

November 5, 2023

Community Development
The City of Cambridge
www.cambridge.ca

To Whom It May Concern

This is to express our support for the recommendation by the City of Cambridge for an All-way Stop Control at the intersection of Queenston Road and Westminster Drive South.

We have lived at the corner of Hamilton Street and Westminster Drive South since 1974. In our fifty years here, we have seen Westminster Drive change from a quiet residential street to a busy thoroughfare.

Vehicle traffic, particularly rush hours traffic and student traffic to and from Preston High School, has steadily increased over the years. In the same time period, little has been done to manage the increasing volume of cars and motorcycles and their increasing speed. Safety along Westminster Drive has become a concern.

In the past few months, we have seen several car accidents along Westminster Drive. Several times, we have attended to those who were injured until the emergency vehicles arrived. The most recent example was about three weeks ago.

Thirty years ago, when they were small, our children could be trusted to walk from our home, the two blocks past Queenston Road, to downtown Preston, and the two more blocks to their school without concern for their safety. Now almost all children, including our grandkids, taking the same route, are accompanied by parents, grandparents or older siblings.

There is no question that the most dangerous intersection in our neighborhood is the intersection of Westminster Drive South and Queenston Road. We have all seen the aftermath of many vehicular accidents over the years. We are certain that traffic statistics show that accidents at this location are on the increase.

As we walk our grandchildren to and from Preston Public School, along Westminster Drive, we endeavor to teach them traffic awareness and the safe crossing of streets. A few months ago, on the way home from school, we were crossing Queenston Road with a group of six young kids. We ensured that the children all looked both ways and that the intersection was safe. We took one more look, then we crossed.

The last child had just stepped up from the Queenston Road asphalt to the curb, when we were all jarred by the sound of cars crashing behind us. A driver traveling east on Queenston Road had driven through the stop sign and had struck a car proceeding at speed, northbound on Westminster Drive. The collision occurred about four meters from

the children. Fortunately, the two cars spun away from, not toward us or children would have been injured.

While some adults called 911 and gathered the kids, others of us attended to the injured occupants of the wrecked vehicles, until help arrived.

Collisions have become commonplace at this intersection. In addition, near misses occur at least weekly, but are never reported.

Westminster Drive South is the major route for three schools. There is only one Stop sign between King Street and Rose Street, a distance of six blocks. The street is frequently a raceway. Many of our neighbours regularly park their cars along the street, rather than in their driveways, in an attempt to slow the cars and motorcycles,

Queenston Road is a through street from Eagle to Lowther, except at Westminster, and is a major route for drivers to get around congestion in the the Preston Town Centre.

Among our neighbours, a frequent topic of conversation is road safety. The corner of Queenston and Westminster is commonly considered the most dangerous intersection in our neighbourhood. We know of not one neighbour who doesn't want the City to install a Stop sign on Westminster Drive South at Queenston Road.

We support the recommendation for an All-way Stop Control at the corner of Queenston Road and Westminster Drive South. This simple addition could save lives.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Clare
Mark Clare
Prof. Elizabeth Clare
Dr. Robin Floyd
Annella Floyd
Owen Floyd

[REDACTED]
Cambridge, Ontario [REDACTED]
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