

February 23, 2019

Municipality of Brockton
Re: Speed on Thomas Street

I reside at 218 Thomas Street and wish to comment on the speed driven on Ridout as well as Thomas Street.

Most of the residents who live on the north end or upper section of Thomas Street appear to drive close to the present speed limit. However, visitors to the area and those drivers who use Ridout and Thomas Streets as a short cut from Highway 4 to Durham Street, apparently don't know what the speed limit is in that area. Vehicles (including motorcycles and 4 wheeled vehicles) drive as if they are still on a highway. The 2 curves on Ridout Street are particularly dangerous.

A suggested solution to this problem was to lower the speed limit to 40. If they don't adhere to the limit of 50, what is going to make them slow down to 40? I suppose a reduction in the speed limit might slow them down somewhat, but a speed bump would probably be more successful since most people will slow down at a "bump" to prevent damage to their vehicle.

Thank you for looking into this matter and I look forward to our residential area becoming a safe place for adults, children, pets, and visitors.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "D. [unclear]".

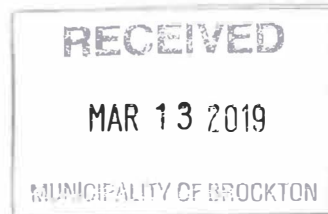
To Whom It Concerns:

Regarding the proposal change of the speed limit from 50 km/hr to 40 km/hr to help reduce speeding on Thomas and Ridout Street in Walkerton; I am wondering the logic in that.

The issue is not the speed limit but the number of people going over the set speed limit! Changing the limit lower may increase the number of speeder as individual that lived on these streets will be speeding if travelling over 40 km/hr.

Maybe a better solution is more law enforcement on streets especially on high traffic times and later at night.

I believe that the solution should match the problem. And reducing the speed limit doesn't guarantee the offenders will STOP SPEEDING.



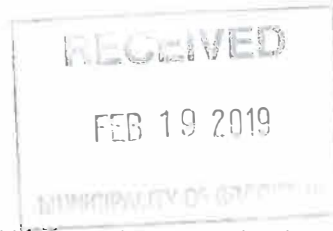
Re: Public comments regarding speed limit on Thomas and Ridout Streets, Walkerton

To whom it may concern

I am writing with regards to the proposal to change the speed limit on Thomas and Ridout Streets from 50 kph to 40 kph. I am not in favour of the change, especially if it's based on the concern of only one (or a few) concerned resident.

Why deviate from the standard? Because 50 kph is the standard speed limit for towns across Ontario, someone must have determined at some point that this is a safe speed for towns. If all it takes is one complaint, you could soon end up with a town that has, haphazardly, some streets at 50 and some streets at 40 kph, which makes for chaotic driving, constantly looking for the sign to see which speed limit it is.

If there's a problem with speeding, the common sense thing to do is enforce the existing speed limit, not make a new one.



February 13, 2019

Subject: Comment regarding proposal to change speed limit on Thomas and Ridout streets.

As a resident of Thomas Street, I am providing comment regarding the consideration to lower the speed limit on Thomas and Ridout streets to 40 km/hr. from 50 km/hr. At this point, I am not in favour of lowering the speed limit as I do not believe this action would resolve the resident's concern regarding speeding along these two streets.

Lowering the speed limit will not deter those individuals who choose to drive above the speed limit. If there are no consequences to those drivers that speed (ie. ticketed by the police), they will continue to do so. Police patrolling of these streets is rare.

What I believe needs to be undertaken, before considering lowering the speed limit, is the following actions:

1. Request our town's police service (the OPP) to increase their patrol of these two streets. I can honestly say I rarely see police cruisers driving along these streets, and I can also state that I have never seen a person stopped by the police for speeding along these streets. Police presence is rare, especially in the day time and early evening, when the concern of speeding would be the greatest. I have lived on Thomas Street for 25 years.
2. Install speed indicating devices along these streets (where possible) to display to the drivers the posted speed vs. the speed they are travelling. Obtain the statistics from these devices to determine how prevalent speeding is and from that what actions, if any, may be required.

Although only a portion of Ridout Street is outfitted with a sidewalk, the majority of Thomas Street does have a sidewalk, which I can tell you is used by all pedestrians and significantly improves pedestrian safety thus reducing the need to lower the speed limit. A sidewalk does not exist on Thomas in the lower Thomas Street area. Driving above the speed limit on lower Thomas is not an issue due to it not being part of the normal driving route and the 90-degree curve on the street.

If pedestrian safety along Ridout is of such a significant concern, consider installing a sidewalk for people to avoid walking on the roadway.

Municipality of Brockton
100 Scott St
Box 68 Walkerton ON N0G 2V0

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2019
MUNICIPALITY OF BROCKTON

RE: Public Comments Regarding Speed Limit on Thomas & Ridout Streets , Walkerton

As residents of 210 Ridout St for 56 years, we have seen many changes. When we first arrived the section between our home and the Hwy 9 was a private road maintained by the CNR. Very little traffic on this dirt road. (No pavement for many years)

Now it is a link from points North heading South to hwy 9. The road is very busy with truck and vehicular traffic from early morning till night.

There is no sidewalk on Ridout St from Bill Street to Hwy 9. Many individuals walk this section.

It is dangerous because of a curve in the road and the lack of speed limit enforcement.

How vehicles get stopped in this two blocks section from Hwy 9 to McGivern Street is a miracle.

We are told by neighbours on Ridout & McGivern Street that some do not get stopped.

Perhaps a few speed bumps would encourage drivers to observe the speed limit.

If you reduce the limit to 40 kms how will you enforce it?

We have installed a turn-a- round on our property so that we can safely enter and exit the street.

Speed is a problem which must be addressed before someone is seriously injured.

Signed:

Just a message about the speed limit on Thomas Street in the Brockton Buzz. I know it mentions a change of speed limit from 50km/h to 40km/h, but let's be honest - that won't change anything. People are easily driving 30km/h, if not more, above the current speed limit so unless there is going to be a cop stationed up there and enforcing the speed limit that won't change anything.

What about putting speed bumps in on the streets to make the drivers slow down? Or even a digital speed limit sign that flashes at you once you are over the speed limit - similar to the ones in Hanover when entering the town. I notice cars always using their brakes when they see that sign flashing.

Just a couple options that hopefully will be considered.

I am a resident on Thomas street and I am 100% for changing the speed limit on Thomas street or putting up radar signs. I have 3 children and I can't count how many times I have yelled at cars speeding by because they use Thomas as a faster means of getting from South Walkerton to the North side or North Walkerton to the South end. I think something needs to change before there is a serious injury or death. With Westwood subdivision being added the traffic has also gotten higher in volume.

Please consider doing something to correct this trend of high speed on Thomas Street.

This is in response to the proposed speed limit change for Thomas/Ridout Street in Walkerton. PLEASE take this into serious consideration.

Amanda and I have been living on Thomas street for 6 years now and the speed of vehicles traveling on our street has always been a concern. I'm not sure why people feel the need to speed on our street (short cut to Arena/Ball Diamonds) but it's unacceptable.

Our street is filled with young families and children playing outside. If this isn't addressed soon ,I'm afraid of what tragic events could happen.

Regardless of the approach, speed limit change, digital sign showing your actual speed(I personally think these work great) or speed bumps(that can be removed in winter, for the snow plows) some action needs to be completed.

With vehicles only able to park on the East side of the street (along the side walk), this also creates anxiety for residence. Parked vehicles limit the vision of the moving traffic, which concerns me. The way traffic flies down our street, heaven forbid a child falls off their bike or walks around a parked vehicle and is hit by a driver traveling too fast.

Lots of small children in the area, should be the only reason needed to change the speed limit.

Municipality of Brockton
100 Scott Str., PO Box 68
Walkerton, ON N0G-2V0



Regarding Speed Limit on Thomas Str. and Ridout Str.

To whom it may concern:

We are responding as requested to the proposal to lower the speed limit on Thomas Str. and Ridout Str. from 50 kph to 40 kph. We strongly oppose this proposal.

We live in the area and use these streets all the time. Although we do not condone speeding, we believe that 50 kph is not too fast. Also, we will be inconvenienced every day by this speed reduction. If speeders are the problem, we are not responsible.

The theory perhaps is that if you lower the speed limit to 40 kph, some will drive 50-60 kph instead of 60-70 kph. But this is not the issue for all of us law abiders that aren't speeders.

We feel that Thomas Str. with the sidewalk on one side is a lot safer than Ridout Str. without a sidewalk. I often slow right down when people are walking on Ridout Str. and usually go all the way over to the other side of the street to give them lots of room. The curve section of Ridout Str. is especially worrisome though. It also seems very narrow. I especially slow down in this section.

We really like walking on scenic Ridout Str. I would hope that the town will consider a sidewalk on this street at some point. That decision, I believe more than anything else, will make Ridout Str. safer. I hope you make the right decision.

I would like to inquire as to what it would take for a sidewalk to be considered for Ridout Street, or at least the dangerous part near the Thomas Street curves (between Shortt Street and Thomas Street). As you are aware, Ridout Street is the only through street west of Yonge Street and is very busy. It also is a favoured walking route by many, especially those who routinely walk the perimeter of town. Currently, walkers and cars must share the same narrow pavement.

Without a sidewalk, walkers going in different directions use both sides of the road while facing traffic. This causes traffic to weave in and out to avoid hitting anyone. Some drivers are irate that walkers would be using this street as much as they do, impeding their progress. However, most drivers I find are very respectful and slow down as needed.

When two vehicles approach walkers at the same time, someone has to give. There is no room for three (or four) wide. Often it means that the walkers must head for the ditch or snow bank if at all possible. Often though, one of the cars will slow down or stop in order to avoid the danger. I really fear for the moms with strollers especially when they have other kids or pets in tow. This dangerous situation is extremely magnified on the curve where Thomas Street ends. Here there is little visibility as to what is over the hill and around the corner. This problem is further exacerbated when the snow banks are high or there are cars parked in the corner driveways obstructing the view.

On Sunday afternoon, I walked with my granddaughter from Thomas Street to McGivern Street to see my father at Brucelea Haven. The walk took 5-10 minutes and we encountered about 30 cars. There were also about 10 walkers out at that time. Three times we had to get off the road and stand in the snow at roadside to allow cars in each direction to pass. Once a car came to a near complete stop near the Silver Creek culvert. We really couldn't get over much further due to the guardrail. I have personally witnessed, heard of and been part of a number of close calls on Ridout Street.

All residents in this part of Walkerton, as well as others who use and visit this area, will concur with this safety issue. Residents that exit Lower Thomas onto Ridout Street have long been aware of the extra care needed to check traffic at this corner. A solution as simple as a sidewalk would help keep the snow banks back 4-6 feet at this corner, and give walkers a clear safety zone from the busy traffic. If needed, I can easily get 100 or possibly 1,000 signatures of people who would agree with this need for a sidewalk on at least part of Ridout Street.

I do not see that speed is an issue in most cases on this stretch of Ridout Street. Almost all cars seem to travel within the speed limit. And I do not think a Stop sign on the curve is the right solution. The best solution, and the safest for all involved, I feel, is to keep the walkers off the busy road. Give them a safe place to walk. This sidewalk if implemented would connect the Thomas Street sidewalk to the McGivern Street sidewalk, further promoting walking, jogging and recreation in the area. Walkerton is a beautiful town, and walking the perimeter is amazing. Try to find one person who disagrees with me.

Many residents in this area of town have long talked about something needing to be done. I have provided a number of photos to highlight this subject. However, to get a real feel for this issue, walk the walk. Check it out for yourself. Ridout Street currently is the only busy street in Walkerton without a sidewalk. Perhaps a sidewalk could be added in pieces. The two block stretch I feel most critical at this time is from Shortt Street to Thomas Street, encompassing the curves.

I would further like to talk to you regarding this matter. Your staff have informed me that you should be available on Friday, March 3rd. If you have time, please investigate and consult with the appropriate staff before then. It would be nice to find a safe solution before someone is seriously injured or killed in this area.
