


Going the Extra Mile for Safety

Why 2+1 Roads?

A driver in Northern Ontario is twice as likely to be killed in a crash than drivers in southern Ontario. Northern Ontarians have been advocating for a safer highway 11 for long enough. GEMS believes that now is the time to take action with a better and safer road design.

In 1997 the Government of Sweden adopted a road safety program called VISION ZERO. The focus of VISION ZERO is stopping fatalities and serious injuries on the road system by designing roads that remove energy from collisions. VISION ZERO strives to reduce fatalities and serious injuries to zero by engineering safe road systems for road users that will make mistakes. They said that the carnage on their roads must stop and driver training and education alone was not achieving the results they wanted. Sweden has succeeded in making significant improvements in their road safety record and it now has the world's safest roads. One of the most significant measures they have implemented is the building of 2+1 roads. Sweden now has more than 3,000 kilometers of 2+1 roads and continues to build more. VISION ZERO is now a worldwide movement and it is time to bring it to Northern Ontario.

For more information on 2+1 Roads, contact GEMS through the Temiskaming Shores and Area Chamber of Commerce or one of our GEMS committee members.

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Some facts regarding 2+1 roads include:

- ✓ 70% - 75% lower cost to build than divided highways
- ✓ Built on existing road platform
- ✓ Intersections can be at grade
- ✓ Do not by-pass towns and villages
- ✓ Do not significantly affect private entrances
- ✓ Function well in all seasons
- ✓ Have significant socio-economic benefits



How does a 2+1 Road Work?

2+1 roads work like highways in Ontario that have passing lanes. There are continuous, alternating passing lanes with the added safety of a dividing barrier. This generally means that every two to four kilometers there is a passing opportunity. Currently there are large distances between passing lanes.

What results can be achieved from 2+1 roads?

- ✓ Sweden has reduced fatality rates for all road users by 75-80%
- ✓ Reduction in motorcycle fatality rates 40-50%
- ✓ Safety performance equal to divided highways
- ✓ Improved travel efficiency and travel times
- ✓ Drastic reduction of long road closures due to fatality investigations caused by head-on collisions
- ✓ Widely accepted and used very successfully in Sweden and Ireland as well as other countries

GEMS is advocating for the implementation of a 2+1 pilot project on Highway 11 between Temiskaming Shores and North Bay. A resolution for this has been supported by over twenty municipalities in Northern Ontario. This pilot project will give Ontarians and Canadians an opportunity to see why 2+1 roads can make our highways safe for all road users and improve the economy of Northern Ontario.

