

From: mechanique@wmol.com <mechanique@wmol.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 9:17 AM

To: Jerry Donovan <jdonovan@DouglasMI.gov>

Subject: Water Street

Dear Mayor Donovan,

Forgive the direct contact rather than using the city's contact page, but reference to prior emails from me have not appeared in council minutes. I would like to see record of this one having been received and presented to the council and a response that it was received would be appreciated.

I am writing due to my growing concern about communications regarding traffic on Water Street. Because Water Street is a major Douglas road which I use often, any restrictive changes would have a large impact on me and all the other folks who depend it.

As an Interurban bus driver from 2015 thru 2020, I drove the street numerous times daily. Then, as now, it was my observation that the majority of traffic traveled near or below the speed limit and in a reasonable manner. This was during a time when complaints from those living on Water were at a high tide similar to present and I was puzzled because I could not reconcile the views they were relating with my direct continuous experience.

Like most of our major roads in Douglas, Water Street would certainly benefit from a multi use path for pedestrians and bicycles. To protect our city roads from heavy truck wear it could be beneficial to route those to Blue Star via Wiley. The curve at the top of the hill south of Tannery Creek might benefit from a better sight line, but how many traffic incidents have occurred there? How many have occurred at any point on Water Street? Very few. I recall that a traffic study was performed during the last wave of complaints and that the results were as I would have predicted; no issues justifying a response. Has something changed in the few interceding years?

We would all like the roads in front of our homes to be private roads with subdued speed limits and limited traffic. I would like the speed limit reduced on Main Street in front of my house and all but local traffic diverted to some other route. However, I realize it's a public road, a major Douglas through fare, and has been since long before I bought my house. The same applies to Water Street and, because Main is the north portion of the same route through town, a significant percentage of the traffic I see on Main has come from or is headed to Water Street. I think those living on a major road have to expect it to be used as such and, in the absence of traffic incidents to support their concerns, to realize that heavier traffic than they would prefer is not the same thing as hazardous traffic.

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