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CC: Compagno, Mirella; Compagno, Mirella; ken.schwenger@bell.ca <ken.schwenger@bell.ca>; BrianHayhoe@sympatico.ca <BrianHayhoe@sympatico.ca>; Martella@axxent.ca <Martella@axxent.ca>
Sent: Wed Jan 03 10:11:57 2007
Subject: Nashville Road traffic concerns and update/ KARA traffic sub committee

Dear Councillors,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate each of you on your successful campaigns and to extend best wishes for the New Year. 2007 looks like it is shaping up to be one filled with the challenges of managing and directing growth in our City. I wish you success in these endeavours as well.

The purpose of my email today is to draw your attention to the traffic related issues of Nashville Road and the efforts that have been undertaken by the residents to address these important concerns.

Nashville Road, as you know, is a roughly five kilometer stretch that goes east/west between Highway 50 and Highway 27. This two lane regional road is anchored by a church and school at Huntington Road, to the west and another new church at Highway 27, to the east. Contained within these boundaries are the hamlet of Nashville and many homes and residential streets. There is no industry or commerce of significance and the roadway is intersected by a major rail line in Nashville proper.

Over the course of the last five years there has been an ever increasing amount of vehicle traffic and more specifically trucks. These trucks are using Nashville Road as a short cut between Highways 50 and 27, when Major Mackenzie and Rutherford Road are better alternatives with higher posted speeds. These trucks run up and down the road all day starting in the early hours and including weekends. The noise, pollution, volumes and excessive speeds, have caused the residents to have a loss of enjoyment of their homes and raised safety concerns for families who have to use this road.

In June of 2006 residents met with KARA and received their support to address the issues through the formation of a KARA traffic sub-committee. This committee identified the key concerns and as this is a regional road, asked for and received a meeting with then regional councillor, Linda Jackson. Councillor Jackson took up our cause and with council's support, our committee was able to see positive movement of our issues. Among the achievements to date have been:

1. Speed limits have been reduced to a maximum 50kph from west of Huntington Road to Highway 27 and some areas are posted at 40kph.
2. School bus loading signs have been installed in both directions.
3. Signs have been installed asking trucks to refrain from using engine breaks.
4. Signs indicating the "NEW" reduced speed limits have been installed.
5. Two truck blitzes (which resulted in numerous tickets and some trucks being pulled off the road on the spot) and speed enforcement have been undertaken and are of course, subject to resource availability.

We are grateful for these improvements, however the big issue still remains. That is to have Nashville Road turned over to the City of Vaughan from York Region and to then limit truck traffic to local use only. That is the only way to ensure the safety of the area residents. I will not go into the anecdotal experiences of the residents but each can recall at least one significant traffic event within the last year. We are afraid that a tragedy is in the offing if speeding heavy trucks are not removed, from what is essentially a residential road anchored by two churches.

I call your attention to the Region of York's Transportation and Works Committee Report of October 4, 2006 that addresses these issues and undertakes to provide a report and recommendations early in 2007. We have been advised that the study and report are due from the Region's Transportation and Works Committee in February and is expected to be ready in time for the Region's Council meeting tentatively scheduled for February 22, 2007.

By this email we are seeking your support to cause the transfer of the roadway from York Region to the City of Vaughan. We will then deal with the restriction of trucks to local traffic only. Peter Meffe, our local councillor, has been kept up to date with our issues and progress.

As residents of this area we see the push for development and understand that Vaughan will grow and Kleinburg in particular will see it's share of new projects. Understanding the situation does not negate our rights to keep safe our roads and ensure the enjoyment of our homes and that our families are protected from harm.

We have seen our share of accidents on this road. More truck traffic, servicing infrastructure and new development will only aggravate, an already bad situation. There are better road alternatives to Nashville. Please help us to direct truck traffic to the proper roads and keep safe our community.

I ask that you take a moment to respond to me as I will be asked to give an update to KARA, the traffic committee and fellow residents.

On behalf of all the areas residents, I thank you for your time and hope that we can count on your continued support.

Sincerely,

Paul Godin

KARA/ Nashville Road Residents traffic sub committee