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It has come to my 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.

I 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. There have in fact been recent publications promoting recreational cycling within Grey County and the absence of sufficient paved shoulders will potentially backfire the efforts made by businesses within your tax base to attract tourist dollars. For the vehicle traffic it also represents a safety concern, and the heavy use by large trucks without sufficient shoulder space creates potential serious hazards for all. As a recreational cyclist who regularly frequents businesses that are on these specific roads I am gravely concerned. I and fellow cyclists have been patiently waiting for the completion of this road work with the anticipation of increased safety for all.

Given the long-term implications of this decision to only provide 0.25 metre paved shoulders on these roads, I 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.

I 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,

Jane Keast

Collingwood, Ontario

Sent from my iPad