

Memo

To: Mayor and Council
From: Allison Holtzhauer
Date: September 9, 2021
Subject: Griffith Mile Survey

A survey was released regarding the speed limit on Highway 41 in Griffith. Surveys were distributed to various locations and were made available on the Township website, etc.

Deadline for the surveys to be returned was July 31, 2021.

Surveys were collected and data was compiled.

See the attached copy of the survey and the survey results.

Respectfully Submitted,
Allison Holtzhauer

SURVEY

Speed on Highway 41 in Griffith

Concerned ratepayers have approached the Township of Greater Madawaska as well as other levels of government regarding the speed of traffic on Highway 41 in Griffith along the passing lanes.

Township representatives held meetings with the Minister of Transportation (MTO) and the OPP. The three parties agreed that a public meeting would be held to permit the MTO and OPP to explain their position on the concerns raised. The public meeting will not occur until COVID restrictions have subsided. To prepare for the public meeting, Council is asking if the following survey can be completed and returned to the Township office by July 31, 2021.

- 1) Do you feel safe on highway 41? (Y/N)
- 2) Currently the speed limit on Highway 41 throughout the Village of Griffith is 80km/hr. What do you think the speed limit should be?

_____ km/hr

- 3) Do you think the passing lanes on Highway 41 through the Village of Griffith need to be eliminated? (Y/N)
- 4) Have you experienced an unsafe situation when you were attempting to access or exit Highway 41?

If yes, please elaborate:

5) Do you have any suggestions/recommendations other than reducing the speed limit and eliminating passing lanes that would assist in addressing the concerns as they pertain to traffic on Highway 41?
(Check all that apply)

Improved lighting or additional lighting at intersections

Signage Welcoming traffic to Griffith

Additional Signage (please elaborate) _____

Other _____

6) Do you have any comments/questions that you would like to be addressed at the public meeting? If so what?

7) Would you like to speak at the Public Meeting? If yes, please provide your contact information?

Name: _____

Telephone number/Email: _____

Surveys are available for Pick-Up or Drop Off at:

BMR Pro Griffith Building Supply

25937 Highway 41
Griffith

Calvyns Pub & Eatery

25770 Highway 41
Griffith

Griffith General Store

25832 Highway 41
Griffith

Pine Valley Restaurant

26047 Highway 41
Griffith

The Township of Greater Madawaska wishes to thank you for taking the time to provide us with this information. Although the ultimate decision on changes to posted speed limits and passing lanes lies outside the Municipality's jurisdiction, we are hopeful that this information will assist in guiding any decisions made.

The best way to get great ideas is to have lots of them ~ Thomas Edison

Survey Results

Speed on Highway 41 in Griffith

Total of 33 Surveys were returned.

Results are as follows:

- 1) Do you feel safe on highway 41? (Y/N)
 - YES = 8
 - NO = 18
 - Blank = 7

- 2) Currently the speed limit on Highway 41 throughout the Village of Griffith is 80km/hr. What do you think the speed limit should be?
 - 50km/hr = 4
 - 50-60km/hr = 2
 - 60km/hr = 21
 - 70km/hr = 3
 - 80km/hr = 3

- 3) Do you think the passing lanes on Highway 41 through the Village of Griffith need to be eliminated? (Y/N)
 - YES = 27
 - NO = 5
 - Blank = 1

- 4) Have you experienced an unsafe situation when you were attempting to access or exit Highway 41?
 - YES = 25
 - NO = 4
 - Blank = 4

If yes, please elaborate:

 - *Twice I have witnessed cars in front of me coming close to being t-boned as they were about to turn left into the gas station by a car passing south bound.*

Entering & exiting the BMR, Pine Valley Restaurant & The General Store are extremely dangerous

- *I was hit by the speedy car last Sept 15, 2015 and leave on the highway. Until now I am not normal since then and I suffered the consequences day & night. I keep busy to ignore the aches & pains specially my knees & shoulder surgery. Summertime the highway 41 is so bad from early morning to night & watch the traffic even at night and I cannot sleep*
- *I have had 2 near collisions turning R from Church @ Gen Store truck westbound started pass and I would have been hit dead on front, turning right from Pine Valley Restaurant, once again, car passing eastbound. I had to stop my car to avoid a head on (on the highway)*
- *I could not turn into my driveway because a tractor trailer was on my bumper even though I signaled a 1/4 mile back. I had to turn into the restaurant parking lot. Also, vehicles do not have the ability to slow down quickly enough when the fire trucks are pulling out. Most people drive faster than 80 kms because they pass me doing 80 kms.*
- *I was turning to go into the store and a transport behind me almost hit me even though I had signaled in lots of time. He ran off the road to avoid hitting me and I hurried to turn.*
- *Pulling out of work having to look and make sure no one is passing; may times I have gone to pull out and have to stop split second because a car or motorcycle has pulled out to pass right off the cars bumper in front of them. There are also Motor cyclists constantly cat walking on this section of Hwy.*
- *Turning right out of Finn's Road where the dump is we narrowly avoided a multi-car pileup. Already going at a high speed down the hill toward Griffith, three cars pulled out to pass three other cars at the same time, resulting in two rows of cars coming at us as we started our turn onto Highway 41. That is a bust intersection but is hardly noticeable to drivers who are anxious to pass. Normally passing isn't allowed at an intersection, why is it allowed there?*
- *Need to have turn off lanes to the Business. Need slower traffic going through the small town*
- *Trying to turn, someone passing near accident*
- *Turning left into my driveway off 41 – either traffic racing down 41 or trying to pass up the hill. One summer 3 accidents on the bridge – many people in the area during the summer*
- *Excessive speed*
- *Lots of speeding from locals in ATVs!!*
- *I have almost been hit by oncoming passing cars coming out of the shops*

- *Turning onto Church (Left) from Pine Valley Hwy 41, to go home. Car passed car behind me good thing I used my mirrors and brakes, or I would have been hit on driver's side KILLED POSSIBLY 😞*
- *What I have observed was a transport truck going approx. 80-90km/h along over bridge with pedestrians being frightened who were crossing over. Making a right hand turn into the general store with a truck riding on my tail – very uncomfortable*
- *Coming out of BMR car passing*
- *Exiting at Matawatchan Road has traffic slamming on brakes or trying to get around on shoulder*
- *Coming out of BMR car passing extremely fast*
- *Coming out of Pine Valley Restaurant (turning right) someone was passing therefore in my lane, so I had to wait in the parking lot. Most people don't notice (turning right from Pine Valley or Lions Hall) people passing and start to advance onto Hwy 41. Potential accident waiting to happen (It's a long stretch of "passing lane" – shaded between General Store to Lions Hall – misjudge car passing)*
- *Pulled out restaurant but quickly stopped, someone was passing and was in my lane. Too many busy entrances along here "No Passing" would make it safer*
- *Almost daily – they go way too fast*
- *At least weekly, if not more often, excessive speed, aggressive driving*
- *As a kid growing up here it was always so dangerous around the highway, even though I was never on the road, cars aren't able to see anything when passing at the rate they drive. The amount of roadkill & collisions prove that. People don't slow down at all which makes pulling out of any small road onto the highway dangerous they don't take into consideration the village that is here. All villages are supposed to have an automatic 60km/hr, why doesn't ours?*
- *someone will pass at extreme speeds and you're just pulling out going the opposite direction. Near misses many many times. Lots of Tractor trailers*
- *We try to manage situations by signaling well in advance and being extremely mindful of dangerous situation. However, there is bound to be a serious accident, if not already, on this stretch.*

5) Do you have any suggestions/recommendations other than reducing the speed limit and eliminating passing lanes that would assist in addressing the concerns as they pertain to traffic on Highway 41? (Check all that apply)

_ Improved lighting or additional lighting at intersections = 12

_ Signage Welcoming traffic to Griffith = 20

- *Helpful*

_ Additional Signage (please elaborate) = 15

- *Advanced warning of upcoming speed changes*
- *SLOW residential zone*
- *Bridge Ahead slow down*
- *Hidden lane signage especially at the top of the hill coming into Griffith*
- *Make people more aware of when passing lanes are approaching so they can pass safely*
- *Watch for Pedestrians*
- *Posted speed limit 60km*
- *A 50km per hour speed limit sign*
- *No passing signs*
- *No passing signs*
- *e.g., "Town ahead – reduce speed" for enough in advance*
- *pedestrian crossing*
- *"Slow Down" – Business Community and Residential Community*
- *Community Safety Zone*

_ Other = 13

- Completely eliminate the passing lane
- Strategically places signage including welcome to Griffith Sign
- ON SITE OPP presence
- Auto ticket
- Solar signage marking speed
- Install traffic light at County Road 71 Matawatchan Road
- Add a passing lane after the bridge – Finns road south
- Police presence would be nice!!
- POLICE
- A radar speed sign with warning as well as positive feed back such as thank you for keeping community safe
- Passing lane at Matawatchan turn by Calvyn's
- We need enforcement not just signs
- 70kph

6) Do you have any comments/questions that you would like to be addressed at the public meeting? If so, what?

- Why the delay in improving our safety? 10yrs +, 2 petitions, this survey. Council meetings, MTO OPP meetings with council
- Just the speed and more enforcement.
- What criteria are used to decide whether speed limits through a town should be changed and/or passing not allowed?
- Consider Elders/Children Crossing to Hall or Pine Valley
- Being a resident to area, I'm shocked at the potential for a severe accident
- Important stretch of highway for reduced speed & elimination of passing lane. Local walk across street to get to Pine Valley, Lions Hall, BMR. Also, ATV's or snowmobiles cross coming out of trail
- I think there is no need for speed limit to be lowered there is a trail beside the highway if people want to walk, they can walk there
- People making decisions don't live here
- No passing, 70kph, Community Safety Zone

7) Would you like to speak at the Public Meeting? If yes, please provide your contact information?

Four individuals expressed interested in speaking at a Public Meeting.