

Good day Mayor Guthrie and Councillors,

My name is Sandy Nicholls and I have lived at [REDACTED] Whittaker Court since 2005.

Over the years, I have contacted the City as well as Guelph Police Service with traffic concerns on Niska Road including excessive speeds, incidences of road rage, distracted driving, rolling stops at Ptarmigan as well as safety concerns with respect to heavy trucks using this route as a short cut. Many neighbours have expressed similar traffic concerns.

The most concerning traffic problem on Niska Road as identified by residents and confirmed by traffic studies conducted during the Niska Road EA - is short cutting traffic from outside the Kortright Hills neighbourhood using Niska Road to connect to Wellington County Road 124 and northwest Guelph - "the Costco Highway".

The worst part of the cut through traffic is the number of heavy trucks using Niska in violation of the truck exclusionary by-law. This illegal use of Niska by heavy trucks was already a major problem before the Bailey bridge was closed and has gotten much worse since the new bridge was opened.

As noted in the Table below, the number of heavy trucks on Niska has been steadily increasing since the new bridge was opened and is now five times higher than the count with the Bailey bridge.

HEAVY TRUCK TRAFFIC ON NISKA ROAD – 7 DAY COUNTS
Road Segment Oct 2013 Oct 2019 Oct 2020

Downey - Ptarmigan	25	43	70
Ptarmigan - Pioneer	20	40	84
Pioneer - Bridge	15	na	77

NOTE: It should be noted there is a by-law in place prohibiting trucks with gross weight of 4,500 kg or greater from travelling on Niska Road

Niska Road EA – Overview of existing conditions page 7

For over ten years, and repeatedly during the Niska Road EA, the residents of Kortright Hills have been asking the City for traffic calming measures on Niska Road to control excessive cut-through traffic, especially heavy trucks.

We are very happy that the City has now responded to our many appeals by initiating a traffic calming project that will begin with speed humps to reduce excessive speeds. This is a very important first step in traffic calming but it is not likely that speed humps will deter cut-through traffic.

What Kortright Hills residents are asking for, and what they deserve, is:

- (1) an assurance from the City that the traffic calming measures promised in the EA ***with the potential to deter cut-through traffic*** will be part of a second phase of traffic calming measures for Niska if it is found that the speed humps are not enough to reduce cut-through traffic to acceptable levels;
- (2) an assurance from the City that means will be found to virtually eliminate heavy truck traffic from using Niska as a short cut.

One possible technology for controlling illegal trucks is to use camera surveillance. I see that the City is acquiring red light cameras for surveillance of infractions at traffic lights. Why not use the same type of technology to identify illegal truck use on Niska?

Another ongoing concern is that the current public transit route along Niska/Ptarmigan/Downey needs to be reviewed. I support public transit however, routes should be made more efficient.

A bus will pass approximately every 30 minutes, many moving over the speed limit and they are most often completely empty. I believe a review will confirm this.

Can City Staff consider reducing the number of empty busses or use smaller busses to use this route?

Thank you,

Sandy Nicholls