

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Maclay Bridge Alliance (MBA) Releases Up-to-date Traffic and Safety Analysis of Maclay Bridge and South Avenue Alternative**

MISSOULA, MT – The Maclay Bridge Alliance (MBA) has released its *Traffic and Safety Analysis of Maclay Bridge and South Avenue Alternative*, (<http://www.maclaybridgealliance.org/documents/Traffic-Safety-Analysis-11-29-2018.pdf>).

The Maclay Bridge Alliance (MBA) (<http://maclaybridgealliance.org/>) is a non-profit Montana corporation led by citizens and taxpayers within the neighborhoods surrounding Maclay Bridge and Missoula County at large. MBA advocates for the preservation and rehabilitation of the historic Maclay Bridge.

This report was just completed by MBA's consultant, Nathan Huynh, Ph.D., of the University of South Carolina, using the most recent traffic and safety data available. This report totally refutes the information upon which the *2013 Maclay Bridge Planning Study* ([http://www.maclaybridgealliance.org/documents/Maclay\\_Bridge\\_final-report-2013.pdf](http://www.maclaybridgealliance.org/documents/Maclay_Bridge_final-report-2013.pdf)) and subsequent actions have been based. This is a scientific report, complete with sources and references including information taken from the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) website.

“This report is well worth your time to read carefully,” said Robert Schweitzer of MBA, “and compare it with the *2013 MDT Maclay Bridge Planning Study*. We hope you will have an opportunity to give it your careful consideration.”

In summary, the report shows: 1) that Maclay Bridge is providing MDT level of service "A" for existing and projected traffic levels; 2) there will be significant safety issues created by a proposed South Avenue Bridge compared to Maclay Bridge; and 3) Maclay Bridge rehab costs for alternative 1 or 1a presented by MBA's bridge consultants in 2016 will be a fraction of the costs of the proposed new bridge (<http://www.maclaybridgealliance.org/documents/maclay-bridge-presentation-09-20-16-v3-opt.pdf>).

The report scientifically disproves the fundamental premises that there is a need for a new South Avenue Bridge based upon the *2013 Maclay Bridge Planning Study* by Missoula County, MDT, Robert Pecia, and subsequent work by HDR.

MBA has operated since 2011 based on membership opposition to a new South Avenue Bridge being pushed forward by the Missoula County Commissioners (BCC). This community opposition is due, in part, to the huge cost of the project, increased traffic and new safety hazards it would introduce, lack of compelling reasons why a new bridge is needed, and many other factors discussed throughout their website, including potential costs to Missoula County taxpayers.

MBA initially formed as an ad hoc group, but has grown its membership to over 200 strong.