

January 31, 2023

61 Loveys Street East

Hickson, Ontario

N0J 1L0

Warden Ryan and Members of County Council

Re: Intersection of County Roads 59 and 33

Thank you for the opportunity to address concerns regarding the above intersection. I would first of all thank Frank Gross for providing information regarding the intersection. He provided information that an intersection study was completed earlier this year(2022) at this location and recommendations from the study included an overhead flashing light on a span wire, auxiliary left turn lanes, transverse pavement markings, and speed feedback signs on OR 59, as well as flashing red lights on stop signs and rumble strips on OR 6. The information also noted that these immediate improvements were currently in design and construction has been included as part of the 2023 budget submission for Council deliberation.

These improvements would continue to allow traffic on the Major Thoroughfare of Oxford Road 59 to move freely. The work to be performed above being in the 2023 Budget made no mention of an ALL WAY STOP at this intersection. Traffic has increased on both roads since 2006. From the County Roads Traffic Count information it appears to me to have increased 1.52% on County Road 59 and 1.56% on County Road 33 in 15 years. Basically no change in the traffic flow meeting at this intersection.

There have been an unusually high number of accidents at this intersection over the last years. I had a near collision there in 2022. A car on Road 33 travelling westbound didn't stop and I had to take evasive action. This happened on a clear summer's day. I believe that the reason for this was drive inattention (distracted driving-texting, talking on the phone?). This I believe to be the main issue with the intersection. I have been informed that accident reports are for internal use. It would be advantageous to know exactly which vehicle a) was the vehicle that was struck (travelling in which direction), b) did vehicles not stop, c) weather conditions.

Recently, I found out that the plan is now to implement ALL WAY STOP at the intersection. Reduce speed to 60 kilometres per hour for 500 metres on each side of the intersection. This will most certainly slow traffic on County Road 59. Currently Huntingford has a 60 kilometre per hour zone which increases to 80 kilometres per hour for the remainder of County Road 59 to the round-a-bout as you enter Woodstock (unless the speed changes for Oxford School are in effect). The changes will create traffic flow inconsistencies on County Road 59(the major thoroughfare north and south in Oxford County). Instituting a 60 kilometre zone at this intersection will create a slow/fast/slow/stop problem in a short distance.

County Road 59 and County Road 2 are the base location for our 911 numbering system. This means that they are indeed the most important roads regarding location and traffic flow. County Road 59 should not have another ALL WAY STOP.

The safety of everyone travelling on County Road 59 and County Road 33 is of the utmost importance, as is the constant flow of all traffic on both roads. To date the County has installed flashing red lights on top of oversized stop signs on Road 33.

Mr. Gross has said that the warrants are currently in place for the ALL WAY STOP, however; I would propose a progressive approach be taken should the final decision be to implement ALL WAY STOP with speed reductions all over. Progressive approach by:

1. Implement the overhead flashing light on a span wire (same as that used to be in Hickson at the intersection of Roads 59 (flashing amber) and 8 (flashing red))
2. Auxiliary left turn lanes (implement only if the turning movements warrant them)
3. Stop ahead warning signs with flashing amber or red lights on Road 33
4. Flashing red lights on stop signs (already in place)
5. Rumble strips on Road 33
6. Monitor the intersection for a period of time say of six months to see if the changes are working
7. Have the O.P.P. monitor the intersection for drivers on Road 33 failing to stop and include the information in the above review.

I have in fact seen oversized (1.2 m x 1.2m) stop signs with flashing red light around the perimeter which I can tell you work very well in fog and snow. This might also be an alternative for Road 33.

Only after that monitoring and review take further action if necessary. This would continue to allow traffic on the Major Thoroughfare Road 59 to flow with consistency. Please do not make an ALL WAY STOP at this intersection.

Gene McLaren

Concerned Citizen