

For Immediate Release

Improving Road Safety for a Lower Cost: the Case for 2+1 Roads in Northern Ontario

September 12, 2022 – The fatality rate on roads in the regions of Northern Ontario is twice as high as that of Southern Ontario and also above the national average. Twinning such roads could significantly increase their safety. However, most roads in these regions do not have enough daily traffic to justify the high costs associated with such an upgrade. An innovative road design extensively tested in Sweden and Ireland can solve this problem. 2+1 roads increase road safety, but their cost is much lower than twinning.

In the webinar *Saving Lives and Money: 2+1 Roads*, held by Northern Policy Institute in April 2022, Mark Wilson from the Going the Extra Mile for Safety (GEMS) Committee talked about the design and benefits of these roads for Northern Ontario. Northern Policy Institute is releasing a transcription of that webinar so the information can be more readily accessible to the public.

Implementing 2+1 in Northern Ontario would mean an increase in road safety, with fewer fatalities on these regions' roads, while simultaneously saving taxpayers' dollars. In Sweden, the implementation program for 2+1 roads was named Vision Zero. According to Mark Wilson, "the underlying principle behind Vision Zero is that no one should die on the Swedish road network, and we at the GEMS Committee agree with that." "Besides saving lives, the cost advantages of 2+1 roads are significant," he said. "The goal of GEMS and those who advocate for 2+1 roads is to see the fatality rate cut dramatically in Northern Ontario."

The webinar recommended implementing the 2+1 design on two-lane roads with daily traffic from 2,000 to 15,000 vehicles. Aligned with this, the provincial government of Ontario has committed to a pilot of 2+1 roads in Northern Ontario, between North Bay and Temagami.

Want to learn more? Read the transcription here: <https://www.northernpolicy.ca/saving-lives-and-money-21>

Or watch the recording here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqSD6fReW58>

Media Interviews: NPI President & CEO Charles Cirtwill is available for comment. To arrange an interview, please contact:

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Mark Wilson is a retired Canadian Registered Safety Professional (CRSP) with 30 years of expertise in occupational safety as a trainer and safety program developer. He has also served as a volunteer firefighter for almost 30 years. Mark is now the Volunteer Resource Manager for the GEMS Committee, which is based in Temiskaming Shores in Northeastern Ontario.

About Northern Policy Institute:

Northern Policy Institute is Northern Ontario's independent, evidence-driven think tank. We perform research, analyze data, and disseminate ideas. Our permanent offices are in Thunder Bay, Sudbury, and Kirkland Lake. Our mission is to enhance Northern Ontario's capacity to take the lead position on socio-economic policy that impacts our communities, our province, our country, and our world.