

February 25, 2019

Dear Traffic Safety Committee,

My name is Julie Hopper and I'm submitting this letter because I am unable to be present due to prior commitments.

I attended my first Traffic Safety Meeting on July 24, 2018. During that session I expressed my concerns and that of my neighbors regarding speeding, excessive commuter traffic, commercial trucks and semi traffic on Gloucester. I believe the determination was made that aside from local deliveries, large trucks were not allowed on Gloucester and a request would be made to add signs to restrict truck traffic. As of today, eight months later, no signs have been placed other than one or two additional speed limit signs which I do appreciate. However, large trucks and semis pass my house daily and the speeding and excessive commuter traffic continues. Unmarked trucks which are likely servicing the auto dealerships are also a constant and just the other day, two semi trucks passed each other in front of my house.

Linda Cosgrove and Ken Moore have been very responsive to my concerns and I appreciate all of their efforts. After the meeting in July, they advised me to record traffic data and assisted me in using a radar gun to track the number of speeders. I was appalled by the sheer number of cars and trucks traveling on Gloucester in such a short amount of time and recorded many speeders as well as people texting on their phones. Ken Moore also put the trailer on Gloucester but the police did not add the disc, so the results were not recorded.

Recently I listened to audio recordings of the October and January Traffic Safety Meetings during which two Gladstone residents raised the same concerns as I did about speeding cars and people using their street, Glen Echo, as a, "Thrill Way," for fast driving. The same happens on Gloucester. The conversation sounded very familiar to the first meeting I attended including the same council member minimizing the resident's concerns by suggesting that the cars probably weren't speeding but only sounded as though they were. The conversation also included the same suggestions of using a speed trailer and the residents taking it upon themselves to join with a council member to use a radar gun to monitor the traffic. Although everyone present seemed to agree that drivers slow down when they see the trailer, the officer who was present during the meeting indicated they were still relying on that data to determine whether or not speeding was an issue.

Based on discussions during the October Traffic Safety Meeting it appeared the truck routes and Collector Roads were verified and the requested signs for Gloucester could be installed. I then listened to the audio of the January meeting and seven months after my original request, the decision to install signs was still inconclusive even though a council member agreed that truck traffic was a, "long standing complaint."

If Gloucester is not classified as a, "Collector Road," then why is it that the Collector Roads of Dartmouth and Arlington have signs restricting trucks and Clarendon and Gloucester do not? It's understandable that trucks will need to drive through residential neighborhoods at times in order to service businesses. However, with I-205 and Hwy 99 E., being the designated truck routes, trucks delivering on Portland Avenue should be using the shortest, possible route through Gladstone, which they are not. It's exactly 1 mile from the I-205 exit to Portland Ave., via Gloucester and it's 0.4 miles from Hwy 99 E. to Portland Ave. So these large trucks and semis are cutting through a residential neighborhood with a school, rather than using the nearest truck route to their destination.

During the January meeting, council member Yvonne stated that if signs restricting trucks (on Gloucester) were added then, " I wonder if it would cause some people to say, 'oh, trucks aren't allowed down this road so I'm going to start complaining more.'" Respectfully, I consider this response to be inappropriate on several levels , including that there are truck signs at both ends of the two Collector Roads designated for heavier traffic. As I understand it, residents have been asking the city to do something about the traffic for years and requests for speed bumps and other solutions have been rejected. In this case, I'm simply requesting equal signage to Dartmouth and Arlington which by the way, also have signs flashing to remind drivers of their speed.

When I first told my neighbors I was going to attend your council meetings to see what could be done, I was warned that it was a waste of time and the city wouldn't respond. I'm hopeful that is not the case and the city will begin to recognize and address traffic issues that have been an ongoing concern of the residents for years.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Hopper