

# **PETITION FOR PHYSICAL TRAFFIC CALMING DESIGN TECHNIQUES ON MILLEN ROAD – STONEY CREEK**

Prepared for  
Office of the City Clerk  
City Hall  
City of Hamilton

Prepared by  
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Tuesday November 01, 2016

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part 1: Letter of Transmittal.....	3
Part 2: Report.....	4
Executive Summary.....	4
Background.....	5
Scope.....	5
Objectives.....	6
Findings.....	6
A. <i>Roads in Hamilton</i> .....	6
B. <i>School Zone</i> .....	6
C. <i>Motor Vehicle Accidents</i> .....	7
D. <i>Effects of Traffic</i> .....	7
E. <i>Effects of Speeding</i> .....	8
F. <i>Feedback from Residents on Millen Road</i> .....	8
G. <i>Questions</i> .....	10
Recommendations.....	10
References.....	13
Appendix.....	14
A. Examples of Traffic Calming Techniques.....	14
1. Margaret Avenue (Stoney Creek).....	14
2. Bay Street South (Downtown Hamilton).....	15
3. Aberdeen Avenue (Downtown Hamilton).....	16
B. Concept Drawings.....	16
C. <b>Petition</b> .....	19

Dan van den Beukel

Monday October 31, 2016

Office of the City Clerk  
City Hall, City of Hamilton  
71 Main St. W., 1st Floor  
Hamilton, Ontario  
Canada L8P 4Y5

To whom this may concern,

Please accept the following request for physical traffic calming design techniques on Millen Road, between Highway 8 and Maple Drive, in Stoney Creek-Hamilton, Ontario.

The purpose of this request is to improve safety and quality of life of the neighbourhood, which is adversely effected by traffic, speeding and noise from motor vehicles.

Please ensure this document is sent to the appropriate personnel and follows the necessary protocols on managing complaints and suggestions by the public.

**Enclosed is a petition signed by more than 75 % of the residents on Millen Road along with a report on traffic findings and recommendations.**

Residents are looking for action on this matter as soon as possible.

I would like to meet to discuss this petition in further detail as I have collected a great deal of information on the subject. Would you be available to meet before November 10, 2016?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Dan van den Beukel  
*Enclosed*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Residents of Millen Road between Highway 8 and Maple Drive in Stoney Creek Hamilton Ontario (Ward 10) are very concerned about the high level of speeding, noise and traffic on Millen road, which adversely affects their safety and quality of life.

Having gone door to door speaking to almost every household on Millen Road, they have passionately said that the amount of traffic, speeding and noise gives them anxiety, anger and fear.

They are afraid to let their own kids play in their front-yard. They fear being rear ended upon exiting their own driveway. They feel anxious when aggressive drivers behind them get too close as they slow to enter their own driveways.

There are many residents of Millen Road that have complained to the city and the police, yet their voice has fallen on deaf ears.

Some residents have said their pets have been killed because of traffic on Millen Road.

In 2012, the Stoney Creek newspaper reported that a vehicle actually rolled over onto the front lawn of a home on Millen road knocking down a power line.

And according to the City of Hamilton's own Public Works Department, they have said (via email), "At Hwy 8 and Millen Rd we have had 9 collisions however, given the much higher volumes at this intersection, more collisions would be expected".

Additionally, studies have shown that traffic actually effects your health: physiologically, psychologically, cognitively & behaviourally (Treasure, 2009). And it can impact social interaction within a neighbourhood (Streetfilms, 2010).

For the residents that have lived here all their life and for some since the 50's, this has been an ongoing problem that needs to be addressed immediately.

For some residents, they are actually contemplating moving to a better, safer neighbourhood where they can raise a family.

Realistically and logically, the only way these issues can be resolved effectively and sustainably is through physical traffic calming techniques such as a 40 km/hr speed limit, crosswalk pavement markings, bump-outs or curb extensions, speed humps or cushions, traffic circle, chicanes, lane reduction and a centre median island or any other required devices.

A petition requesting implementation of physical traffic calming design techniques on Millen Road has been created, signed and supported by more 75 % of the residents (see attachment).

Please see below for a report on findings, recommendations and petition. The following is meant aid to the city in their decision and planning process.

## BACKGROUND

Last year my wife and I moved to Stoney Creek to be closer to our family. As we settled in, we started to notice a problem with the traffic and poor safety of Millen Road.

It became clear to us that there are a lot of motorists on Millen Road. Many of them are driving too fast and are too loud for a residential neighbourhood. Having lived here for more than a year, no matter where we are in our "house" (backyard, front porch, kitchen or bedroom) you can hear motorists racing down Millen Road. It is very disturbing and unsettling.

There have been a few incidents that have triggered us to take action. In particular, while cutting our grass between the sidewalk and the road, I noticed vehicles speeding past me without providing adequate space. They gave only 2 or 3 feet while travelling around 50 km/hr. Again, the same thing happened during the winter while shoveling snow from the foot of the driveway. Should I have startled and tripped in an attempt to find safety, I surely would have been hit.

Also we worry for the safety of the children in our family when they are in the front yard or being loaded into their parent's vehicles. If they ever happen to take one step onto the roadway, they could easily be hit by a speeding motorist.

My wife and I now have a daughter and one of our wishes is that she will have the freedom to interact with other kids in the neighbourhood, to walk to school and to ride their bicycles free of danger just as we did as children.

To this affect, on September 01, 2015, we issued a complaint to our city councillor, Maria Pearson. Two months later, on October 22, 2015, she responded back claiming she would call to east end superintendent for police surveillance and obtain a speed count between Margaret Avenue and Royce Avenue. However, since then we have not heard back from her. A year has gone by and the problem still persists. This year, we called again, and even emailed her, to setup a meeting to discuss the problem. Yet to this day we have not heard back from her.

The lack of action on this matter has prompted us to assemble a petition. In the process of going door to door, we learned that our neighbours share the same concerns and thus more than 75% of the residents of Millen Road have signed this petition.

## SCOPE

Residents of Millen Road, between Highway 8 and Maple Drive, are requesting physical traffic calming design techniques to be installed on Millen Road between Highway 8 and Maple Drive by spring of 2017 to improve public safety and quality of life for all, particularly children and elderly.

Physical Traffic Calming Techniques include speed humps, road narrowing, 40 km/hr speed limit, chicanes, bump-outs or curb extensions, bollards, closures or any other devices required.

## OBJECTIVE

To reduce the speed of motor vehicles travelling on Millen Road to improve safety, reduce noise and possibly deter traffic.

## FINDINGS

### A. ROADS IN HAMILTON

- i. According to the Schedule 2 (Speed Limits) of the city by-law, there are many "roads" that have a 40 km/hr speed limit such as Mineral Springs Road (Dundas), Lower Lions Club Road (Ancaster), Nakoma Road (Ancaster), Old Dundas Road (Dundas) and Sulphur Springs Road (Ancaster). Note: Many of these roads have grades as steep as Millen Road.
- ii. Other busy roadways with 40 km/hr speed limit include: Lake Avenue and Kenilworth Avenue.
- iii. There are ten "roads" in Ward 10 (with the exception of the Service Roads).
  - a. Two of them have traffic calming devices: 1) Chester and 2) Warwick. Note: Both have traffic circles.
  - b. Three of them travel up the escarpment: Dewitt, New Mountain and Millen.
- iv. From my observations, there are two other roadways in Ward 10 with 40 km/hr: Mountain Ave. and Wardrobe Ave.
- v. According to the 2004-2006 City of Hamilton Transportation Master Plan Network Map, Millen Road is does not appear to be labeled as a "major road", "snow emergency and cleaning priority" or "high volume and service" roadway.

### B. SCHOOL ZONE

The following illustrates the number of students that use the intersection of Royce Ave. and Millen Road:

- i. The intersection of Royce Ave. and Millen Road is part of the school bus route and a pick-up/ drop-off area.
- ii. Children living on Millen Road typically walk to Memorial Elementary School by way of Royce Avenue, which is between 550 and 1100 metres away.
- iii. According to the Hamilton Wentworth Student Transportation Policy (HWSTS, 2014), Grade 1-8 students living on Millen Road, less than 1.8km, are

encouraged to walk to school (as they not typically eligible for transportation under most circumstances given their proximity).

### C. MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

- i. According to the Stoney Creek Newspaper, there have been 2 accidents in the last 5 years:
  - a. March 10, 2016: car accident at Barton Street and Millen Road
  - b. June 14 2012: a vehicle had rolled over and knocked down a power line between Pine Avenue and Royce Avenue.
- ii. According to Gabriela Tokarska, Traffic Safety Technologist -Traffic Roadway Safety, with Public Works Department at the City of Hamilton (personal communication, September 22, 2016):
  - a. "At Hwy 8 and Millen Rd we have had 9 collisions however, given the much higher volumes at this intersection, more collisions would be expected".

### D. EFFECTS OF TRAFFIC

- i) According to Julian Treasure: The 4 ways sound affects us (2009):
  - a. Physiologically
  - b. Psychologically
  - c. Cognitive
  - d. Behaviourally
- ii) According to the World Health Organization's Guidelines for Community Noise (1999):
  - a. Noise can have an adverse effect on health by ..."noise-induced hearing impairment; interference with speech communication; disturbance of rest and sleep; psychophysiological, mental-health and performance effects; effects on residential behaviour and annoyance; as well as interference with intended activities".
- iii) According to Donald Appleyard's research, traffic can have the following effects on the quality of life (Streetfilms, 2010):
  - a. Reduction in social interaction by residents
    - i. People on light traffic streets know more people, have more friends or acquaintances and have more gathering spots than a moderate to heavy traffic streets
  - b. Diminishment in sense of home territory by residents
  - c. Reduction in environment awareness from residents

## E. EFFECTS OF SPEEDING

- i) According to the Pedestrian Death Review (2012):
  - a. "Fatality risk at 50 km/hr is more than twice as high as 40 km/hr."
  - b. "Aging population account for 13.2% of the population but 36% of fatalities"
  - c. "People older than 75 years of age account for 21.2% of all traffic fatalities"
- ii) According to the Pedestrian Casualties in Ontario: a 15-year review (2005):
  - a. "...When a pedestrian is struck by a vehicle travelling at speeds up to 30 km/hr, 10.3 percent were killed or hospitalized with serious injury; over 30 up to 40 km/hr, 20.7 were killed or seriously injured; and if the vehicle were travelling at speeds over 60 km/hr, 54.2 were killed or seriously injured".
- iii) According to the WHO Road Traffic Injuries Fact Sheet (2016):
  - a. "Traffic injuries are leading cause of death among young people age 15-29"

## F. FEEDBACK FROM RESIDENTS OF MILLEN ROAD

### a. INTERSECTION

- i. A few residents claim vehicles do not stop before turning north on Millen Road from Maple Drive
- ii. One resident claims that many vehicles travelling north and south on Millen Road do not stop properly at Royce Avenue even though when there are many students that use this intersection, including school buses.
- iii. Intersection of Royce Ave. and Millen Road is a very busy intersection with lots of children crossing there to travel to and from school.

### b. PETS

- i. One resident claims they witnessed a pet being dragged from a vehicle by their leash on Millen Road.
- ii. One resident claims their dog was killed last year.

### c. SPEEDING

- i. Many residents claim that vehicles on Millen Road are driving too fast for a residential neighbourhood.
- ii. A few residents claim they deliberately park their vehicles on the street to give themselves more security from traffic and speeders.
- iii. One resident claims they have witnessed drivers using their cellphones.



- iv. One resident claims they witnessed a couple of vehicles racing and doing laps around the block on a Friday night last year.
- v. Some residents claim that drivers don't give them enough time or space to pull into your driveway
- vi. Some residents claim that they are afraid of being rear-ended while exiting their driveways.
- vii. Many residents claim they feel people drive too aggressive and fast on Millen Road.
- viii. Many residents claim speeding has been a problem for many years

d. EMOTIONAL IMPACT

- i. Most residents claim to be unhappy with the level of traffic, speeding and noise from motor vehicles.
- ii. A few residents claim the traffic gives them anxiety.
- iii. Some residents claim they are thinking of and/or will move to a quieter neighbourhood.
- iv. A few residents claim they don't feel safe when cutting their grass or shoveling the snow when close to the street.
- v. Some residents with children claim they are afraid to let them play in the front yard due to traffic and speeding.

e. ACTION

- i. Many residents have said they don't care how traffic is calmed, as long as it done or by any means necessary.
- ii. Many residents have said they would gladly accept speed humps as far as Pine Avenue if that meant vehicles would slow down.
- iii. Many residents claim they have filed a complaint with the city or police.
- iv. One resident said they are okay with traffic calming as long as it doesn't obstruct their driving when exiting their driveway.

f. ACCIDENTS

- i. After living on Millen Road for over a year, one resident claims they witnessed two traffic accidents at intersection of Millen Road and Highway 8
- ii. One resident claims a pedestrian was killed by a car at intersection of Royce Avenue and Millen Road many years ago
- iii. One resident claims they were rear-ended when exiting their driveway at the top of Millen Road by a vehicle failing to stop at Maple Drive.

## G. QUESTIONS

1. How many **public complaints** has the city or police received by residents of Millen Road in the last 5 years in comparison to other residential neighbours in Stoney Creek?
2. How many **speeding tickets** has the police issued per patrol in the last 5 years in comparison to other residential neighbours in Stoney Creek?
3. How many **traffic accidents** have occurred on Millen Road in the last 5 years in comparison to other residential neighbours in Stoney Creek?
4. Hypothetically, would you let **your child** walk or bike along or cross Millen Road?
5. Should residents be **afraid to let their kids play in the front** for a residential neighbourhood?
6. What is the definition and requirements for a **school zone designation**? And does Millen Road, or a portion of it, qualify?
7. Would a **chicane or bump out** using parked cars, knock-down pylons or a permanent concrete structure help slow down motor vehicles on Millen Road?  
*For an example, see photo of Aberdeen Ave. between Queen St. & James St. or Bay St. South between Robinson & Duke St. in appendix.*
8. Would a **traffic circle** reduce the noise generated from loud motor vehicles by reducing the need to accelerate at the intersection of Royce Avenue and Millen Road?
9. Would a **centre/ island median** along a few parts of the Millen Road reduce speeding of motor vehicles?
10. Why did the city choose to install **traffic calming devices on neighbouring streets** (i.e. Margaret Avenue and Federal Street) but not on Millen Road?
11. Why does Millen road only have **curbside parking** on one side?
12. Why is Millen Road's **yellow cautionary line placement** so far to one side, the east perimeter, when most drivers naturally drive over it or fails to contain most vehicles?
13. Does the **grade of Millen Road** between Maple Drive and Margaret Avenue meet Canadian transportation standards for a residential neighbourhood?

## RECOMMENDATION

(A). With SPEEDING being the biggest concern for residents, the following has been recommended *from easiest to hardest based on the assumed cost and time*:

1. **SIGNAGE – change speed limit from 50 km/hr to 40 km/hr on Millen Road**
  - It could have an immediate impact on the neighbourhood
  - It's inexpensive, realistic and attainable
  - It would remind drivers that this is not a highway but a residential area with children and elderly

- It's fair to residents of Millen Road when comparing our speeds against neighbouring roadways like Maple Drive, Pine Avenue, Margaret Avenue and Southmeadow Drive
- Slower speeds would provide drivers with the necessary time to reaction in order to avoid injuring vulnerable road users and dramatically reduce the level of injury if collision were to occur.
- It actually only increase a drivers trip by less than 30 seconds.

## 2. PAVEMENT MARKINGS

- Yellow cautionary line** - Remove or reposition the existing line so that it improves the safety of pedestrians on both sides of the road.
- Crosswalk** - Add a crosswalks, one both directions, at Millen and Royce, to remind drivers that students use this intersection to walk to and from Memorial Elementary School on a daily basis.
- Restricted shoulder** – Add a restricted shoulder to the certain areas on Millen Road, which have more space since, as observed, drivers naturally want to give themselves 3 to 4 feet space from the nearest curb.
- Curbside parking stalls** – Install curbside parking stalls to discourage drivers from speeding by narrowing the roadway.

## 3. HORIZONTAL DEFLECTION – Add bump outs using knock-down pylons

- It could be a more cost effective solution compared to more permanent structures like concrete.
- *Example: See Bay Street South between Duke and Bold Street.*

## 4. VERTICAL DEFLECTION – Add 2 Speed Humps or Speed Cushions before and after Royce Avenue on Millen Road

- Note: As noted earlier, most residents would be okay with speed humps but prefer an asphalt structure.
- *Example: Margaret Avenue between Highway 8 and Millen Road (Stoney Creek)*

(B) With respect to the issue of NOISE (especially from motor vehicles with loud exhaust systems) being the second biggest concern for residents on Millen Road, the following is being recommended:

1. Install a **traffic circle** at intersection of Millen Road and Royce Avenue or
2. Consider **revising the city noise by-law** to further prevent or discourages vehicles from installing loud mufflers.

(C) If you doubt this is argument, please examine the following (in comparison with other neighbouring streets such as Maple Drive, Pine Avenue and Margaret Avenue):

1. Traffic Volume
2. speed telemetry

3. Gap analysis between posted, designed and desired speed.
4. History
  - a. Speeding Tickets
  - b. Collisions
  - c. Complaints
5. Noise
6. Past studies, reports and analysis on Millen Road
7. Road geometry/ topography □

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## APPENDIX

### A. Examples of Traffic Calming Techniques

#### **Margaret Avenue (Stoney Creek)**

##### **Speed Humps**



##### **Roundabout**

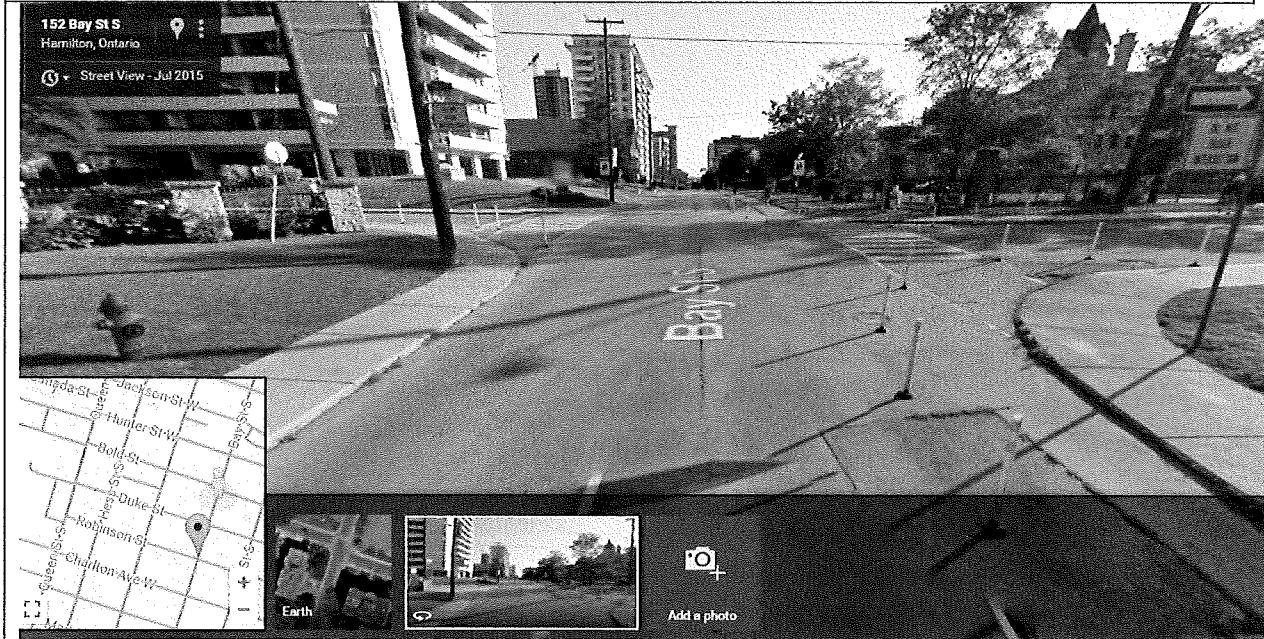


##### **"Traffic Calmed Neighbourhood" Signage**



## Bay Street South (downtown Hamilton)

### Knock-down Pylons/ Bollards



## Aberdeen Ave (Downtown Hamilton)

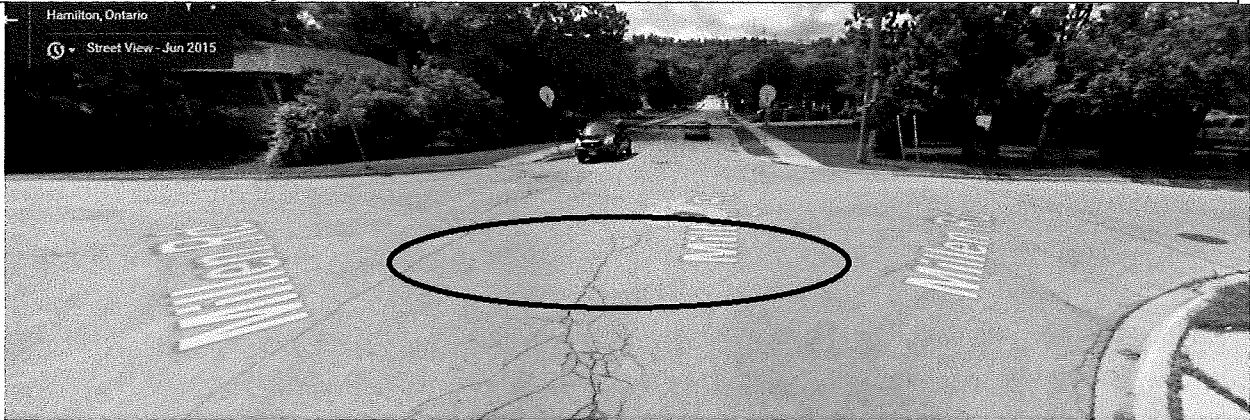
### Bump Outs/ Curb Extensions



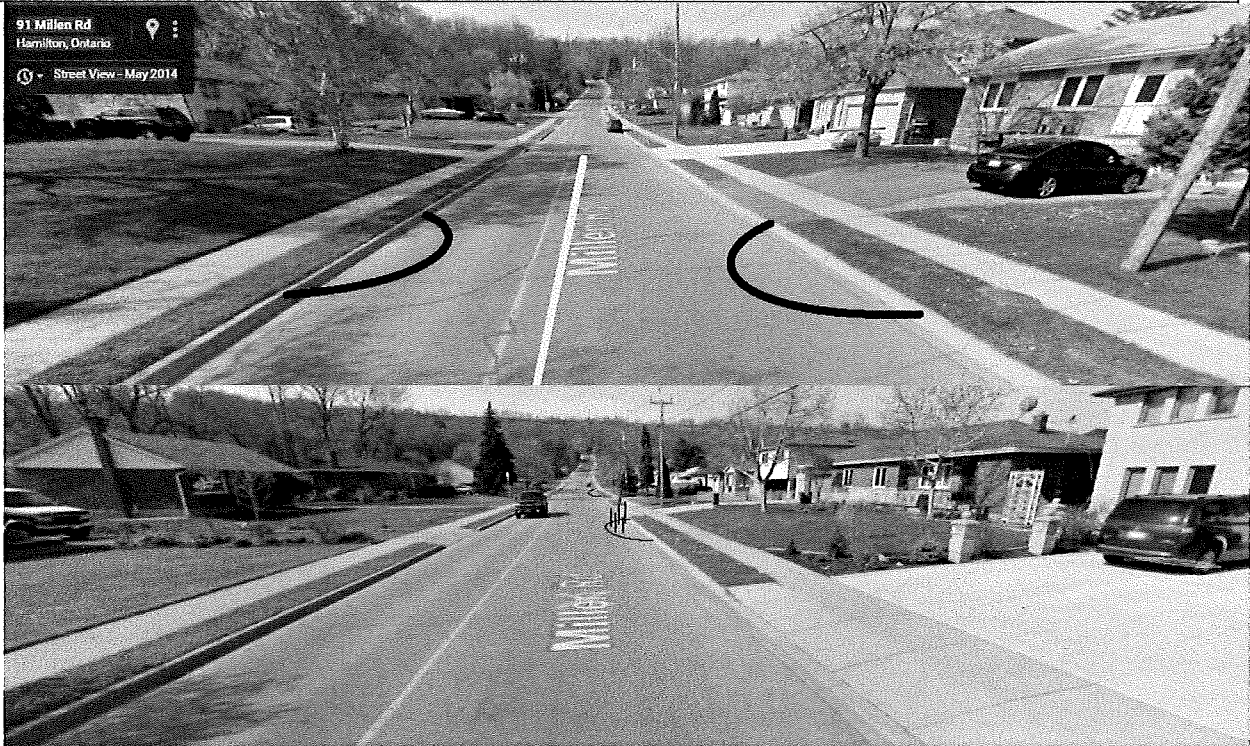


## B. Concept Drawings

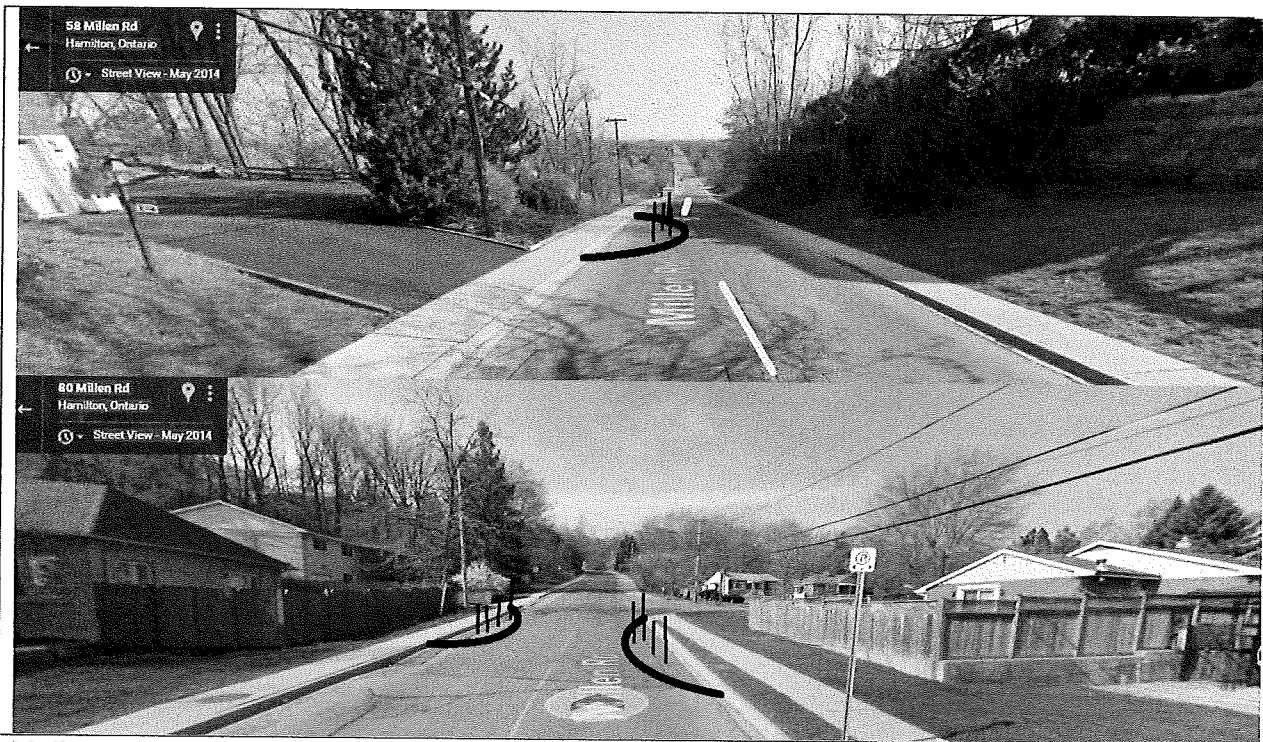
### Traffic Circle at Royce Avenue and Millen Road



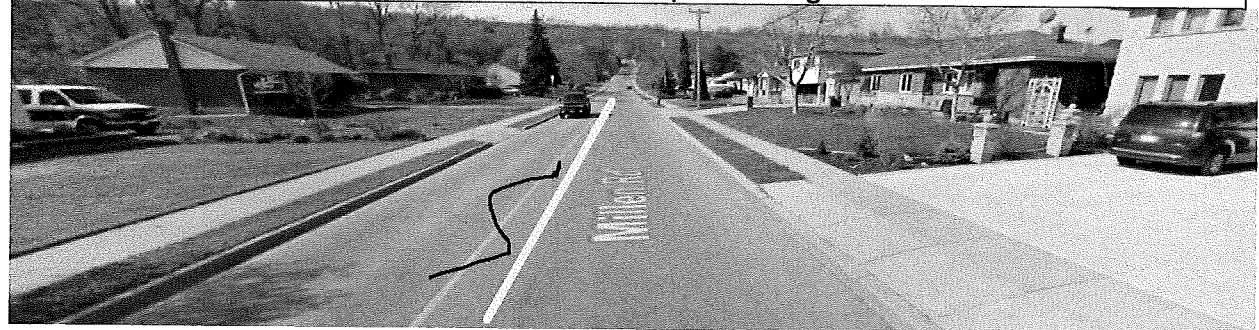
### Bump Outs







Yellow pavement marking - Removal and/or repositioning



Chicanes



## PETITION SUMMARY

A	Total # of <b>lots</b> on Millen Road between Maple Drive and Highway 8	64
B	Total # of <b>vacant</b> lots	3
C	<i>Notes:</i> 101 – empty lot 121 – under construction 49 – under construction	
D	Total # of residents that signed and <b>support</b> petition by dwelling	52
E	Total # of residents that <b>do not support</b> petition	4
F	<i>Reasoning:</i> 55 – prefers policing over physical traffic calming devices 112 - n/a 119 - n/a 106 - supports cause but would not sign	
G	Total # of <b>dwellings missed or absent</b>	5
H	D / A	81.25 %
I	D / A - B	85.25 %