



## Corporation of the Township of Brock

### Staff Report to the Mayor and Members of Council

**From: Paul Lagrandeur**

**Position: Director of Public Works**

**Title / Subject: Horseback Rider Signs**

**Date of Report: September 3, 2021**

**Date of Meeting: September 13, 2021**

**Report No: 2021-CO-045**

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#### 1.0 Issue / Origin

Request for Horseback Rider Signs

#### 2.0 Background

A request was submitted by Kate Mark for Horseback Rider Signs along Concession 6 (T) from Hwy 12 easterly on 6(T).

#### 3.0 Analysis

In regards to a request for Horseback Rider Signs on Concession 6(T), our investigation finds that the OTM Manual Book 6 Warning Signs states: "The purpose of the Horse With Rider sign is to indicate to drivers that they are approaching an area where it is known that horses with riders may be expected to travel on or cross the road".

Book 6 has only a general guideline for use of this sign. Prior to posting a Horse with Rider WC-22 sign you should consider:

1. Traffic volume and speed on the road being considered.
2. Driver familiarity with the road ie. Do the majority of drivers who use this road live on or near the road. Warning signs are a must for those unfamiliar with the area to prepare them for a hazard ahead. For this type of intermittent hazard, complacency is an issue. As you travel on your daily routine you may focus on today's tasks and not on your driving or surroundings (does a driver notice every sign and pay attention to the surroundings on the road you drive everyday). If a horse with rider is seldom on the road, a driver familiar with the road regardless of a posted sign may be surprised by the horse with rider. Therefore how frequently is a Horse with Rider on the road (once a year, once a month, daily?);

3. Forward sight obstructions, such as but not limited to, crest of hills or sharp curves lined with trees, where a driver might be surprised by the presence of a Horse with Rider and need to take evasive action to avoid a collision. What if there is on-coming traffic when the Horse with Rider is being overtaken by another vehicle at the crest of a hill or sharp curve, is the roadside available and relatively level (ie. ditch foreslope ) for the Horse with Rider to escape.

#### **4.0 Related Policies / Procedures**

OTM Book 6 Manual Warning Signs

#### **5.0 Financial / Budget Assessment**

If decided to post signs, financial impact is minimal. Approximately \$ 400.00 to install signs at four locations.

#### **6.0 Climate Change Impacts**

No impact

#### **7.0 Communications**

#### **8.0 Conclusion**

Concession 6(T) from Hwy 12 to Thorah sideroad is a posted 60 kmh zone. It is a flat, straight stretch of road with no sightline issues. The Average Annual Daily Traffic count is 146. The road is used by those who live on the road or nearby. Miss Mark has told us she uses the road 3-4 times a week with her horse. By following the OTM Book 6 Manual it would appear that a sign would not be warranted. Also to consider is if this road is posted with this sign and a rider is injured on another road. Where do we stop posting signs?

#### **9.0 Recommendation**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive report 2021-CO-045, Horseback Rider Signs, and THAT the request for horseback rider signs on the 6<sup>th</sup> Concession of Thorah be denied.