

Kimberley Kitteringham, City Clerk  
Clerks Department  
City of Markham  
101 Town Centre Boulevard  
Markham, ON L3R 9W3

September 14, 2014

Subject: Traffic infiltration and safety issues on Senator Reesor's Drive north

Dear Ms. Kitteringham,

We are experiencing an ongoing situation in regard to traffic infiltration from northbound Ninth Line to the north section of Senator Reesor's Drive via Berczy Gate. While traffic infiltration in and of itself is to be expected as a consequence of Markham's growth, this issue has become one of safety rather than just the sheer number of vehicles.

We started to notice this infiltration when school started in September 2013. Since I walk this route virtually every morning it became obvious to me that residents living south of our community were using this route to take their children to Markham District High School. I determined this by noting that each vehicle was being driven by an adult with one or more younger passengers. I also noted that these vehicles turned north on Wootton Way S. This was further confirmed, when, at our request, City of Markham Traffic Operations sent two teams out to assess the situation; one vehicle was stationed at Berczy Gate and the other in the northbound lane of Wootton Way S. They could then count the vehicles at both locations and determined that, indeed, this was the direction of the majority of the traffic.

Traffic Operations informed us that, as a result of the traffic count there was no need for action as the count fell within the parameters of an arterial road. However, the issue is no longer the traffic count but the careless disregard of these drivers for the safety of our residents. I personally have observed vehicles ignoring or barely slowing down for the stop signs at Berczy Gate & Senator Reesor's and Henry Corson & Senator Reesor's. I was able to report one offender to Road Watch but it's quite difficult to obtain license plates and vehicle descriptions due, in part to the speed at which they are travelling. This is the other issue, these vehicles are travelling well in excess of the posted 40 kph speed limit.

This is a copy of an email that I received from a resident of Senator Reesor's this week.

I am a resident on Senator Reesor's Dr and this morning had another incident that could have had tragic consequences.

Driving this morning on SRD, waiting at the cross walk (at Henry Corson not at stop sign but west junction) for a father and two little girls to cross at Henry Corson (one girl was on a stroller), a white Nissan SUV passed me on the left at considerable speed not caring about me or the pedestrians crossing and could have had tragic consequences had the kids or father been two steps behind.

You have to see the lineup and the speeds people drive in the morning in front of our house.

If the city or the region does nothing soon to stop this influx it could lead to unimaginable and tragic results that would be too little too late.

I noted the license plates of the car and have just made a road watch report on YRP website now.

Please help us to resolve this soon.

Appreciate your support.

Best,

Sujay

As I have personally witnessed the speeds and the inattentive driving habits of these drivers, I can easily see this happening again.

To add insult to injury, York Region lengthened the duration of the left turn light from northbound Ninth Line to westbound Highway 7 just to accommodate these drivers yet they still continue to turn left at Berczy Gate. Even more astonishing to me is the fact that I have stood at the corner of Berczy Gate and Ninth Line and watched them make the left turn at Berczy even when there are only one or two cars in the left lane at Highway 7. Since the closure of the Markham Main Street bridge there has been an increase in the southbound traffic on Ninth Line as well as an increase in the number of eastbound vehicles on Highway 7 who are turning right to head south on Ninth Line. This makes turning left onto Berczy a dicey situation at best. I can almost guarantee that there will be a T-Bone accident one day soon.

It has been suggested that these drivers be encouraged to use Church Street for the left turns from northbound Ninth Line but this is problematic for two reasons; no left turn light for northbound cars, and no real break in southbound traffic.

In October of 2013 we did have some select enforcement from York Region Police but, as with any enforcement, it is only a temporary solution and I firmly believe that the only solution to this problem is to have left turns from northbound Ninth Line to Berczy Gate prohibited during the hours of 7 am to 9 am Mon-Fri. What we are requesting is not without precedent as this type of restriction on Ninth Line is already in place at Merlin Gate where there are two No Right Turn 7-9 AM Mon-Fri signs (see photo next page). If the City and the Region can limit right turns, surely they can limit the much more dangerous left turns.

I realise that this is a bit last minute but if you could somehow add this to the Development Services Committee meeting on Tuesday, September 16, I would be happy to attend to address this issue.

Thank you,

Gord Walter  
President, Sherwood Amber Glen Ratepayers Association

Cc: Regional Councillor Gord Landon, Chair Transportation Committee  
Ward 4 Councillor Carolina Moretti

