

## **Road Safety Improvements – Curries Road**

**Joan Morris**

**Oxford County Council**

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My name is Joan Morris, and I live at the intersection of Middletown Line and Curries Road.

We appreciate the county's attention to road safety issues in our area, noting that you are proposing a speed reduction zone for a section of Curries Road.

While discussions are underway for safety improvements, I want to remind Council that safety on Curries Road, and for the entire community, can be further improved with a 4-way stop at the intersection of Middletown Line & Curries Road.

Speed and driveway sightlines are not the only safety concerns for area residents.

Many community members have raised concerns for years about the intersection of Middletown Line and Curries Road, where there have been several collisions, including fatalities, over the years. As recently as 2021, a horrific collision resulted in death and life-altering injuries.

We are told the number of collisions does not meet the "threshold" for further intersection improvements, such as a 4-way stop, yet we maintain a 4-way stop is needed for community safety. "Thresholds" are arbitrary. How many collisions (and potentially deaths) will it take? Not only do we worry about those involved in collisions who could be our own family and neighbours, but the toll taken on friends, family and our own township and county first responders.

The "end goal" of road safety improvements should be minimizing collisions, injuries and deaths; a focus on speed reduction alone for a section of Curries Road discounts the risk at this intersection, where the north-south Middletown Line traffic also needs to be considered. Middletown Line is a commonly used alternative to Road 59 and Road 14 for commuters to Woodstock and Highway 401. Additional considerations are the abundance of school bus, truck, construction equipment, and farm equipment traffic on both roads.

Delaying improvements at dangerous intersections costs lives, with a poignant example of multiple fatalities occurring recently at the intersection of roads 59 and 33, where residents have raised concerns for years. A four-way stop at such intersections reduces the likelihood of high-speed collisions and deaths.

Historically the traffic on Middletown Line had the right of way through this intersection but years ago it was changed. It could be changed again to become a 4-way stop. This would not

be a significant expenditure and would be a true “Road Safety Improvement” for the entire community.

Thanks for the opportunity to speak with you today.