

September 4, 2026

Via Email only

To: Charlene Millett, Director
East Region Operations Branch
Ministry of Transportation
Charlene.millett@ontario.ca

**Re: Highway 28 Operational Performance Review – Municipal Response
and Request for Further Action**

Please be advised that during their Regular Council meeting held September 1, 2026 Council passed the following resolution:

Resolution No. **R2026-317**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Armstrong
Seconded by Councillor Franzen

That Council support the correspondence from the Township of North Kawartha regarding Highway 28 Performance Review - Municipal Response and Request for Further Action.

Carried.

Please find enclosed the correspondence from the Township of North Kawartha.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Mayor and Council of the Municipality of Trent Lakes
Encl.

cc: Township of North Kawartha



Keely-Anne Johnson
Deputy Clerk

k.johnson@northkawartha.ca

280 Burleigh Street, PO Box 550, Apsley, ON K0L 1A0

Tel: 705-656-5189 | 1-800-755-6931 ext. 239 | Fax: 705-656-4446

www.northkawartha.ca

Charlene Millett, Director
East Region Operations Branch
Ministry of Transportation

Sent by email: charlene.millett@ontario.ca

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Re: Highway 28 Operational Performance Review – Municipal Response and Request for Further Action

Dear Ms. Millett,

This letter is to advise that the Township of North Kawartha Council, at its regular meeting held on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, passed the following resolution regarding the Operational Performance Review (OPR) Summary for Highway 28, as presented by the Ministry of Transportation (MTO).

Operational Performance Review (OPR) Summary – Highway 28 (2026)

26 – 241

Moved - Deputy Mayor Whelan

Seconded – Councillor McIlmoyl

That Council receive the Operational Performance Review summary by the Ministry of Transportation regarding Highway 28; and further that Council support sending the Mayor's response letter to the Ministry of Transportation with copies sent to all Highway 28 Municipal Councils, Peterborough County, MPP Dave Smith, MPP Rick Bresee, Peterborough County OPP Detachment Commander Chris Galeazza, Hwy 28 Coalition Municipal Clerks, Bancroft Detachment Commander Trevor Pitts, the Minister of Transportation and the Solicitor General; and further that Council support the Mayor's

continued advocacy work as leader of the Highway 28 Mayors Coalition to advance corridor safety, improved communications, and a proactive, evidence-based process for future Highway 28 safety improvements. Carried.

Sincerely,

Keely-Anne Johnson
Deputy Clerk
On behalf of the Township of North Kawartha Council

Encl.: Mayor Amyotte Letter, Highway 28 Operational Performance Review – Municipal Response and Request for Further Action

Cc:

Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation
Sent by email: Minister.mto@ontario.ca

Hon. Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General, MPP, York Centre
Sent by email: michael.kerzner@pc.ola.org

Dave Smith, MPP, Peterborough-Kawartha
Sent by email: dave.smith@pc.ola.org

Ric Bresee, MPP, Hastings-Lennox and Addington
Sent by email: ric.bresee@pc.ola.org

Trevor Pitts, Staff Sergeant, Ontario Provincial Police
Sent by email: trevor.pitts@opp.ca

Christopher Galezza, Inspector and Detachment Commander, Ontario Provincial Police
Sent by email: Christopher.galezza@opp.ca

Sheridan Graham, Chief Administrative Officer, Deputy Clerk & Deputy Treasurer, County of Peterborough
Sent by email: sgraham@ptbocounty.ca

Bonnie Clark, County Warden, County of Peterborough

Sent by email: warden@ptbocounty.ca

Kari Stevenson, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk, County of Peterborough

Sent by email: kstevenson@ptbocounty.ca

Heather Watson, Mayor, Township of Douro-Dummer

Sent by email: hwatson@dourodummer.ca

Martina Chait-Hartwig, Clerk/Deputy CAO, Township of Douro-Dummer

Sent by email: mchaithartwig@dourodummer.ca

Sherry Senis, Mayor, Township of Selwyn

Sent by email: ssenis@selwyntownship.ca

Angela Chittick, Manager of Community and Corporate Services/Clerk, Township of Selwyn

Sent by email: achittick@selwyntownship.ca

Dave Burton, Mayor, Municipality of Highlands East

Sent by email: dburton@highlandseast.ca

Robyn Rogers, Clerk, Municipality of Highlands East

Sent by email: rrogers@highlandseast.ca

Dennis Purcell, Mayor, Township of Faraday

Sent by email: dpurcell@faraday.ca

Bernice Crocker, Clerk/Treasurer, Township of Faraday

Sent by email: clerk@faraday.ca

Paul Jenkins, Mayor, Town of Bancroft

Sent by email: pjenkins@bancroft.ca

Amber Wannamaker, Clerk, Town of Bancroft

Sent by email: clerk@bancroft.ca

Randy Wallace, Mayor, Township of Carlow/Mayo

Sent by email: randywallace@carlowmayo.ca

Jenny Snider, CAO/Clerk/Deputy Treasurer

Sent by email: clerk@carlowmayo.ca

Tony Fritsch, Mayor, Township of Addington Highlands

Sent by email: tfritsch@addingtonhighlands.ca

Christine Reed, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer, Township of Addington Highlands

Sent by email: clerk@addingtonhighlands.ca

Terry Lambshead, Mayor, Municipality of Trent Lakes

Sent by email: tlambshead@trentlakes.ca

Jessie Clark, Clerk/Director of Corporate Services, Municipality of Trent Lakes

Sent by email: jclark@trentlakes.ca

Joe Taylor, Mayor, Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan

Sent by email: mayor@osmtownship.ca

Heather Scott, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk, Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan

Sent by email: cao@osmtownship.ca



Township of North Kawartha

Carolyn Amyotte, Mayor

mayor@nothkawartha.ca

280 Burleigh Street, PO Box 550, Apsley, ON K0L 1A0

Tel: 705-931-1342 | Fax: 705-656-4446

www.northkawartha.ca

August 11, 2026

Ministry of Transportation

East Region Operations Branch

A/Director- Charlene Millett

Re: Highway 28 Operational Performance Review – Municipal Response and Request for Further Action

Dear Charlene,

On behalf of the Township of North Kawartha and as the initiator of the Highway 28 Mayors Coalition, I am writing in response to the Operational Performance Review (OPR) Summary for Highway 28 presented by the Ministry of Transportation (MTO). We appreciate that the MTO undertook the review and that the report identifies several maintenance, signage, monitoring, and data-collection actions. However, after reviewing the report against the requests made by the Highway 28 Mayors Coalition, and after considering feedback from municipal staff and emergency services, we remain concerned that the OPR does not adequately respond to the scope, intent, or urgency of the safety review that was requested.

At our ROMA delegation, the Coalition requested a comprehensive safety review of Highway 28 to identify traffic calming measures and infrastructure improvements, improve communication and consultation with Highway 28 municipalities, and support a targeted public awareness and education campaign. In follow-up correspondence, we further identified three priority areas for review: collision hot zones along the corridor, including areas beyond Peterborough County; the lack of left- and right-turn lanes, and the settlement areas and commercial/residential activity nodes bisected by Highway 28.

The OPR, as presented, reads largely as a current-condition assessment. It concludes that Highway 28 is operating acceptably and that no major capital improvements are warranted. While that conclusion may reflect the warrant analysis applied to existing data, it does not provide municipalities with the broader safety analysis we requested, nor does it adequately address whether conditions are improving, stable, or deteriorating over time. A report that relies primarily on whether current thresholds are met today is insufficient for a corridor where communities have experienced repeated serious and fatal collisions, seasonal congestion, high wildlife-related collision activity, and significant strain on local infrastructure and emergency services.

Of particular concern is the absence of corridor-wide trend-line analysis. The report should include trend analysis for key performance indicators such as total and seasonal traffic



Township of North Kawartha

Carolyn Amyotte, Mayor

mayor@nothkawartha.ca

280 Burleigh Street, PO Box 550, Apsley, ON K0L 1A0

Tel: 705-931-1342 | Fax: 705-656-4446

www.northkawartha.ca

volumes, peak weekend volumes, turning movements at key intersections and commercial accesses, collision frequency and severity, wildlife-related collisions, speed compliance, and 85th percentile speeds. This information is essential to understand whether existing concerns are isolated or part of an emerging pattern. It is also necessary to determine whether Highway 28 is moving toward conditions that would justify future interventions, even if warrant thresholds are not met today.

We are also concerned that the OPR does not clearly identify the specific thresholds, triggers, or decision points that would prompt MTO to consider improvements such as left-turn lanes, acceleration lanes, right-turn tapers, pedestrian treatments, speed management measures, illumination, enhanced signage, shoulder rumble strips, or other safety countermeasures. Without those thresholds, municipalities cannot understand what data MTO is relying on, what level of deterioration would be required before action is taken, or how future monitoring will translate into timely decisions.

The report also does not fully respond to the Coalition's request for analysis of collision hot zones across the entire Highway 28 corridor. Localized analysis is required for areas repeatedly identified by municipalities, OPP, residents, and emergency services. For these locations, MTO should provide annual collision counts, severity trends, seasonal patterns, contributing factors, wildlife versus non-wildlife collisions, speed data, turning movement data, near-miss observations where available, and a clear explanation of whether each area is improving, stable or deteriorating.

The reliance on warrant thresholds also does not address the lived operational reality for rural municipalities and emergency services. The North Kawartha Fire Department has identified a significant increase over the past seven to ten years in serious, life-altering and fatal collisions on Highway 28. As a small composite fire service that relies primarily on volunteer firefighters, extended highway closures and serious collision responses can consume substantial local resources for many hours, leaving limited capacity for simultaneous or subsequent emergencies elsewhere in the municipality. These operational impacts are not secondary to the safety analysis; they are a direct consequence of the collision patterns on the corridor and should be considered in MTO's assessment of risk and priority.

We acknowledge the maintenance and minor improvements identified in the OPR, including vegetation clearing, pavement marking refreshes, signage repairs, pedestrian warning signs near Kawartha Dairy, portable variable message signs, wildlife signage review, additional turning-movement counts, and continued monitoring. These measures are useful, but they do not satisfy the broader request for a comprehensive safety review, nor do they provide a proactive plan for preventing future serious collisions. The concern is not simply whether Highway 28 functions acceptably from a traffic-flow perspective; the



Township of North Kawartha

Carolyn Amyotte, Mayor

mayor@nothkawartha.ca

280 Burleigh Street, PO Box 550, Apsley, ON K0L 1A0

Tel: 705-931-1342 | Fax: 705-656-4446

www.northkawartha.ca

concern is whether the corridor is being managed in a way that meaningfully reduces risk for residents, visitors, emergency responders, commercial users, pedestrians, and all other road users.

Going forward, we request that MTO provide a written addendum or supplemental response to the OPR that includes the following:

1. A trend-line analysis for traffic volumes, seasonal and peak weekend volumes, speed compliance, 85th percentile speeds, turning movements, collision frequency, collision severity, wildlife-related collisions, and location-specific safety performance.
2. A location-specific assessment of identified hot zones and settlement/commercial activity areas, including Leahy's Market, the Morton Community Health Centre, Burleigh Falls, Big Cedar, Woodview, Apsley, Paudash, Kawartha Dairy, all Provincial Park access roads, and other high-activity areas identified by the Coalition, OPP and municipal partners.
3. The specific warrant thresholds, safety performance indicators, and decision triggers that would prompt MTO to consider left-turn lanes, right-turn tapers, acceleration lanes, speed management measures, pedestrian treatments, illumination, rumble strips, signage upgrades, wildlife mitigation or other countermeasures.
4. A clear monitoring plan that identifies what data will be collected, when it will be collected, who will review it, how municipalities and OPP will be consulted, and when results will be reported back.
5. A commitment to regular communication with Highway 28 municipalities, including scheduled follow-up meetings and a defined MTO point of contact for corridor safety matters.
6. A collaborative education and enforcement strategy involving MTO, OPP and municipalities, including targeted public awareness messaging, enhanced speed compliance efforts, and use of real-time driver feedback measures where appropriate.
7. A clear explanation of how emergency service impacts, highway closures, detour limitations, and strain on volunteer fire services are considered in MTO's safety and operational decision-making.



Township of North Kawartha

Carolyn Amyotte, Mayor

mayor@nothkawartha.ca

280 Burleigh Street, PO Box 550, Apsley, ON K0L 1A0

Tel: 705-931-1342 | Fax: 705-656-4446

www.northkawartha.ca

We also request confirmation of the status and timing of the actions identified in Appendix B, including the 2026 turning-movement counts, wildlife signage review with the Ministry of Natural Resources, speed feedback display signs, pavement marker review, enforcement/engineering/education strategy, guiderail review, pavement symbol refresh, and longer-term consideration of shoulder rumble strips. Where actions are described as monitoring or future review, MTO should identify the anticipated timeline, responsible party, and how municipal feedback will be incorporated.

The Township of North Kawartha and the Highway 28 Mayors Coalition are not asking MTO to pursue unnecessary capital works. We are asking for a transparent, proactive and evidence-based process that recognizes the seriousness of the safety concerns raised by local communities and emergency services. We believe that the OPR is the beginning of a sustained safety improvement process, not the end of the discussion.

We would appreciate a written response addressing the items above and propose that the MTO reconvene in the new year with the newly elected Highway 28 Mayors, OPP and municipal staff to review the requested supplemental information and establish a clear path forward.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Amyotte

Mayor, Township of North Kawartha

On behalf of North Kawartha Council / Highway 28 Mayors Coalition

Cc: The Highway 28 Municipal Councils, Peterborough County, MPP Dave Smith, MPP Rick Bresee, Peterborough County OPP Detachment Commander Chris Galeazza and Bancroft Detachment Commander Trevor Pitts