

The Municipality of Grey Highlands

Report to Council



To: Mayor Fitzgerald and Members of Council

From: Chris Cornfield, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services

Date: July 9, 2012

Report: TES. 12-14

Subject: Posting of a 50 Km/h Speed Limit on Euphrasia/Blue Mountains Town Line

Recommendation:

THAT Council receive Report TES.12-14 from Chris Cornfield, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services regarding the Speed Limit Reduction on the Euphrasia/Blue Mountains Town Line

AND THAT Council support posting the speed limit at 50 km/h on the Euphrasia/Blue Mountains Town Line from Grey Road # 13 to approximately 200 meters north of the Bridge

AND THAT any costs associated with the bridge and approach repair/construction would be the responsibility of Grey County.

Purpose:

To provide Council with the background information regarding the County of Grey request to reconstruct the bridge approaches in order to meet a road/bridge design speed of 50 km/h.

Background & Discussion:

On April 3, 2012 a site meeting was held at the request of Grey County with the Director of TES and the Grey County Bridge Repair Foreman at the bridge on the Euphrasia/Blue Mountains town line just north of Grey road 13. During this meeting the County reviewed the work needed to repair the bridge which included deck and railing repairs. The TES department had not

been given any previous notice that this work was scheduled for 2012. There was concern with the amount of gravel on the deck which needed to be removed for the repairs and the intent was that the gravel would not be replaced as it would increase the weight or load on the bridge. Instead the proposed option would be to water proof and pave the deck. The County at this time asked for written permission from the Municipality to close the road through the duration of the repairs.

An email was sent on May 3, 2012 from TES staff advising the County that Grey Highlands was aware of the closure from May 14, 2012 to June 15, 2012. The TES department also requested that there be advanced posting on the road of the upcoming construction and closure with contact numbers in case of any public concerns. Detour routes were also to be posted.

As per a request from the Grey County Engineering Department, an additional site meeting was held on June 7, 2012 with the Director of TES, Town of Blue Mountains Manager of Roads and Grey County's Engineering Manager. Discussion was focused around the approaches. Because of the removal of gravel off the bridge deck the approaches would also require reconstructing in order that the posted speed does not exceed the road/bridge design speed. The county is responsible for up to 30 meters of the approaches in each direction however it would require an excess of this distance to allow for an 80 km/h bridge/road design.

Municipality of Grey Highlands rural roads are assumed to be 80 Km/h unless otherwise posted.

The Municipality of Grey Highlands and the Town of Blue Mountains staff made it clear that through the 2012 budgeting process there was no funding allocated for the reconstruction of the bridge approaches and any work and costs associated with the bridge approaches would be the responsibility of the County of Grey.

On July 3, 2012 the TES department received a letter and design profile from the County of Grey outlining the approach reconstruction for a 50 Km/h road/bridge design speed. The County would like to proceed with the approach construction as soon as possible and is asking for Grey Highlands and the Town of Blue Mountains approval of the road/bridge design profile.

It should be noted that if this section of road was to be reconstructed in the future the Municipality of Grey Highlands and the Town of Blue Mountains would be responsible for 50% share each for any capital costs to reconstruct the road to allow for an 80 Km/h design speed.

The Director of Transportation and Environmental Services has discussed this County request with the Manager of Roads from the Town of Blue Mountains as it is a shared road between the two Municipalities and agreed that a recommendation before Council is the best option to complete the bridge repair and have the road reopened to alleviate any additional inconvenience to local residents.

A report is scheduled to go before the Town of Blue Mountains committee the week of July 9, 2012.

Financial Impact:

There are no financial implications as a result of the actions outlined in this report. However, it should be noted that if this section of road was to be reconstructed in the future the Municipality of Grey Highlands and the Town of Blue Mountains would be responsible for 50% share each for any capital costs to reconstruct the road to allow for an 80 Km/h design speed.

Legal:

There are no legal implications as a result of the actions outlined in this report.

Staffing Considerations:

There are no staffing implications as a result of the actions outlined in this report.

Prepared by,



Chris Cornfield
Director, Transportation and Environmental Services

I concur with the recommendations outlined in this report.



Dan Best
Chief Administrative Officer