

William J. Cotnam

Chartered Professional Accountant

John Bell,
Chair, Transportation & Public Safety Committee, Grey County
595 9th Avenue East
Owen Sound, ON N4K 3E3

William J. Cotnam
Clarksburg, ON

Dear Sir:

It has come to our attention that Grey County is planning to complete road construction projects on a number of County Roads in 2016. We understand that paved shoulders with a width of only 0.25 metres are being proposed for Grey Road 119 from Banks to Ravenna and Grey Road 31 from 0.5 kilometres north of Simcoe Road 91 to Grey Road 2. These roads represent very popular and heavily utilized cycling routes in our area. Furthermore, Grey Road 31 is used for both the Centurion Cycling and Grey County Road Race events, which attract a large number of people to our area each year.

We feel that paved shoulders with a width of only 0.25 metres along these two roads is insufficient and not reflective of the volume of cyclists using these roads. Cycling is an activity that is growing rapidly in Ontario and a large number of cyclists are travelling to and spending money in Grey County and surrounding areas. We have been riding in the area for the last 15 years and we feel the topography lends itself specifically to cycling making it potentially one of the most attractive cycling areas in North America such that the potential to attract tourists is quite significant.

Given the long-term implications of this decision to only provide 0.25 metre paved shoulders on these roads, We respectfully request that the TAPS Committee reconsider the proposed width of paved shoulders on these two particular roads slated for construction in 2016 and that additional consideration be given to the importance of paved shoulders as critical infrastructure in facilitating cycling going forward.

We understand there are deputations scheduled before the TAPS Committee on January 21. Please also consider this letter as support for these deputations.

Thank you for your consideration,

Yours truly

William J Cotnam

CC:

Tara Warder, Committee Coordinator (tara.warder@grey.ca);

Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer (kim.wingrove@grey.ca);

John McKean – Town of the Blue Mountains: john.mckean@grey.ca