

RE Niska Road – Puslinch Township Meeting

Jo Marie Powers

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“That’s a joke!, said a commuter friend I was talking to. “A two-lane bridge would just cause more accidents. Cars will come speeding over the bridge, around the bend at your house and that will be it for them.!”

I have been a resident of Puslinch Township for 35 years. My property fronts on Niska Road on the south-west side of the road. Niska Road, a short road from Downey to Whitelaw Road is a residential road for the most part, and the City of Guelph follows Niska from the east to the Bailey Bridge and on the other side of the bridge, Puslinch Township is to the South and Guelph-Eramosa to the North. So there are 2 townships and the City of Guelph impacted by this decision.

It has always been necessary to drive slowly on Niska Road. Homes line the road that open onto the road; there is a steep hill at Ptarmigan; there is a right angle curve at Whitelaw, and a sharp curve at the end of my driveway. And in the middle of Niska Road is the Bailey Bridge which does slow down traffic. I asked my friend if he minded slowing down. Surprisingly, since this is a short cut he said, “Not at all, it is a beautiful road, drivers are courteous and often blink their lights to pass over the bridge.” I think it must put commuters into a good frame of mind before they go to and from work as they drive down this beautiful stretch of road.

Rather than speed up traffic with the building of a faster two-lane bridge, it makes sense to me to slow down the traffic. I’d recommend a speed bump on Whitelaw before and after the curve. Rather than a Yield sign I’d suggest a Stop sign where Whitelaw Intersects with Niska. Winter snow blows across Whitelaw here and numerous drivers have seen that telephone pole close up!

Speed bumps have successfully slowed traffic in our area. In Guelph the short cuts to the hospital on Queen and Arthur Streets have been lined with speed bumps that not only have successfully slowed traffic but decreased traffic. Another example is Riverbank drive, a shortcut from Guelph to Kitchener. These speed controls have definitely slowed traffic.

Considering the safety, environmental and heritage issues (discussed by other speakers), I sincerely hope that you will consider keeping the single lane Bailey Bridge, improve it, and discourage traffic so that this lovely road will not be destroyed.

I’d like to see the Bailey Bridge preserved as a one-lane bridge. Why go to great expense to speed up traffic for a road that cannot be a fast road without the agreement of three municipalities.