



# Committee Report

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## Report TR-TAPS-03-16

**To:** Chair and Members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee  
**From:** M.J. Kelly, Director of Transportation Services  
**Meeting Date:** December 17, 2015  
**Subject:** Grey Road 17 Rumble Strips (North of Ben Allen)  
**Status:** Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution TAPS06-16; Endorsed by County Council January 5, 2016 per Resolution CC08-16;

### Recommendation(s)

**WHEREAS Grey County has been requested to remove the rumble strips located on Grey Road 17 southbound lane, just north of Ben Allen;**

**AND WHEREAS the Transportation Services staff has been directed to remove rumble strips at the time a road is repaved/reconstructed;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report TR-TAPS-03-16 regarding rumble strips on Grey Road 17 just north of Ben Allen be received;**

**AND THAT Transportation Services staff be directed to remove the rumble strips on Grey Road 17 north of Ben Allen when the road is repaved.**

### Background

Four rumble strips have been located on Grey Road 17 southbound, just north of the community of Ben Allen for more than ten years. The purpose of the rumble strips in this location is to warn motorists of an upcoming curve.

There has been some history of residents complaining about the noise associated with rumble strips in general, and in this location in particular.

At the April 18, 2013 Transportation and Public Safety Committee meeting it was indicated that in the past when local residents complained about the noise of rumble strips, the Transportation Services Department had removed or reduced the severity of the rumble strips at some locations, but not all. The Committee provided direction to the

Director that, in the interests of cost containment, existing rumble strips were to be removed when the road surface was rehabilitated.

On May 7, 2013, County Council endorsed a policy and procedure for Stop Control Intersections that specifies that rumble strips would no longer be placed within 200 metres of a residence.

The Director of Transportation Services has received several requests for Grey County to make modifications to the rumble strips on Grey Road 17, just north of Ben Allen. The reason for the request was that the noise emitted by the rumble strips was affecting the quality of life and that they were a safety concern. This road is not included in the 5 year capital plan for redevelopment.

On October 20, 2015, Grey County milled off a portion of the rumble strips in an effort to reduce the severity of the noise. The rumble strips just north of Ben Allen are now approximately 3 mm deep in the wheel track and as high as 10 mm in the middle of the lane compared to the 13 mm depth when installed. To further reduce the height of the rumble strips will result in depressions in the road that could cause maintenance issues and create a noise when encountered by a vehicle.

In order to fully remove the rumble strips, the pavement within the rumble strips must be cut out and removed and then the cut out areas are paved. This could result in unevenness in the pavement that may itself cause some noise. The cost to remove the rumble strips is approximately \$7,000.

#### Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology Considerations

None at this time.

#### Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

None.

#### Attachments

Ben Allen Rumble Strips Location Map  
August 9 2015 Letter To Director From Uwe Harders  
October 5 2015 Letter To Director From Uwe Harders

Respectfully submitted by,

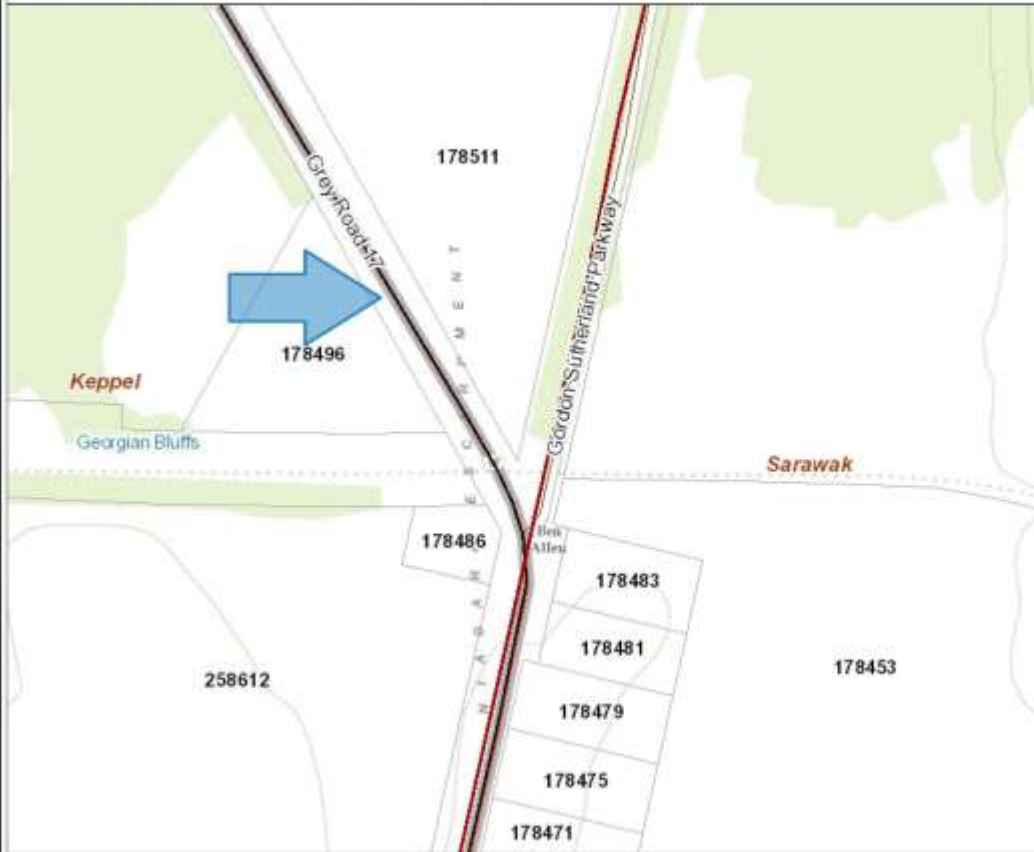
M.J. Kelly  
Director of Transportation Services



# Ben Allen Rumble Strips Location Map

## Legend

- Municipality Boundary
- Geographic Townships
- Parcels
- Roads 125k**
- Provincial Highway
- County Road
- Township Road
- Seasonal Road
- County Owned Roads
- Citations**



## Notes

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 Kilometers

This map is a user generated static output from an internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable.

WGS\_1984\_Web\_Mercator\_Auxiliary\_Sphere  
© County of Grey



Printed: December 7, 2015

THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

August 9th, 2015

Mike Kelley  
Director of Grey County Roads  
Owen Sound, On.

Dear Mr. Kelley

Thank you for your precious time in regards to your kind consideration regarding the rumble strips located just north of Benallen on Grey Road 17. Myself, along with others in the community, share the view of the redundancy of their effectiveness in providing safety to our community.

As you may recall, from our telephone conversations of July 6<sup>th</sup> and August 6<sup>th</sup>, of this year, I informed you that the rumble strips are a hazard for me, as they echo off adjacent buildings, causing confusion to my service dog, Zulu, and making it very unsafe for me to cross the road in front of my dwelling.

We have resided in this mostly quiet neighbourhood for the past fifteen years and would be the first to agree that, initially, these rumbles strips did provide for safety in our community through the slowing of the movement of traffic. That being said, about six years ago, the bend in the road was re-graded and banked to accommodate faster traffic, at a higher volume and thereby reduced the risk considerably of motor vehicles going off of the road.

The rumble strips have not only taken a toll on my safety considerations, it has also affected me physically. In order to sleep through the night, I must take sleeping medication. I have also begun to take high blood pressure medication due the constant aggravation caused by this cacophony.

Furthermore, and again our neighbours share our same sentiments, our visitors find it difficult to stay overnight, as their sleep is also interrupted by the strips leading to a negative impact on our social lives.

Lastly, should we ever decide to sell the property, this would gravely and negatively impact on the marketability of our home. I would liken it to living next to an airport. The constant disruption and nuisance created by these rumble strips has deeply impacted our lives.

Truly, the only purpose of these rumble strips now is to create unbearable noise pollution, twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. If one were to multiple that by the number and frequency of the vehicles who do travel through Benallen, you begin to understand our frustrations (and I won't even mention Harold Sutherland's trucks).

Please find enclosed a list of others that share my hardships in relation to these strips. We, as a community, only wish to receive the same treatment as those in the community located at the most easterly section of Grey Road 17A, where the rumble strips were filled with asphalt a number of years ago. Further, it should be noted that the county consciously decided not to re-install rumble strips in that same location when the highway was resurfaced this year.

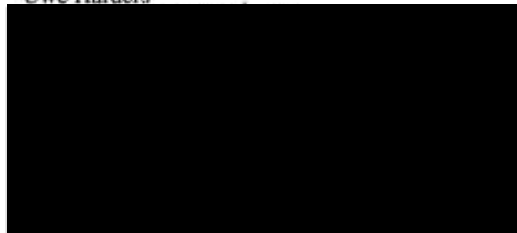
Should the county still have a need for drivers to be woken up to slow down at the bend in Benallen, here are some personal suggestions:

- a) A three way stop at the junction of Grey Rd 17A and Grey Rd 17 at the "T" intersection in Benallen, thereby requiring the southbound traffic to start to slow to be able to stop;
- b) Painted vertical lines with large text stating "SLOW", to replace the rumble strips in that same location;
- c) Speed bumps;
- d) More policing and enforcement of speeding, as numerous signs do not seemed to work;
- e) Reduction of the speed limit from 50km/h to 40km/h, and higher fines as this is a clearly indicated handicapped zone.

In closing I thank you in advance for your understanding in these matters, which are truly having a holistically negative impact on my health, safety, mobility, and general well-being.

I look forward to a timely resolution being proposed by the county in the near future.

Sincerely,  
Uwe Harders



cc. Alan Barfoot  
Georgian Bluffs

Oct 5, 2015

Dear Mr. Kelley:

You must be a person of tasks and lots of them. I contacted you on July 11 2015 and then a second time August 11 2015 and you informed me you did not have time to get to the matter regarding the Ben Allen rumble strips. They are continuing to cause a barrier in mobility for me and disrupting my sleep. Then on September 4th I hand delivered a letter to your office containing numerous signatures from the Hamlet/visitors as well as some concrete suggestions.

As of today, I still have not received a note saying you are in receipt of this letter and are working on the matter.

Taking into consideration your busy schedule, I will anticipate a few more weeks before I take other action.

thank you

sincerely

Uwe Harders