**Natalie Dean**

2719 Avenel Avenue

Roanoke, VA 24015

February 25, 2016

David Smith

Councilor

Roanoke City

2679 Orange Avenue

Roanoke, VA 23909

Dear Mr. Smith:

Poor road conditions have cost drivers up to $1,044 per year in maintenance and repair needs for their cars. Roanoke’s population is constantly increasing, leading to heavier traffic. This increase in traffic is causing the already damaged roads to become a hazard to the safety of the general public of Roanoke.

The road damage began after the snow-filled winter of 2014. Plows and an immense amount of snow brought havoc to many roads in Roanoke. The main roads that countless Roanoke citizens use on a daily basis to transport to work, school, and etc. are filled with potholes. The potholes on Brandon Avenue have become quite large from the last snowstorm that we endured last month.

Since 2014 there has been an increase in accidents due to the horrendous quality of our roads. In addition to the increase in accidents, there has also been an increase in closed roads. High Street has been closed for the past month. This has been an inconvenience to many in our city and caused bus routes to be hindered. Parry Road adjacent to the Roanoke River has been impassable for about seven months due to the damage brought on by the flooding we endured last spring.

Roanoke is home to many generations of families. Safety of this small city is what lures young couples to raise a family in our wonderful community. Unfortunately, the safety of our city is being compromised due to the lack of action from our leaders to fix the hazardous road conditions.

We need to have reliable roads for our citizens. Road conditions can be improved by allocating resources from our city budget to repairing our main roads. The cost of the initial resurfacing and filling of potholes on our main roads will be $4 million dollars. The funding for this project can be done through the federal grant entitled “Safe Roadways” and supplemental funding can be contributed by the surplus of funds due to the outsourcing of many Roanoke city services. This project will be one that will take up to a year to complete since so many roads will need to be blocked off in order to be repaired.

We know we are asking a lot of you, our City Council. But the restoration of safety in our community is vital. You will be helping to restore the appeal that Roanoke has and ensuring the safety of our drivers.

To ensure that the repairs to the roadways can begin in the summer of 2016, we need City Council to approve this plan in the next City Council meeting. We are counting on our strong leaders to take action. Enclosed is the “Safe Roadways” federal grant application.

On behalf of all Roanoke citizens, we thank you for your diligence in repairing our roadways.

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Dean

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Enclosure: Federal grant: “Safe Roadways” application