



PORT COLBORNE

Legislative Services

Municipal Offices: 66 Charlotte Street
Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C8 · www.portcolborne.ca

T 905.228.8031 F 905.834.5746

E charlotte.madden@portcolborne.ca

November 18, 2024

Via Email: premier@ontario.ca

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Via Email: Prabmeet.Sarkaria@pc.ola.org

Honourable Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria
Minister of Transportation
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

Dear Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario and Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation:

Re: City of Port Colborne Resolution of Support for the Establishment of an Ontario Rural Road Safety Program – Ontario Good Roads Association

Please be advised that, at its meeting of November 12, 2024 the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne supported the following motion received from The Ontario Good Roads Association:

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 City of Port Colborne 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Madden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charlotte Madden
City Clerk

ec: Hon. Kinga 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,
Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health,
Ontario Good Roads Association
All Ontario Municipalities

From: Scott Butler <scott@goodroads.ca>

Date: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 18:26

To: Nicole.Rubli@portcolborne.ca <Nicole.Rubli@portcolborne.ca>

Subject: establishment of an Ontario Rural Road Safety Program

Wednesday, October 09, 2024

To: City of Port Colborne Head of Council and Council Members

Sent via email to: Nicole.Rubli@portcolborne.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 City of Port Colborne 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 City of Port Colborne 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

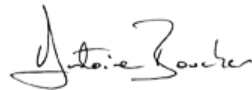
FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario requesting their support.

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

Sincerely,



Scott R. Butler
Executive Director



Antoine Boucher
President
Good Roads Board of Directors