge and not cross the centerline of the highway. The line of sight coming from the east is very limited, thus causing traffic to enter the bridge without being able to see a truck on the bridge.

This was the cause of a recent accident, which left a police officer from Ider, Alabama in critical condition. Since this accident, several residents have reported near misses, including at least two of our council members. Recently, our police officers have worked a number of accidents reporting mirrors being broken off of cars as two vehicles met on the bridge. Our officer is now listing the reason for accidents on the bridge as being unsafe road conditions and these reports are forwarded to the Department of Public Safety Drivers License Division in Montgomery.

Another major concern is that three school buses cross this bridge twice a day during the school term. Also, a large number of buses come into Mentone during the summer bringing campers to camps. A bus and a truck cannot pass on the bridge. Persons new to the area do not realize the danger of this bridge. This includes many young people who are counselors for the summer camps.

The best solution would be a new and wider bridge, but the addition of the width of another lane would help also. Perhaps, when this bridge was built the traffic was such that the sharp curve was not a problem. With this being the favorite route of trucks delivering to Atlanta and other Georgia towns, it is definitely a problem now.

TOWN OF MENTONE
P.O. Box 295
5972 Alabama Highway 117
Mentone, AL 35984

ON TOP OF LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Phone: 256-634-4444
Fax: 256-634-9534

FORWARD TO:	
Div. Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dist. Engrs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Const.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maint.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bridge Insp.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Council Members	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pre. Const.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Linda Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wesley Griffith	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deborah Guffey	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blanche Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>
Materials	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parry Sanders	<input type="checkbox"/>
County Trans.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oil, Wgr.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Equip.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Training Coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/>
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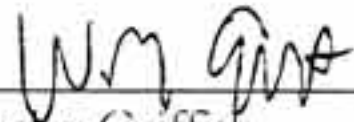
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see me*

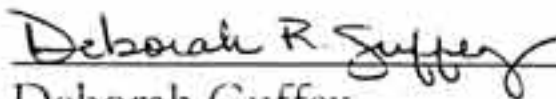
Also, we would like to request that the speed limit through Mentone be 35-mph, at least beginning at the intersection of AL 117 and CR 89 and continuing to the end of the town limits. Some places are now 45-mph, including coming up on the bridge on the west side; the east side has a caution sign with 25-mph.

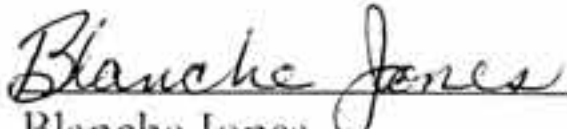
Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any questions please give us a call.


Sincerely,


Linda Brown, Mayor Pro Tem


Wesley Griffith


Deborah Guffey


Blanche Jones


Larry Sanders