

Increase in Traffic and Speed on Clarkson Rd N.

Safety and Use Concerns: A Lived
Experience

September 2023



About the Street

- Clarkson Rd N. is a community street that has detached houses and townhouses on the east and west side. There is a small community retail plaza and a daycare is the largest tenant
- It is just under 2 km in total length, so it is a relatively short street
- There are at least 4 daycares/Montessori's and 2 schools (St. Christopher and White Oaks Public School)
- There is a historic feature on the street (Benares Historic House) that attracts pedestrians and children
- 3 Churches on the street that also have children's activities at the location every day
- There are 2 designated Community Safety Zones (no safety measures in place and signs are barely visible)
- This is a very significant "Citizen and Children Streetscape"



The Situation

- Traffic has increased significantly on Clarkson Road North since the COVID-19 pandemic ended
- Traffic has increased to all all time high this year. This includes both flow and speed of traffic
- You have to wait for 10-15 cars to pass by before you can merge onto Clarkson Rd N. from your driveway
- Pedestrians are unsafe on the street (mostly school children) and there is a need for at least 2 more pedestrian crossings
- You can wait longer if you are coming from a side street, trying to merge onto Clarkson Rd N. (no stop signs is one reason for this wait time)
- WHY?:
 - The main reason is construction on Southdown Road that has diverted traffic to Clarkson Rd N.
 - This has permanently changed behaviour and Clarkson Rd N. is now a permanent bypass to Southdown Rd.








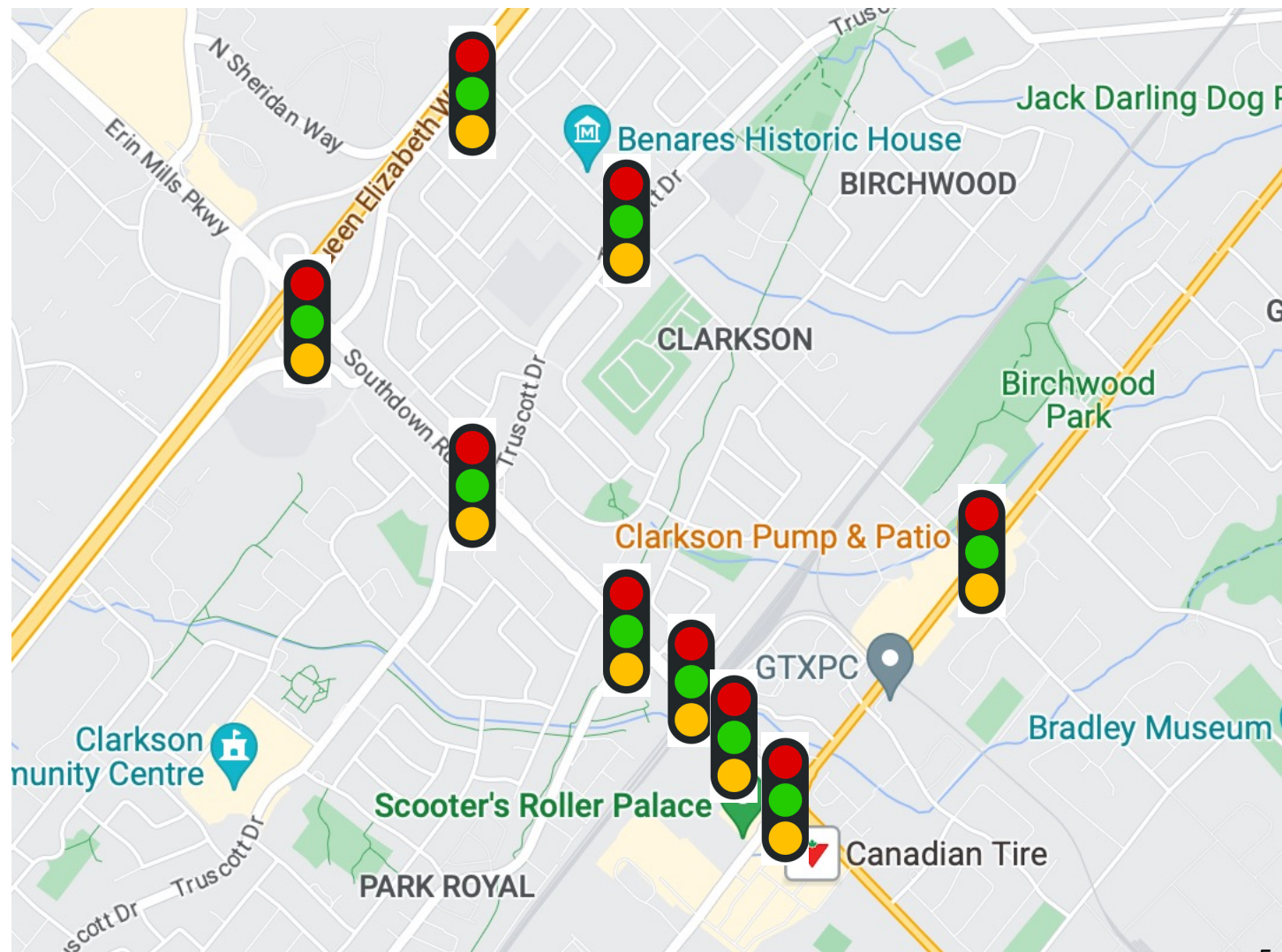
Southdown Road: Traffic Flow Problem

- 2 traffic lights in less than 60 meters
- 3 traffic lights in 200 meters
- 4 traffic lights in 500 meters
- Traffic chaos even without construction. Currently Lakeshore intersection is always blocked.

















Which one would you choose?

Southdown 	Clarkson Rd N. 
6 signals (not aligned) 	3 signals 
Backed all the way to Lakeshore even without traffic 	Busy but no long line ups 
More time 	Less time 



Change the equation for Clarkson Rd N.

Southdown		Clarkson Rd N.		NEW: Clarkson Rd N.	 
6 signals (not aligned)		3 signals		3 signals and 3 stop signs	 
Backed all the way to Lakeshore even without traffic		Busy but no long line ups		Add speed bumps (city has done it on Lorne Park Rd, Indian Rd, and numerous on Queen St W). Allow street parking. Now takes as much time to use	 
More time		Less time		Takes the same time to take as Southdown now	 

Recommendations

Recommendation	Reason
1. THREE new all-way stop signs	Creates the same flow as Southdown and takes away reason to use Clarkson Rd N. as a bypass. Allows side streets to merge with Clarkson Rd N. without waiting for very long periods, creating unsafe situations.
2. Speed bumps along Clarkson Rd. N.	Similar to Queen St W., numerous speed bumps will help reduce over speeding, which is over 60 km/hr. on average for a 30-40 km/hr. zone with 2 Community Safety Zones
3. TWO new crossings	Crossing lines exist at Clarkson Rd N. and Mazo Crescent for White Oaks School, but they are just 2 lines and traffic does not stop. Make this is proper crossing with lights. Add crossing in front of St. Christopher School for school children. Another unsafe situation.
4. Allow street parking on one side of Clarkson Rd. N.	This is one of the best traffic calming measures with no cost. Street parking makes street safer by calming traffic. DO NOT INCREASE THE WIDTH OF CLARKSON RD N. IT WILL INCREASE TRAFFIC AND SPEED.

THANK YOU!