
Dear TAPS committee,

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 think 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.

After opening the General Store in Kimberley in 2010, we have see a huge increase in the amount of cycle tourism. We have been contacted often by regional cycling groups and Ontario-based cycling coalitions to participate in their various activities, ranging from hosting groups of 150 cyclists on fundraising events, to assisting with province wide promotion of cycling routes. Without a doubt, cycling in and around the Beaver Valley is becoming a quality destination for a huge group of recreational tourists. Much of the advertising promotion that we receive comes from the twitter accounts of cycling groups and word of mouth as they talk about the amazing rides through our area. Many of the people who come to the General Store by bicycle often come back with their families, prepared to buy lunches, groceries, and curiosities.

We believe in the positive aspects of cycling tourism so strongly that we have added a cyclist-friendly patio space on to the store last year, where up to 50 cyclists can take a break out of the sun and rain.

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,

Stacie and Justin Howe
Proprietors, Kimberley General Store
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