

To:	Warden Milne and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	October 12, 2023
Subject / Report No:	TR-CW-21-23
Title:	Grey Road 119 Speed Limit in Banks
Prepared by:	Pat Hoy
Reviewed by:	Randy Scherzer, Deputy CAO
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	Town of The Blue Mountains
Status:	

Recommendation

1. That Report TR-CW-21-23 regarding Grey Road 119 Speed Limit in Banks be received; and
2. That staff be directed to bring forward modifications to the posted speed limit on Grey Road 119 as per Table 2 in this report during a future update to By-law 4788-13.

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to summarize the review of the Grey Road 119 posted speed limits. This report gives an explanation of the Grey County speed limit policy, identifies some common misconceptions about the result of lowering a speed limit and summarizes the recommendation of Transportation Services, which is to modify the posted speed, increasing the majority of Grey Road 119 to 70km/hr while reducing the posted speed in Banks to 60km/hr.

Background and Discussion

Grey County Speed Limit Policy

The current policy regulating posted speeds was originally adopted in November 2016, with a revision addressing 40km/hr posted speed requests added to the policy via report TR-CW-06-21. This policy was introduced at the Committee of the Whole meeting February 11, 2021.

The Grey County Speed Limit Policy is based primarily on the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) guidelines. The posted speed is evaluated using a variety of factors. These factors are based on an evaluation of risk associated with the physical characteristics of the roadway.

The relevant categories include the following:

- Horizontal geometry
- Vertical geometry
- Average Lane Widths
- Roadside Hazards
- Pedestrian Exposure
- Cyclist Exposure
- Pavement Surface
- Intersections with Public Roadways
- Intersections with Private Entrances
- Number of Interchanges (n/a)
- On-Street Parking

Driver Behaviour

In general, Grey County has observed that typically 85% of vehicles are exceeding the posted speed. Grey receives numerous posted speed reduction requests. Requesters believe this will encourage drivers to slow down.

In a few locations, Grey has revised posted speeds to a speed lower than recommended in the speed policy. In the cases where these lower speeds were installed, the average speed of drivers showed no change, and in a few cases, actually increased.

Current Speeds on Grey Road 119

Currently, there are 3 posted speed areas on Grey Road 119 between Ravenna and the roundabout as shown below:

Table 1

Grey Road No.	From	To	Rate of Speed
119	The intersection of Grey Road 119 and Grey Road 2 (Ravenna)	A point 31m west of the intersection of Grey Road 119 at 5 th Line (Town of the Blue Mountains)	60 kilometres per hour
119	A point 31m west of the intersection of Grey Road 119 at 5 th Line (Town of the Blue Mountains)	A point 139m west of the intersection of Grey Road 119 at 15 th Sideroad (Town of the Blue Mountains)	70 kilometres per hour
119	A point 139m west of the intersection of Grey Road 119 at 15 th Sideroad (Town of the Blue Mountains)	The roundabout on Grey Road 119 at Grey Road 19 and Gord Canning Drive.	50 kilometres per hour

Grey County completed speed surveys on Grey Road 119 in the spring and the following average speeds were observed:

- Average speed east and west of Banks, incoming and outgoing = 74.7 km/hr
- 85th Percentile speed east and west of Banks, incoming and outgoing = 84km/hr
- Percentage of drivers speeding = 70.9%

Grey has applied the speed limit policy to Grey Road 119. Posted speeds are not an exact science and also include field observations. The TAC spreadsheet is geared toward upper tier Provincial type roads.

Grey is recommending the following revisions to By-Law 4788-13 which should return to County Council late in the year 2023.

Table 2

Grey Road No.	From	To	Rate of Speed
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119	The intersection of Grey Road 119 and Grey Road 2 (Ravenna - Town of the Blue Mountains)	A point 300m west of the intersection of Grey Road 119 at 4th Line (Banks - Town of the Blue Mountains)	70 kilometres per hour
119	A point 300m west of the intersection of Grey Road 119 at 4th Line (Banks - Town of the Blue Mountains)	A point 365m east of the intersection of Grey Road 119 at 4th Line (Banks - Town of the Blue Mountains)	60 kilometres per hour
119	A point 365m east of the intersection of Grey Road 119 at 4th Line (Banks - Town of the Blue Mountains)	A point 139m west of the intersection of Grey Road 119 at 15 th Sideroad (Town of the Blue Mountains)	70 kilometres per hour

Additional Measures

Grey County staff met with representatives of the Town of The Blue Mountains and engaged the group from the delegation to consider all concerns. In response to the concerns raised, Grey County installed solar flashing beacons above the stop sign at the four-way stop in Banks (Grey Road 119 and the 4th Line), which is consistent with other four-way stops in Grey County. School bus stop ahead warning signs were also installed on Grey Road 119 approaching Banks.

Correspondence from Residents

This section of Grey Road 119 has been the topic of much discussion. Specifically, a delegation requesting a speed reduction in Banks to 50km/hr and another resident who uses Grey Road 119 to commute to Collingwood has been contacting Grey since the 60 km/hr speed zone was implemented in 2017 asking for the speed limit to increase.

Recommendation

The current posted speed in Banks were reviewed and analyzed as per Grey County's speed policy and the current TAC guidelines. Transportation Services has accepted the change from 60km/hr to 70km/hr per hour but felt that 50km/hr near Banks was too slow and would create more risk. As some motorists generally always follow the posted speed, a limit posted much too low creates a larger disparity between vehicle speed, reducing the amount of time the driver has to react. The posted speed is recommended to be reduced to 60km/hr as it is marginally below what cars are actually travelling. Transportation Services will also sign the two vertical curves west of Banks (4th Line) with reduced speed warning signs.

Legislated Requirements

Grey County By-Law 4788-13 includes a section (N) indicating the posted speed. The field posting matches the by-law. No additional requirements are needed.

Legal Considerations

There are no additional legal considerations for the recommendation.

Financial and Resource Implications

Grey County has already made some improvements in the area. No further financial resources (other than adding/replacing and maintaining the signs) are required.

Relevant Consultation

- Internal
- External - Town of The Blue Mountains Public Works Staff.

Appendices and Attachments

[TR-CW-06-21 Speed Limit Policy Link](#) – (Note the yellow highlighting signifies changes that were made at the time this report went in 2021)

[Grey County By-Law 4788-13](#)

[Speed Sign Plan](#)