See attached letter sent to one of our citizens and copied to me as I was copied on the original e-mail to the premier. The letter from the MTO states: *With respect to your comments regarding the future plans for Highway 26, ministry staff are having on-going discussions with staff from Grey County who have recently shared new traffic data and development plans for the area.*

Can you please advise what “new traffic data” and “development plans” have been shared and provide us with a copy of the correspondence, so that we are all using the same data and there is no duplication of efforts in our conversation with the province. Time is of the essence as we have deputation with the MTO on Monday.

Best Regards,

*“Alar Soever”*

*Mayor*

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Letter Appended
August 14, 2020

Dear [Name],

Thank you for your email to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, with regards to the recent reduction in the posted regulatory speed and future plans for Highway 26 in the Craigleith area. I appreciate the opportunity to respond on behalf of the Premier.

The safe and efficient operation of the transportation network is important to the Ministry of Transportation. As you are aware, the ministry has introduced a short-term reduction in the posted speed from 80 km/h to 50 km/h to address safety concerns that have been raised due to the increase in vehicular traffic on Highway 26 and the increase in the number of pedestrians crossing Highway 26 to access the waterfront this year. This reduction is expected to reduce the number and severity of collisions and will be in effect until Tuesday October 13th at which time the posted regulatory speed will revert to the previous 80 km/h.

Ministry staff are monitoring traffic operations in the area and are working with other stakeholders such as the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) to obtain their input. We are also compiling comments such as yours for consideration during the review that will be completed after the posted regulatory speed reverts to 80 km/h.

With respect to your comments regarding the future plans for Highway 26, ministry staff are having on-going discussions with staff from Grey County who have recently shared new traffic data and development plans for the area. This new information is being reviewed and may be used to update the Highway 26 Transportation Study that was completed in 2015.
Thank you for taking the time to provide your comments. If you have any further questions please contact Robert Bakalarczyk, Head, Traffic Section, West Region at 519-280-2461 or at Robert.Bakalarczyk@ontario.ca.

Yours truly,

Steven McInnis, P.Eng.
Director

c: Jim Wilson, MPP Simcoe-Grey
   Alar Soever, Mayor, Blue Mountains
August 14, 2020

Dear [Name]:

Thank you for your email to the Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation, with regards to the recent reduction in the posted regulatory speed on Highway 26 in Craighleith. I appreciate the opportunity to respond on behalf of the Minister.

The safe and efficient operation of the transportation network is important to the Ministry of Transportation. The Town of The Blue Mountains representatives along with some local residents have expressed concerns about the increased potential for collisions because of the significant increase in the traffic in the area this summer. There is an increase in vehicular traffic on Highway 26 and an increase in the number of pedestrians crossing Highway 26 to access the waterfront this year.

In order to address these safety concerns, the ministry introduced a reduction in the posted regulatory speed from 80 km/h to 50 km/h in the Craighleith area. This reduction is expected to reduce the number and severity of collisions. This will be in effect until Tuesday October 13th at which time the posted regulatory speed will revert to the previous 80 km/h.

Ministry staff are monitoring traffic operations in the area and are working with other stakeholders such as the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) to obtain their input. We are also compiling comments such as yours for consideration during the review that will be completed after the posted regulatory speed reverts to 80 km/h.
Thank you for taking the time to bring your concerns to our attention. If you have any further questions please contact Robert Bakalarczyk, Head, Traffic Section, West Region at 519-280-2461 or at Robert.Bakalarczyk@ontario.ca.

Yours truly,

Steven McInnis, P.Eng.
Director

c:  Alar Soever, Mayor, Town of the Blue Mountains  
Barb Clumpus, Mayor, Municipality of Meaford  
Brian Saunderson, Mayor, Collingwood  
Pat Hoy, Director of Transportation, County of Grey