

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to request that protective fencing be installed on the UT-202 overpass bridging I-80 in Magna, Utah. Approximately 200 feet on the west side and east side of this stretch of road should be fenced.

This past August, a man died after falling from the UT-202 overpass and being struck by multiple vehicles on I-80. This tragedy would have been avoided if there had been a fence in place. We can and should prevent other, similar tragedies in the future.

This particular overpass bridge is within approximately 200 yards of a large concert & music festival venue. A venue which is also a major tourist attraction for travelers across the world and experiences heavy foot traffic.

In the last year, at least three other traffic accidents were reported in Utah involving people or animals that fell or jumped from overpasses onto interstate highways. Other states, including Pennsylvania and Ohio, have recognized this problem and taken steps to remedy it. They have proposed, passed, and implemented certain laws and rules that require protective fencing be placed on overpasses bridging interstate highways. Now is the time for Utah to follow suit.

Installing protective fences at certain overpasses is in the public interest. It will protect pedestrians, drivers, and vehicles. It will prevent accidental falls. It will reduce intentional jumping. And, it will help prevent debris from going onto the road. Put simply, it will help protect the public. For these reasons, and others, we respectfully request that you install protective fencing on the UT-202 overpass bridging I-80.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

(Your Name Here)

Supporting Info

UDOT

Bridge Management – Mission: Bridge Management inspects, monitors, reports and effectively manages the structure inventory for a safe, reliable transportation system.

Utah Region 2 for Maintenance

UT-202 bridge over I-80, approximately 200 feet and east and west sides

Contact

Department of Transportation

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Telephone: 801-965-4000

Administration/General Public Inquiries, Utah Department of Transportation

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801-366-6040

Utah Senate Contacts

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Accidents from overpasses in Utah

8/19/2018 – Man fell off overpass at this location -
<https://kutv.com/news/local/man-found-dead-near-great-saltair>

7/10/2017 – Man leapt to his death at 900 south and I-15 -
<http://archive.sltrib.com/article.php?id=5493196&itype=CMSID>

11/22/2017 – Cows fell from overpass at I-84 and I-15 -
<https://www.ksl.com/?sid=46203442&nid=148&title=cows-fall-from-i-84-overpass-onto-southbound-i-15-after-semitrailer-rollover>

Accidents from overpasses nationally

9/19/2018 – Landscaper fell to his death in San Diego -
<http://www.cbs8.com/story/39120395/caltrans-worker-injured-after-fall-from-i-805-overpass>

10/30/17 – Woman was killed when boy jumped off overpass in VA -
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/interstate-66-boy-jumps-overpass-woman-killed-apparent-suicide-attempt/>

5/24/2017 – Woman was killed after falling over overpass in WA -
<https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article152424739.html>

5/24/2017 – Man is killed after falling off overpass after a minor car accident in TX -
<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/Vehicle-Crashes-Into-Disabled-Vehicle-Killing-One-Person-Dallas-Police-424023174.html>

11/12/2014 – Woman was killed after being thrown off overpass during a car accident in TX -
<https://abc13.com/news/woman-falls-to-death-after-west-loop-crash/391525/>

Laws

Pennsylvania passed a law requiring protective fencing on some overpasses and bridges. The law requires them over interstates, as well as other areas. -
<https://wnep.com/2018/06/29/new-law-protective-fencing-on-overpasses/>

Ohio passed protective fencing rules for overpasses for interstates and state highways. -
https://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2016/01/highway_rock-throwing_tragedy.html

