

April 6 2023

Dear members of Middlesex Centre Municipal Leaders(Council),

I wish that this letter not come off as complaining, but I know no other way to phrase the discussion that I wish to put forward.

My wife Ruby and I have lived here on the [REDACTED] of Eight Mile Rd. For 21 yrs now. When we moved here we realized that it was a gravel road. Now, I lived for most of the first 50 yrs of my life on a gravel road so we were no strangers to this . We are quite familiar with the maintenance ,and sometime less than perfect road surface that this affords us as drivers..so our complaint does not come from a” city dweller turned country” We are no strangers to all things country having done our share of farming in Huron County as well.

But,for some reason that baffles me, this road is not receiving proper attention. The gradings are ,by standards that we see elsewhere, inadequate, both in frequency and in quality....leaving us to have to drive on substandard road surface. This leads to always having a dirty vehicle,but more importantly the longevity of our vehicles ,and maintenancce schedules are put to the test because of the rough roads.

There are 12 residences on this stretch of Eight Mile,and we average 2 vehicles and drivers per. And we also of course have a number of service vehicles visiting us ,as does anywhere else, such as school busses,post office delivery ,UPS ,Amazon, furnace repair etc. Not to mention friends and family whom on occasion would visit us (although not as often as we like !!,because of the road.)

One of our vehicles is a motorcycle and we have toured all over North America,putting on over 250,000km. We have been in every state, and every province and the sad thing is that we have often commented on returning home that our own little stretch of road here was the worst that we travel on!

We would respectfully ask for an accounting of this situation from you, our leaders. We think we have been patient for long enough. We just don't understand why it has to be like this(the road).This issue has been raised before and traffic counters have been installed,only to hear that there is not enough traffic to warrant hard surfacing like tar and chip or pavement . Well I would say 2 things to that.

1/ I wouldn't drive on the road either if I didn't have to ,and..

2/If there was NO traffic at all I believe that the condition of the road would be better ,leading me to believe that the traffic itself is causing the potholes and ruts....so it seems to me that there is enough traffic to warrant it.

A lot the above points may be a bit moot anyway when you consider the costs of (inadequate) maintenance that is being performed already. I understand that when you factor in the costs of grading, gravelling,dust control and other maintenance costs that a gravel road requires you should really be fiscally prudent and consider whether in the long run it would be cheaper to hard surface.

In other words ,get rid of all the problems that are associated with this gravel road and put our tax dollars to better use.

I for one would like to see this issue addressed . I am asking for an answer to these question.

1/Why is the road not being properly maintained(and it hasn't been!)

2/Will you consider hard surfacing this road, and if not ,WHY NOT?

You will note we are not complaining about our street lights, or sidewalks, ...only the road. Because that is one of the very few services that we need looked after and we feel quite "shorted"

Respectfully yours,

John and Ruby Bylsma (by the way....the gravel road that I lived on in Central Huron got paved (yes full pavement!) as well as many other roads there because they came to realize it was more cost effective.