

Dear Council and Transportation Services Staff,

Having reviewed the council report regarding an all-way stop sign at William Roe and Dixon, and having lived in the area for nearly a decade, I would like to say that I generally agree with the findings of your traffic study, however I do not agree with the recommendations outlined in the report.

First, I would like to note that I was away from Newmarket attending University in 2019 and was not available to sign the petition asking for an all-way stop sign at the intersection, however I would have signed had I known about it.

Second, I do not want an increased police presence in the area to monitor traffic. Dixon and William Roe are both speedways, and having a police cruiser monitoring the area has been ineffective in the past and it will be ineffective in the future. As well, there is a school nearby the intersection, and I don't want the children introduced to strict and unnecessary policing in a place they should feel safe.

Further to the safety of children and families in the area, roads with cars are not safe. They just aren't. Cars are dangerous and the speed at which they travel should be lowered in all residential areas. I don't believe Newmarket will be doing a comprehensive review of traffic speeds in the near future, so the best way to slow cars down in this area is to stop them intermittently. It's even noted in the report that William Roe is unique in having sidewalks on both sides - Newmarket should be promoting active transportation, walking, biking, anything but driving.

It would be a better idea, in my opinion, to have cars get used to driving slower now, ahead of the bike lane implementation, rather than simply adding bike lanes and hoping that cyclists feel safe enough to use them. Bike lanes are fantastic, but only if they're useful.

The findings from the traffic study may have indicated that an all-way stop sign isn't necessary. But if residents in the area, and countless studies on school area safety say otherwise, which is better to listen to? I completely understand the need for evidence-based policy, but the evidence is very likely skewed due to the pandemic.

Please reconsider the recommendation before you, and please consider the needs of the residents as described by the residents.

Thank you,

Tyler Raponi
Resident, 492 Dixon Blvd, Newmarket