August 19, 2020

To: The Mayor and Members of Council
   Town of the Blue Mountains

From: Brian Nelson

RE: CSOPS.20.049: Victoria St. S. and Louisa St. W. Reconstruction Design Options Update

I would like to thank staff and Council for the preparation and consideration of the above-referenced report on road reconstruction for Victoria St. S. and Louisa St. W.

My focus in particular is on the need for sidewalks on Victoria St. S. between Alfred St. and Napier St. The preceding staff report (CSOPS.20.040) acknowledges that including this section of Victoria St. S. in reconstruction plans will complete an important part of the Town’s active transportation network. It will also address long-standing safety concerns. Victoria St. is used routinely by growing numbers of pedestrians and cyclists, as well as motor vehicles. There are no safe, clearly marked walkways or bike lanes. Visibility can be very poor during the winter months, and many of the ditches along this stretch are deep and wide, severely restricting space available for pedestrians.

CSOPS.20.049 identifies some challenges associated with reconstruction between Alfred St. and Napier St., but I would urge Council to include planning and budgeting for this section as an integral part of this project, so the public will know when the entire route will be completed.

Thank you again for this important and long-overdue initiative, and for the opportunity to comment.