

Allyson D'Ovidio

To: Steve
Subject: RE: Mississauga Road Safety Committee

From: Steve [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 11:24 PM
To: Stephen Dasko <Stephen.Dasko@mississauga.ca>; John Kovac <John.Kovac@mississauga.ca>; Martin Reid <Martin.Reid@mississauga.ca>; Joe Horneck <Joe.Horneck@mississauga.ca>; Sue McFadden <Sue.McFadden@mississauga.ca>; Allyson D'Ovidio <allyson.dovidio@mississauga.ca>
Subject: Mississauga Road Safety Committee

Dear Councillors:

I enclose my recent email to Councillor Kovac regarding the proposed Wilcox Road traffic calming. Councillor Kovac will be bringing this matter to your committee for a vote shortly.

As detailed in my email, I submitted a petition signed by 71 persons from the Wilcox Road area last September. They strenuously objected to the proposed traffic calming. The 71 signatures represented about 44 households. This was more than DOUBLE the 19 households who supported traffic calming along Wilcox Rd.

Petitioners have told me that they did not respond to the online survey, thinking that a signed petition was more than sufficient to convey their objection.

As indicated in my email to Councillor Kovac, I ask that either 44 households be retroactively added to the survey results as opposing traffic calming along Wilcox Road, or that the survey be redone.

It is entirely inappropriate and deeply undemocratic to proceed with traffic calming when a more than 2 to 1 objection has been registered.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours truly,

Stephen Kit

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Wilcox Rd. traffic calming
Date: Sun, 21 Jan 2024 23:28:02 -0500
From: Steve [REDACTED]
To: John Kovac <john.kovac@mississauga.ca>

Dear Councillor Kovac:

Further to this matter, I spent a couple of hours today going door-to-door revisiting people who signed my petition opposing Wilcox Rd. traffic calming.

More than one person shook their head in disbelief at your minimization of the views of residents who signed my petition. You have admitted as much in your recent email to me when you say that survey responses “carry significantly more weight” than petition signatures.

My own view and the view of residents I spoke to is that this is fundamentally undemocratic. Going by your standard that only one “vote” per household counts (which I oppose), approximately 44 households signed my petition. This is more than DOUBLE the 19 households who support traffic calming measures.

I strongly oppose your dismissal of the views of petition signers. Had I known your policy, I would have urged petition signers to fill out the online survey, in addition to signing my petition. As I said before, many thought that signing the petition was good enough to convey their opposition to traffic calming. If anything, a petition signature should carry MORE weight than a survey response.

I today urged households who signed my petition to express their concerns directly to you via email. I provided them a copy of your email dated January 14th, 2024 and my response of the same date.

In light of this unacceptable situation, I urge the following:

1. That you retroactively amend the results of the September, 2023 Wilcox Rd. traffic calming survey to include 44 households in opposition to any such measures.
2. If you decline to do this, that you redo the survey. Send another similar survey letter to all households on Wilcox Rd. Amherst Ct., Bookham Cres., Carigar Ct., Kozel Ct. and that portion of Meadows Blvd. between Wilcox Rd. and Cawthra Rd. Redoing the survey is the only acceptable democratic means of resolving this dispute that does not involve depriving 44 households of their rightful vote.
3. Though I strongly oppose your traffic calming measures, as a last resort, and only if the previous two recommendations are rejected, I would ask you to consider a compromise. Install traffic calming only on that portion of Wilcox Rd. between Meadows Blvd. and Rathburn Rd. East. Defer consideration of traffic calming south of Rathburn Rd. East for another year. The former is a long stretch of Wilcox Rd. that opens onto Meadow Glen Park, while the latter has no such park opening. I suspect that speed bumps on the former part of Wilcox Rd. would substantially deter any speeders along the entirety of Wilcox Rd.

In the meantime, now that the weather is warming up, I will continue to revisit my petition signers and urge them to email their complaints to you about the undemocratic silencing of the views of 44 households.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours truly,

Stephen Kit

Allyson D'Ovidio

To: Steve
Subject: RE: Wilcox Rd. traffic calming

From: Steve [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 5:42 PM
To: Allyson D'Ovidio <allyson.dovidio@mississauga.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Wilcox Rd. traffic calming

Dear Ms. D'Ovidio:

Here are additional emails to attach to the Road Safety Committee agenda.

Stephen Kit

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:Re: Wilcox Rd. traffic calming
Date:Sun, 14 Jan 2024 16:02:53 -0500
From:Steve [REDACTED]
To:John Kovac <John.Kovac@mississauga.ca>

Dear Councillor Kovac:

Thanks for your email.

I will say that I do recall some people telling me, as they were signing my petition, that I had "saved them the trouble" of filling out the on-line survey, thinking that a signature on a petition was as good or better than a survey response.

Even if you discount signatures from the same household, I believe there are 50+ households who signed my petition. That being said, those 71 residents are voters, and each of their signatures should carry the same weight.

Finally, it might be wise in future to make it clear that petitions carry little weight in public policy-making, whether by emphasizing on notices to residents that a response to an online survey carries greater weight, or by making it clear on the city's petition information web page that petitions are not as valuable as survey responses. For what it is worth, I disagree that on-line surveys should have greater weight than petitions. People know their own mind on this issue, and they are unlikely to sign unless they clearly wish to register their view.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Stephen Kit

On 2024-01-14 2:39 p.m., John Kovac wrote:

Dear Mr. Kit,

Thank you for your email of January 1st and follow-up message of January 10th and in relation to the recent Traffic Calming survey conducted by the City of Mississauga for Wilcox Road. As you are aware, there continues to be speeding activity on this roadway and I recall having spoken directly with you about this in the past. In fact, I continue to personally receive – as the Ward Councillor – the most number of speed related complaints concerning one specific residential neighbourhood, from homeowners on Wilcox Road. While there are certainly homeowners who would not support traffic calming being added to Wilcox Road - as demonstrated by your personal petition - there are many homeowners who do support traffic calming being added.

The City of Mississauga has been taking a more open-minded and proactive approach to traffic calming in recent years as a result of service area divisions (such as Winter Maintenance Div., Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services, etc...) beginning to show less concern about potential service impacts. This, in part, has to do with a new approach to speed hump/cushion installing. If Wilcox Road does in fact end up with speed humps/cushions, they will be a newer type – involving a lower (to the ground) and longer profile / type of construction.

In your initial email, you wrote that, “There is no indication as to the balance of votes by residents: how many submitted survey responses in favor, how many opposed. Whose “recommendation” is this?” In all, there were 169 formal survey letters delivered to households in your area. While only 23 formal responses were received, 19 (83%) expressed support for traffic calming measures while only 4 (17%) expressed opposition to traffic calming measures for Wilcox Road. The recommendation for traffic calming on Wilcox Road will ultimately be made by the ‘Road Safety Division’ of the Transportation and Works Department, and will be in the form of a corporate report addressed to Council – likely in the next month or two.

<https://www.mississauga.ca/projects-and-strategies/city-projects/traffic-calming-program/past-projects/>

While your petition has not nor will be ‘disregarded’, in instances where an official and formal City survey is completed, it tends to carry significantly more weight as a result of the privacy and comfort that it allows for and assures voting homeowners. It can be difficult to know how and what exactly has been relayed to a homeowner by a resident who has taken to door-to-door petitioning. While you did acquire 71 signatures in support, how much opposition did you receive? Were there more persons you spoke to who were against or for traffic calming? Did you take a tally of all homeowners on Wilcox Road that you spoke to who expressed opposition to your petition? Also, it is clear that of the 71 signatures that you acquired, many of them were from the same household. The official City survey involved a 1-vote per household tabulation which is a much fairer way of conducting a poll and also a more accurate way to identify pro vs con per household.

Kindly let me know if you have additional questions or comments or if you would like to speak about this matter verbally.

With regards,
John

John Kovac
Councillor, Ward 4

City of Mississauga
905-896-5400

From: Steve [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 1:59 PM
To: John Kovac <John.Kovac@mississauga.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Wilcox Rd. traffic calming

Any response?

SK

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Wilcox Rd. traffic calming
Date: Mon, 1 Jan 2024 15:40:14 -0500
From: Steve [REDACTED]
To: John Kovac <john.kovac@mississauga.ca>

Dear Councillor Kovac:

I see from the city website that traffic calming for Wilcox Rd. has been recommended, with council approval pending. There is no indication as to the balance of votes by residents: how many submitted survey responses in favor, how many opposed. Whose "recommendation" is this? Is it the traffic commissioner?

Can you please tell me the breakdown of specific numbers of people responding to the online survey. How many supported, how many opposed?

Was my petition completely disregarded? Are petitions just empty gestures that carry no weight with city bureaucracy?

Certainly the 71 people who signed my petition will not take kindly to having their views ignored.

Stephen Kit