

**RECEIVED VIA EMAIL**

**From:** Peter FRANKLYN [REDACTED]  
**Date:** July 28, 2021 at 7:35:18 AM EDT  
**To:** Corrina Giles [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Rob Sampson [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Excessive speed/traffic issues along 21st Sideroad

To: The Town of the Blue Mountains Council

I am a resident of 21st Sideroad just east of Grey 2.

I am writing at the suggestion of Councillor Rob Sampson regarding an issue of considerable concern to me and numerous other local residents with whom I have discussed this issue ( I have consulted with approximately 20 neighbours, the vast majority of whom have indicated that they share the concerns and support the call to action outlined below) .

Over the last few years there has been a substantial increase in vehicular traffic (both personal and, increasingly, commercial vehicles) on 21st Sideroad. It has also become an increasingly popular route for cyclists (of which I am one), as well as pedestrians/runners and hikers/mountain bikers accessing the Loree Forest trails.

Until a few years ago 21st Sideroad was what some local residents describe as a "quiet country road". It is undivided, relatively narrow, has no paved shoulder, a narrow bridge (over Indian Brook), hidden driveways and intersections (with one- way only stop intersections -ie 6th Line and 7th Line). There are also a number of hills on the road. It is also regularly used by slow moving agricultural traffic, has a busy veterinary clinic and at least one family with young children. It is also the primary access point to the heavily used Loree Forest trails.

In the last few years the way in which this once "quiet country road" is being used has changed very considerably. It is now heavily travelled by both private and commercial vehicles as a major thoroughfare, often travelling at excessive speeds not suitable for the nature of this road.

Unlike several of the other nearby roads which provide access to or over/around the escarpment (eg GR 119 between Banks and Ravenna, Grey Road 19, Grey Road 40, Hwy 26), 21st Sideroad is narrow, undivided, has no paved shoulder etc. (see photos below). In addition, unlike several of those other roads, 21st Sideroad has a 80km/h speed limit (except in the immediate vicinity of the Loree entrance), which in my view is inappropriate (ie too high) for the nature of the road. This has the effect of diverting traffic (including commercial traffic) away from those better suited but lower speed limit alternative routes. For example, GR 119 between Banks and Ravenna is much better suited to handling traffic accessing the escarpment. It is wider, divided, has better sight lines, a paved shoulders and a better surface and yet it is predominantly 60km/h (with a section of 70 km/h). I suspect that despite being a better road, traffic is being diverted away from GR 119 (and other routes like it) on to 21st Sideroad because 21st Sideroad allows for higher speed travel as it is predominantly a 80km/h route.

To be clear, neither I, nor any of the neighbourhood residents I have spoken with, are advocating for changing 21st Sideroad to become more like GR 119 etc (eg widening the road or paving the shoulders etc).

Rather we are concerned with and want to address the substantial increase in traffic on (and parking along sections of) 21st Sideroad, as well as the excessive speeds at which much of that traffic travels.

Given the volume of traffic and the speeds at which vehicles are travelling, it is only a matter of time before there is a serious incident. In fact some neighbours have reported "close calls" as a result of the high volume of traffic and vehicles travelling at excessive speeds on 21st Sideroad.

In my view maintaining the current (I would say inappropriately high) 80km/h speed limit on 21st Sideroad poses unwarranted and unnecessary safety risks to both local residents and visitors using this road (including drivers, cyclists, pedestrians etc).

While I am well aware that TBM is engaged in a Transportation Master Plan process (and that the issues I am raising may ultimately be dealt with as part of that process), there is a pressing need for a near term solution (or solutions) to these issues and that deferring same to be addressed as part of the TBM alone is not an acceptable option.

Accordingly I am requesting that Council consider and take steps to implement the following interim solutions (or a combination thereof) to address these issues as quickly as possible:

- reduce the speed limit along 21st Sideroad between 4th Line and GR 2 to no higher than 50-60km/h and posted signage indicating same (currently there is no speed signage at all other than in the immediate vicinity of Loree)
- formally request that the OPP actively enforce the *reduced* speed limit on a regular and ongoing basis
- address parking issues in the immediate vicinity of the Loree trails entrance.

The resolution that was recently passed to address traffic/parking issues in the Rockhaven/10th Line area is a useful precedent for the kind of action that can be taken in this case as well.

I look forward to discussing constructive near term solutions to the above concerns further with you.

Regards

Peter Franklyn

21st Sideroad just east of GR 2

GR119 just west of Banks

GR 119 70 km/h west of Banks .



