

May 1, 2023

Douglas City Council
86 W. Center Street
Douglas, MI 49406

Dear Council Members:

We are writing to share our concerns regarding pedestrian safety and speed of traffic on Main Street. As homeowners and taxpayers in a residential neighborhood of Douglas, we are respectfully requesting to discuss these issues at a city council meeting and work together to find solutions.

We appreciate the recent addition of a speed warning sign and have noted that cars appear to be slowing down when in view of it. We were also wondering if it might help to have one clocking vehicles going north as well. Traffic northbound appears to be heavier in the morning and traffic southbound appears to be later in the afternoon.

Here are a list of our concerns for further discussion:

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1. There is no required stop on Main Street from Blue Star Highway to Center Street in either direction allowing motor vehicles to build speed either coming into town or leaving town.
2. In the last few months, we have witnessed three cars passing another car that was going the correct speed even though it is marked a no passing zone.
3. Pedestrians are required to cross the sidewalk at Main and Chestnut, since the sidewalk switches sides of the street, and motor vehicles do not slow down or stop. This includes residents, tourists, and children walking to and from school.
4. Motor vehicles often use Main Street to connect to Water Street, and the reverse, rather than staying on Wiley to Blue Star Highway. Many of these vehicles using this route are commercial vehicles. This creates an interrelated problem for residents of Water and Main streets as noted in the recent Water Street workshop with the council.

5. Main Street has historically been a major entrance to downtown Douglas, and signage encourages that; however, more residents have built or relocated to the Main Street area and this needs to be considered in the traffic flow study of the city.
6. There has been limited police visibility and enforcement on Main Street to deter local residents from speeding. Speed signs may help with local residents, but tourists may not attend to them or be familiar with them.
7. The noise level has increased dramatically due to the increase in traffic and the speed of motor vehicles on Main Street.

We know the city is studying traffic patterns on several main roads and we desire to be a part of this study. Some solutions could include:

1. Place stop signs on Chestnut Street and Wall Streets to make 4 way stops on Main Street
2. Increasing police enforcement, especially with tourist season approaching and the bridge reconstruction project at Exit 36 that might increase traffic through town and on Wiley, Main, and Water Streets
3. Increase public education that there are residents on Main Street
4. Prohibit trucks on Main and Water Street unless necessary for deliveries
5. Make the crosswalk at Chestnut and Main safer by placing a stop sign at Chestnut Street
6. Considering changing the parking sign on the northwest corner of Main and Chestnut to a speed limit sign and possibly adding a speed limit sign on the northeast corner of Main and Chestnut
7. Consider a warning or flashing sign for the pedestrian crossing in the summer (although a stop sign at Chestnut would help this crossing)

Thank you for considering our concerns and thank you for placing the speed warning sign. We look forward to discussing this with council members and addressing the solutions.

Sincerely,

Scott & Roseann Ingersoll
Michael Schmidt
Lisa & Tom Wiley

Jeffrey Bianchi
Ken & Virginia Brooks
Patrick Ziegler

Mark Lord
Jo Cooley
Gail & Laura Rutledge