

September 11, 2023

Town of Georgia

Hello,

My name is Leanne Lessley and my husband and I have lived on Stone Bridge Road for almost 13 years.

I'm an avid cyclist and also own a small B&B which I promote Georgia as a destination cycling area to our guests. We also happen live on a section of the Champlain Bikeway.

I cycle a fair distance weekly, covering the Georgia, Milton, St Albans and Swanton area and I wanted to bring to your attention the deterioration of our roads in the Georgia area. It has become increasingly dangerous to cycle in our area over the last few years, putting cyclists and motorcyclists in peril, having to divert into the center of the road to avoid large cracks, potholes and entire sections of missing road shoulders. The amount of loose pavement in these areas also makes it treacherous for possible flying debris when vehicles pass.

I ran across Todd Cadieux and the road crew on Cline Road a few weeks back while cycling and discussed the state of our roads. I expressed my concerns and mentioned that I'd be sending the town a letter.

I had assumed that, with the state of the roads, they would have been a priority earlier in the season but it seems that the repairs are limited to getting patched and filled. Although I appreciate the efforts in trying to improve our current road condition, they continue to have gaps large enough to fit my wheel in and therefore still making incredibly dangerous. As we find ourselves heading into the busiest tourism season Vermont has, I did want to bring it to your attention to make every effort for improvement for 2024.

Our proximity to Quebec and the popularity of cycling makes northern Vermont a destination part of the state and I feel that the roads would be an important issue to address moving forward. The increase of visitors to the area can only benefit local businesses especially after the last few years.

I had originally thought of attaching photos and pinning the locations but they are too numerous and a simple drive along our roads will clearly impress the need for the town's attention.

I've also cc'd Jonathon Weber, Senior Manager, Complete Streets program since I believe it affects the promotion of the Champlain Bikeway.

I look forward to hearing back from you with hopefully a projected plan of improving the safety of our roads.

Regards,

Leanne Lessley