



PUBLIC WORKS

21 Reeve Street, PO Box 1614
Woodstock, ON N4S 7Y3
519.539.9800 | 1.800.755.0394
oxfordcounty.ca

March 3, 2021

Township of Norwich
285767 Airport Road
Norwich, ON N0J 1P0

Attention: Kimberley Armstrong
Deputy Clerk, Township of Norwich Council

Re: Intersection of Oxford Road 59 and Quaker Street – Safety Review

At the February 23, 2021 Norwich Township Council meeting, County staff presented the findings and recommendations of the speed and road safety reviews undertaken in the communities of Norwich and Otterville.

Several speed management recommendations were identified for immediate implementation including elimination of the 60km/hr speed transition (step-down) zone at the north end of Norwich on Oxford Road 59 that currently extends beyond the limits of the built up area. Speed step-down transition zones that extend beyond the built-up area are considered ineffective in reducing speeds for incoming traffic.

At the meeting, Norwich Township Council identified potential intersection safety concerns at Oxford Road 59 and Quaker Street, north of the built up area, due to visibility restrictions and vehicle operating speeds. County staff indicated they would review specific operating conditions at this location before finalizing the speed management recommendations proposed for immediate implementation.

Following the February 23, 2021 Norwich Township Council meeting, County staff reviewed previous assessments undertaken at this location along with current collision data and surrounding land use.

Operating conditions at the intersection of Oxford Road 59 and Quaker Street were previously reviewed in response to safety concerns identified by a local resident, as summarized in the attached email dated August 21, 2019. The review findings at that time did not identify any intersection sightline obstructions or speed related collision trends to warrant a reduction of the current 80km/hr posted speed in this area.

Historical intersection collision data current to the end of 2020 is summarized below:

- Five intersection related collisions from 2013 to 2020 inclusive;
- Three of five intersection related collisions occurred in 2019;
- Average annual number of collisions over eight year period is 0.63 collisions/year; and
- Average annual number of collisions does not meet Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM) collision warrant for an All Way Stop Control (4/year over three consecutive years).

County staff reassessed intersection visibility and found that sightlines were acceptable. Norwich Township staff also advised they were not aware of intersection sightline restrictions at this location.

Adjacent land in the south west quadrant of this intersection is zoned Industrial and is within the serviced limits of the village of Norwich as defined in the Oxford County Official Plan. However these lands are undeveloped and are currently being used for agricultural purposes.

Consistent with the findings identified in the previous assessment completed in August of 2019, County staff did not identify any apparent intersection operational concerns at the intersection of Oxford Road 59 and Quaker Street.

The proposed speed zone adjustments at the north end of Norwich and are not expected to negatively impact intersection safety at Quaker Street and will ensure that speed transitions align with changes in the built environment.

We trust this addresses the safety concerns raised by Norwich Township Council.

Sincerely,



David Simpson, P.Eng., PMP
Director of Public Works

CC Frank Gross, Manager of Transportation and Waste Management Services, Oxford County
Shawn Vanacker, Supervisor of Transportation, Oxford County

From: David Simpson
To: David Kerr
Cc: RE: Another accident at the corner of Quaker and 59
Subject: August 21, 2019 3:13:24 PM
Date:

Hi David

I received your correspondence through Warden Martin and appreciate your concern regarding safety of the road network around Oxford Road 59 and Quaker Street.

Our Road Operations staff have since completed their review and assessment of contributing factors that can have an influence on driver behaviour such as road design elements, sight lines, speed zone limits, etc. Oxford Rd 59 north of Norwich near Quaker Street has wide shoulders, is relatively flat, and has limited development. On Oxford Road 59, there is a horizontal curve south of Quaker Street but there does not appear to be any sightline obstructions for westbound traffic on Quaker Street. Staff review of historical collision data (2013 to 2018) on this section of Oxford Rd 59 showed a total of nine collisions and did not reveal any speed related and/or critical injury collision trends.

Based on our review of the driving environment and historical collision data, a reduced speed on Oxford Rd 59 in this area is not warranted at this time as reduced speed zones that extend beyond urban built up areas (such as in this case beyond the limits of Norwich) are generally ineffective in reducing operating speeds due to the surrounding rural driving environment.

We will certainly continue to monitor traffic patterns in this road area and evaluate further traffic calming measures, if warranted, in the future.

Regards,
David

DAVID SIMPSON, P.Eng., PMP | Director of Public Works
OXFORD COUNTY | 21 Reeve St., PO Box 1614, Woodstock, ON, N4S 7Y3
WWW.OXFORDCOUNTY.CA | T 519.539.9800 / 1-800-755-0394, ext 3100



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Think about our environment. Print only if necessary.

----- Original message -----

From: David Kerr

Date:08-12-2019 7:13 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: Larry Martin; Jim Palmer Cc:

Subject: Another accident at the corner of Quaker and 59

This morning at 8:30 there was a T-Bone when an east bound car carrying special needs people pulled out from the stop sign in front of a 5 ton travelling north on 59. The car was pushed into the oncoming traffic lane and luckily there was no traffic coming at them. No injuries but both vehicles were towed. I don't believe the truck was speeding. I think the driver at the stop sign was either distracted or blind. That's 3 accidents in 5 months at the corner, all requiring police and tow trucks. Somebody is going to die in a major accident and I don't really care unless they end up on my property and cause more damage because nobody seems to be paying attention to the warning signs. I think with the population density in this area that the 60 zone should extend to just past Dejong's.

The Quaker street intersection sees a lot of west bound heavy vehicle traffic with a blind curve and many people exceeding the posted speed limit of 80.