



The Town of The Blue Mountains Council Meeting

Title: Scott R. Butler, Executive Director, Ontario Good Roads Association and Antoine Boucher, President, Ontario Good Roads Board of Directors

Date: Monday, October 21, 2024

Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division
Date & Time Received: October 24, 2024 9:01 am
Original To: CIP
Copies To:
Take Appropriate Action [ ] File [ ]
Notes/Comments:

Moved by: Councillor McKinlay

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives for information the correspondence of Scott R. Butler, Executive Director, Ontario Good Roads Association and Antoine Boucher, President, Ontario Good Roads Board of Directors Re: Request for Council Consideration of Support for Resolution regarding the Establishment of an Ontario Rural Road Safety Program; WHEREAS official statistics from the Government of Ontario confirm that rural roads are inherently more dangerous than other roads; AND WHEREAS, despite only having 17% of the population, 55% of the road fatalities occur on rural roads; AND WHEREAS, rural, northern, and remote municipalities are fiscally strained by maintaining extensive road networks on a smaller tax base; AND WHEREAS, preventing crashes reduces the burden on Ontario's already strained rural strained health care system; AND WHEREAS, roadway collisions and associated lawsuits are significant factors in runaway municipal insurance premiums. Preventing crashes can have a significant impact in improving municipal risk profiles; THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of The Blue Mountains requests that the Government of Ontario take action to implement the rural road safety program that Good Roads has committed to lead. It will allow Ontario's rural municipalities to make the critical investments needed to reduce the high number of people being killed and seriously injured on Ontario's rural roads; and FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, Hon. King Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs, Hon. Trevor Jones, Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response, and Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, and Good Roads; and FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario requesting their support.

YES: 6

NO: 0

CONFLICT: 0

ABSENT: 1

The motion is Carried

YES: 6

Mayor Matrosovs

Councillor Ardiel

Councillor Hope

Councillor Maxwell

Councillor McKinlay

Councillor Porter

NO: 0

CONFLICT: 0

ABSENT: 1

Deputy Mayor Bordignon

**From:** Scott Butler <scott@goodroads.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024 12:07 PM  
**To:** Town Clerk <townclerk@thebluemountains.ca>  
**Subject:** Establishment of an Ontario Rural Road Safety Program

# Good Roads

Wednesday, October 09, 2024

To: Town of The Blue Mountains Head of Council and Council Members

Sent via email to: [townclerk@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:townclerk@thebluemountains.ca)

**Subject: Establishment of an Ontario Rural Road Safety Program**

Too many Ontarians are being seriously injured or killed on our roads.

In 2023, there were 616 people killed and 36,090 people injured. The number of fatalities is up nearly 20% in the last ten years.

In 2021, the most recent year of complete data from MTO's *Ontario Road Safety Annual Report* (ORSAR), there were 561 fatalities – 426 of which occurred on municipal roads. While rural Ontario only represents 17% of the province's population, 55% of these deaths occurred on rural roads. By any measure, Ontario's rural roads are disproportionately more dangerous.

At the same time, municipal insurance premiums continue to increase. With no plausible reform being considered for joint and several liability, municipalities need to find innovative means for managing risk, particularly on their roadways,

To deal with this crisis, Good Roads has designed a multifaceted rural road safety program and have been in discussions with the Ministry of Transportation to fund it. The program would target a municipality's most dangerous roads, perform road safety audits, and install modern safety infrastructure that prevents serious injuries and save lives. This program is designed to be cost effective while also providing rural municipalities with a direct means for addressing risk associated with their roadways.

Good Roads has proposed leading a five-year \$183 million program that leverages our 131 years of municipal road expertise and our industry partnerships to quickly put in place the solutions that will address some of Ontario's most dangerous roads.

Good Roads is seeking support to address these preventable tragedies.

If the Town of The Blue Mountains would be interested in pursuing this, a Council resolution similar to the example below should be adopted and sent to the Premier and the Minister of Transportation:

WHEREAS official statistics from the Government of Ontario confirm that rural roads are inherently more dangerous than other roads;

AND WHEREAS, despite only having 17% of the population, 55% of the road fatalities occur on rural roads;

AND WHEREAS, rural, northern, and remote municipalities are fiscally strained by maintaining extensive road networks on a smaller tax base;

AND WHEREAS, preventing crashes reduces the burden on Ontario's already strained rural strained health care system;

AND WHEREAS, roadway collisions and associated lawsuits are significant factors in runaway municipal insurance premiums. Preventing crashes can have a significant impact in improving municipal risk profiles;

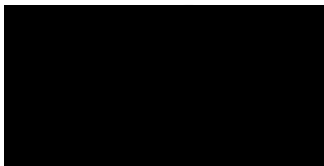
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of The Blue Mountains requests that the Government of Ontario take action to implement the rural road safety program that Good Roads has committed to lead. It will allow Ontario's rural municipalities to make the critical investments needed to reduce the high number of people being killed and seriously injured on Ontario's rural roads; and

FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, Hon. King Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs, Hon. Trevor Jones, Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response, and Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, and Good Roads; and

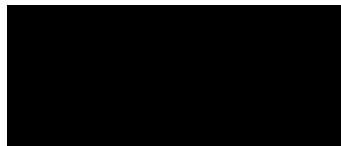
FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario requesting their support.

If you have any questions regarding this initiative please contact Thomas Barakat, Good Roads' Manager of Public Policy & Government Relations, at [thomas@goodroads.ca](mailto:thomas@goodroads.ca) at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Scott R. Butler  
Executive Director



Antoine Boucher  
President  
Good Roads Board of Directors