

## Questions asked at the June 28<sup>th</sup> Ward 12 Town Hall

### **Will traffic calming include Jerseyville Road and Lovers Lane?**

We are working through each area that requires assessment for potential traffic calming. Jerseyville and Lovers Lane are both areas that have been noted as areas of concern by Ward 12 residents.

### **The issues on Academy, Lodor, and Church include volume of traffic, not just the traffic calming. What can be done to limit traffic/ particularly large trucks and school buses?**

The volume of traffic is more difficult to control than the speed of traffic, although the traffic calming scheduled for Fall 2023 should have a dampening effect on drivers using the neighbourhood as a cut-through. The volume of traffic on these streets has been noted and City staff are now investigating ways in which to best mitigate this volume.

### **How much investment is returned to Ancaster versus what is raised?**

Hamilton taxpayers contribute to a general fund that is used to fund the entire city. Exceptions are Transit and Fire area rating. Reporting by ward (or parts of a ward) is not a direction Council has given to Staff. Services such as garbage collection, snowplowing etc. have city-wide standards and are not determined by ward or former municipalities. Capital projects are assessed based on need, not on ward. Some wards from the 'old' City of Hamilton continue to pay an additional area-rated fund to spend on projects specific to that ward. This does not exist for Ward 12.

### **Property taxes - why is a home valued at more paying less taxes in same neighbourhood?**

Property taxes are based on value assessments by Municipal Property Assessment Corporation of Ontario (MPAC), not on market values. Identical assessments in the same neighbourhood would produce the same annual property taxes.

### **What is the penalty for removing trees? How can we confirm that it has been paid? (re: Southcote and Golf Links, etc)**

It is the role of Municipal Law Enforcement to assign fines for removing trees without a permit and to enforce the fine.

### **How can we as a community express our dissatisfaction with the OLT? We are losing so much. What can we do to let the OLT know about our dissatisfaction?**

The OLT is overseen by the Province of Ontario. Please write to your MPP or to the provincial government to share your concerns.

### **What was previous success rate of OLT? Was it ever less successful?**

We don't have this data

### **Where does the Mayor stand with these powers now that she has "strong mayor powers"?**

Mayor's statement: "I believe that working collaboratively yields the best results; finding common ground, developing partnerships, and coming to solutions that are broadly supported is the best way forward. We have number of issues facing the City of Hamilton and many exciting opportunities. I will continue to work hard every day with Hamilton and the residents of our great city as my priority."

**Will provincial issues be addressed at Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO)? Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)? And Ontario Big City Mayors (OBCM)?**

Yes, the issues are being discussed at these tables and the City has representation at each one.

**Can we find ways to get this (the changes to development rules) covered in the press, doesn't seem to be well covered?**

There has been quite a lot of coverage in the media about several of Ford's most recent Bills that dramatically alter development rules. You can do a quick Google search of "Bill 23" or "Bill 109" or "Bill 97" or "Bill 108" then click on "news" to find many hundreds of articles. Writing letters to the editor of the Spectator and Ancaster news can be effective in raising awareness. It's important to be aware of these changes as many of the so-called 'red-tape-cutting measures' will result in the removal of environmental and heritage protections in order to build faster and the downloading to resident taxpayers some of the costs associated with development that were formerly borne by developers.

You can write to our local papers here:

Spec: [letters@thespec.com](mailto:letters@thespec.com) (250 words max)

Ancaster news: [mpearson@hamiltonnews.com](mailto:mpearson@hamiltonnews.com) (250 words max but shorter is better)

**Communities need to organize because the Mayors will not be acting independently! How can we bring like-minded communities together?**

Some of this work is happening at Council and the tables (AMO, FCM, OBCM) where members of Council sit. There are several non-profit organizations that are addressing these development issues that you can join.

[Architectural Conservancy of Ontario](#) has commented extensively on Bill 23

[Environmental Defence](#) works to promote best planning principles and to stop sprawl onto countryside in Ontario

[Stop Sprawl Hamilton](#) works to save Hamilton farmland and keep our taxes from skyrocketing to pay for sprawl. They are also connected to several other municipalities with the same objective.

**What is the status of water pressure needs?**

City staff will always consider the impact of proposed development on existing infrastructure.

Although additional water-pressure infrastructure will be needed in the future, there are no immediate needs.

**What is the status of the 403 on ramp to Brantford – it was promised several years ago?**

This project is part of the City's multi-year capital plan, but it is provincial domain. The Province will determine the timing and the Ward 12 office will keep the community informed as plans are made.

**Is enforcement an option to address traffic calming needs?**

Enforcement is only a small part of the solution as there are only 2 *beat cops* assigned to all of Ward 12. We have shared areas of specific concern with them, and they will target increased enforcement in these areas when resources allow; however, they can be (and are) pulled away when there are urgent priorities (i.e. 911 calls). Great gains can be made in calming traffic by designing roads that slow cars and protect those outside of a car. Individuals can also contact the police directly to share concerns.

**Can we do more re: education/culture changes re: speeding? Education re: walking on the road at night (light clothes, facing traffic, etc)?**

We can submit a request to the City's communications team for education on these items. It may help to change the behaviour of some.

**What is being done about Wilson Street West traffic (5 schools, 6 seniors' homes and childcare in this area)? Heavy traffic and going to get worse with new developments?**

Controlling the volume of traffic is not something we can directly control. The Province has made changes to our Urban Official Plan that significantly increases the amount of density along this corridor. Improving active and public transportation is something we can control. As part of the HSR's re-envisioned network, there is a greatly improved bus service in Ancaster which can play a role in reduce car traffic. Implementation timing is to-be-determined.

**Can we put a light at Seminole at Wilson?**

**Fiddlers Green - traffic light at 175 Fiddlers Green (pedestrian light): can we switch it to a traffic light to help easy traffic flow due to volume?**

There are City of Hamilton staff professionals responsible for managing traffic flow and safety on our roads. They will consider a wide range of factors as they review the needs of our streets. They also have guidelines from the Province that they must follow when making changes. On behalf of the community, we will continue to share concerns that they can review the best options available.

**Can we remove plantings in Stonehenge roundabouts? Quick fix! Creates better visibility.**

Craig recently met with City road safety staff to discuss the concerns related to the roundabouts. A study is underway. Once it is complete, Staff will be recommending safety improvements.

**Can we put a left turn lane going north at Powerline Road as a temporary fix while waiting for the environmental assessment, etc?**

We can submit this request to the traffic operations team for consideration.

**Can the truck route signage be enhanced and enforced along Wilson Street West and the streets in the area?**

We will discuss with the team responsible for this signage and determine if there are improvements that can be made.

**Can we improve signage along Lodor, Academy, and Church related to speed limit?**

This will be part of the discussions as plans are finalized for traffic calming on these streets.

**Can we improve signage along Lovers Lane, etc.? Signs indicating 40km ends but not clear where it started.**

This is already being looked at by the team to determine where improvements are needed.