

## Comments To Town of Blue Mountains, Operations and planning, Alan Pacheco, Director of Operations

Re: Community Safety Zone Policy

From: Robert M. Watters, Resident of Clarksburg

Date: November 17, 2025

**Introduction:** Alan, thank you for taking the time last week to discuss this matter. I think the drafting of a policy and the formalization of a process is appropriate and seeking out public comment and input is exemplary. Having said that, as I said on the phone, I just happened to notice your Draft Notice when I was on the Town site for something else, otherwise I would have missed it. I would suggest more should be done to receive community input and creating a process that would give the Town a statistically valid response rate from the community at large instead of from the highly active "usual suspects".

**My perspective and Bias:** I am generally of the view that CSZ's should not be proliferated. I think most regular citizens would agree that we are inundated with a never-ending stream of new zones, speed limits, road signs and other restrictions and rules such that it is almost unmanageable. There are many areas where there are so many signs, instructions and restrictions that to read them all would probably make a driver Guilty of Distracted Driving, another one of our new laws.

While you relayed to me that Grey Road 13/ Bruce St/ Marsh St/ Matilda St is a Grey County road and not within the Towns purview, it is a classic example of a area that it is overloaded with signs, many of which either conflict with each other and/ or are in direct conflict with the HTA - Bill 90, Bill 26 or Grey County By-Law 4788-13, which essentially renders the CSZ and the School Zone invalid under the HTA, in my opinion.

**Community Safety Zones (CSZ's):** I agree with your intent and direction. My specific comments are:

- a CSZ , as is a School Zone which is often within a CSZ, is a defined term from the Province and the HTA. While its objectives are Community safety, not surprisingly its solution is **fines and signs**. I don't think this is the best approach in most instances;

- When implemented, CSZ's should be well vetted, as recommended in your draft policy;

- The wording and Criteria should match the Province's wording exactly and Grey County should also mirror this;

- Signage needs to be installed with precision and they must (not should) be in compliance with the law as written along with all the other conditions of the HTA, such as signage identifying the beginning and end and on roads intersecting with the CSZ and/or School Zone;

- Having said that, I would humbly suggest that a CSZ should only be one tool used to achieve community safety and should be part of a **larger Community Safety banner** that offered other solutions which could be included in your proposed process;

- Some other **more passive solutions** that would achieve a community safety objective, work in smaller community areas as well as large, and in a number of cases actually enhance the feeling of Community and Community appeal, include:

- . Speed sensing and flashing speed signs such as used in Kimberley,
- . Medians or traffic islands, Ravenna being an example,
- . Unique streetlights and streetscaping such as those used in downtown Thornbury,
- . Other visual stimulation such as landscaping and gateway-like structures,
- . Narrowing lanes/ widening sidewalks/ raised medians with plantings of trees etc.,
- . Traffic Circles,
- . Chicanes (road curves),
- . Raised crosswalks, and
- . Rumble Strips

**Other Ancillary Comments:**

- One of your Criteria for a CSZ was "Bicycle Traffic". I am dead set against doing anything with respect to Bicycles. In my years here, I have found that cyclists generally observe no laws or signs unless they suit them. As I have driven these roads, they have caused more dangerous road occurrences than motorized vehicles. They need to be regulated, licensed and reminded by our OPP attachment that they too must act in accordance with the HTA.

I trust you will find my comments supportive and beneficial to your process.