
Dear Mr. Bell,

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. I have been a weekender resident in Collingwood since purchasing my chalet in 2010 and I actively participate in both cycling and skiing activities throughout their respective seasons and are extremely important to my health, vitality and general mental and physical well being, more particularly since suffering a heart condition several years ago. I look forward to the cycling season and sharing this special time with family and friends who share the same passion for cycling. Cycling on safe roads that have made provision for cyclists is not only essential for obvious reasons, but failing to provide such safe roads for cyclists, in my view, would expose the decision makers to potential liability, knowing full well the intended use of these roads to be shared by both vehicles and cyclists. Moreover, cycling has become a dominant activity in South Georgian Bay Area which brings in significant business dollars for the business community which has a positive domino effect on additional employment opportunities, housing demand etc. and a larger and improved tax base. A win –win for all concerned.

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 correspondence as support for these deputations.

Thank you for your consideration,

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