

**Speed Management and Road Safety Proposal**  
**Community Written Comments**

Melissa Gardiner

Resident of [REDACTED] Douro Street, Plattsville ON

April 20, 2022

[REDACTED]

To Chloe Senior (Oxford County Clerk),

The community of Douro Street and surrounding area would like to provide written comments for the County Council meeting on May 25, 2022 where we will be discussing the proposed speed management and road safety measures along Plattsville's Oxford Road 8 (Douro Street) in Blandford-Blenheim.

The residents of Douro Street and surrounding area have reviewed and discussed the proposed changes to help with speed management and road safety and we have some alternate suggestions we wanted to propose.

Please find below the alternatives we would like to recommend:

- Do not relocate the gateway signage
  - The signal to traffic that they're coming into a residential area will happen too late if the signage is moved closer to town. By the time they see the sign, they would have passed by 3 of 9 residential homes possibly going faster than they were prior to the sign change.
  - Residents are concerned about increased noise pollution. The gateway sign currently signals transport trucks to use air brakes and with moving it closer to the residential homes, this will increase the usage of these noisy brakes closer to more people's homes.
  - Leave the signage where it is and instead install an "avoid unnecessary use of air brakes" sign north of the gateway sign.
- Introduce electronic speed feedback signs
  - North of Seaton – since most drivers speed up immediately following these signs, we recommend placing the sign SOUTH of Seaton. This will signal drivers to maintain the posted speed limit as they are still in residential area. As well, they will see the sign after just coming off the bridge on their way out of town, which is normally where drivers start to accelerate.
  - North of gateway signage – yes but keep the gateway signage in its current/original location.
  - Signaling drivers too late and noise pollution are our concerns with your proposed location. The speed feedback sign being located just outside of the driveway across from 155 Douro Street is already too close to our residential homes and we fear the signal will be too late and not as effective.

- Do not increase the speed limit from 60 km/h to 70 km/h.
  - Of any of the proposed changes, this is probably our biggest concern.
  - The speed limit should be decreased to first a 60 km/h zone starting where you proposed the gateway signage should be moved to (where you indicated on your map the 'village limits'). Then, changing the current 60 km/h warning sign to a 50 km/h warning sign and changing the speed limit to 50 km/h before the bridge.
  - Residents are very concerned about the posted speed limits today. We fear the message we're sending to drivers will not be consistent with our intent to manage speed. There are safety concerns with the recommendation the County proposes to increase the speed to 70 km/h such as
    - In this zone of Douro Street, there are 9 residential homes – one after the other – with driveways close to the road that exit directly onto Douro Street. This is undoubtedly a residential street and as such, should not be an 80 km/h or 70 km/h zone.
    - Also happening on this part of the street is daily school bus drop off and pick up with most of the children crossing the street to get to their residences. There are at least 3 drop off/pick up points along the newly proposed 70 km/h zone.
    - Many children, families, and individuals use the gravel shoulder of our street to walk, bike, horseback ride, and run into Plattsville.
    - The bridge north of Seaton becomes narrower in winter and as well, we don't have a paved sidewalk anywhere on Douro Street – it's even more important to lower the speed limit to 50 km/h to keep residents safe. It's concerning if now a large stretch of our road will be a 70 km/h zone.
- Adding streetlights near Elizabeth Street
  - Instead of additional streetlights may we suggest additional lighting around the gateway sign in its current location? These lights, along with the electronic speed feedback sign and streetlights that already exist at the corner of Elizabeth and Douro would be sufficient.
  - We would also like to propose Douro Street be designated a 'Community Safety Zone' with signs on both sides of the street.

We are very pleased to be given an opportunity to propose some alternative suggestions and we hope that the County Council takes our recommendations under advisement. Given a majority of residents on and near Douro Street have signed this letter, we trust you will take our recommendations under advisement and work with us on these and future speed measurement and road safety implementations. Thank you for providing us with this opportunity.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
*Melissa Gardiner*  
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Melissa Gardiner

Note: additional signatures of impacted residents on page 3

Name	Address	DocuSigned by:
1. Carrie Sullivan		
2. Pamela Byrne		
3. Sharon Kennedy		
4. Britta Kroupa		
5. Jessica Wagler		
6. Jessica Yates		
7. Shannon Mills		
8. Susan Sweich		
9. Nanette Dufton		
10. Nicole Cortez Battista		
Sarah Casselli		

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