



**The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa  
Staff Report**

**Office of Infrastructure Services**

<b>Prepared For:</b> Committee of the Whole	<b>Report No.:</b> DB 2023 - 02
<b>Agenda Date:</b> February 7, 2023	<b>File No.:</b> C11


**Report Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to address safety concerns as they relate to perceived speeding vehicles on Municipal residential streets. This report aims to provide Municipal Council with the background information necessary to determine whether it is appropriate to lower the speed limit within the Municipal Townsite and the Michipicoten River Village. The change in speed limit within the Townsite will exclude Mission Road and Main Street as they are classified as MTO highways that have a minimum speed limit of 50km/hr. In addition, the Michipicoten River Village Road and Michipicoten Harbour Road will also be maintained at their existing speed limits of 50km/hr.

**Background**

The Municipality of Wawa has received complaints from residents regarding the speed of vehicles both within the Townsite of Wawa, and the Michipicoten River Village. To assess the issues related the speeding, the Municipality purchased a “speed spy” camera for the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) to use to conduct speeding surveys. It should be noted that the speed spy camera capabilities are limited to identifying the speed a passing vehicle is travelling at and the time; no other details such as licence plate or vehicle information are recorded. The results of the speed spy reports completed in 2021 reveal that most vehicles travel between 40-50km/hr. Under the Highway Traffic Act, OPP noted that 10km/hr over the speed limit is only a fine \$40 with no demerit points. Based on the results of the speed spy survey and the shift to speed reductions in other small Municipalities, the OPP in the past has recommended to the Municipality that it may be beneficial to reduce the speed within the Townsite to 40km/hr. OPP also indicated that adding school safety zones would double traffic fines.

In addition to the studies completed by the OPP, residents have indicated concerns over the perceived speeding of heavy trucks and equipment on residential streets. As a result, in 2022 the Municipal Council attempted to pass a by-law to reduce the speed of Municipal heavy trucks and equipment. However, due to the by-law exclusively targeting

<b>Respectfully Submitted By:</b> 	<b>Prepared By:</b> <b>Dan Beach / Rebecca Weatherall Infrastructure Services</b>
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Municipal vehicles, the by-law was not passed by the Court. Therefore, speed limits have not changed on roads adjacent to the Municipal snow dump.

To address the concerns of perceiving speeding of heavy trucks and equipment, Municipal Staff have been working diligently to ensure the safe operation of heavy trucks and equipment while performing necessary daily operations and road maintenance. Measures taken to eliminate the perceived speeding of heavy trucks and equipment includes using alternative routes where appropriate to access the snow dumping site. Furthermore, Directors have participated in ride-alongs with Drivers when possible and noted that in almost all cases the maximum speed limit of 50km/hr could not be reached due to the nature of manoeuvring residential streets and the vehicles' inability to accelerate quickly. It was observed by the Directors that the Municipal heavy trucks travelled between 30-42km/hr, which was dependant on road conditions, and the presence of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

In conjunction with the Director ride-alongs, the Municipality completed a pedestrian and traffic count on residential streets surrounding the snow dump access and schools. The traffic counts were completed around 3:00PM to 4:00PM, which are considered prime hours for traffic around the school zone. Results for all the roads surveyed indicated there is up to ten (10) times more passenger vehicle traffic than that of heavy truck and equipment. It is important to acknowledge that all roads surveyed had a similar amount of heavy vehicle traffic, which is a direct result of Municipal Staff attempting to use varied route options when appropriate.

Municipal Council should also be aware that there are currently no records of any traffic related violations involving Municipal heavy equipment or vehicles on streets adjacent to the snow dump.

To further support the transition to the 40km/hr speed limit, the City of Toronto has implemented a Complete Street Guideline. Complete Street Models focus on the importance of safety and assess for all user types that include traffic safety and calming measures. Figure 8-5 from the City of Toronto's Complete Street Guideline illustrates that a reduction in speed from 50km/hr to 40km/hr increases the chances of survival for a vulnerable road user from 15% to 70%.

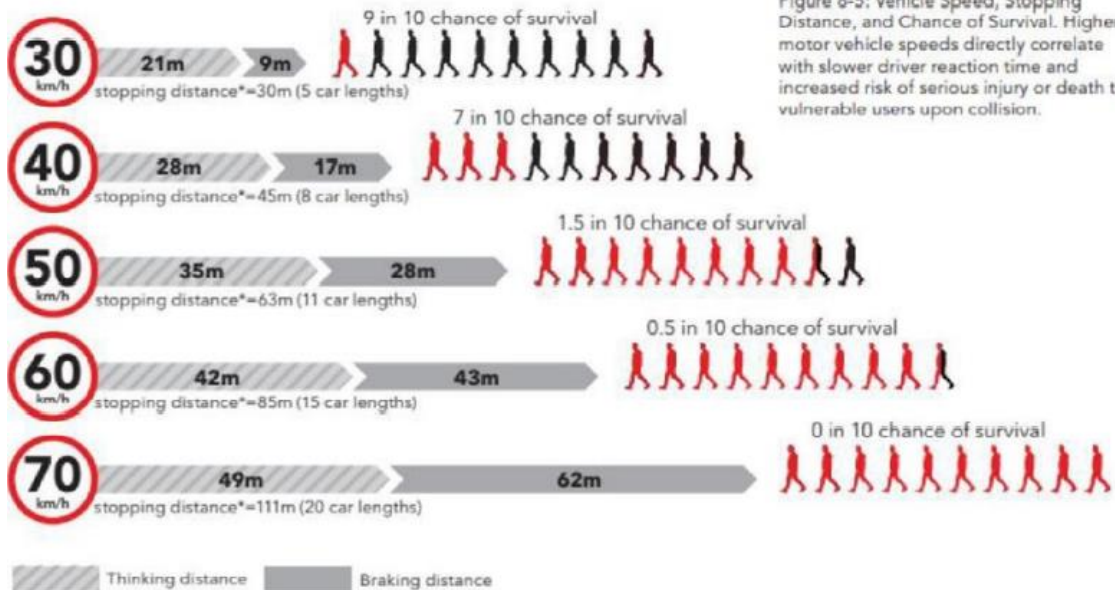


Figure 8-5: Vehicle Speed, Stopping Distance, and Chance of Survival. Higher motor vehicle speeds directly correlate with slower driver reaction time and increased risk of serious injury or death to vulnerable users upon collision.

\*Stopping distances during wet conditions. Single car length=5.6m. Based on a 2.5s reaction time, representing 90th percentile of drivers.

source: Adapted from World Health Organization, 2008. Speed management: a road safety manual for decision-makers and practitioners. Transportation Association of Canada, 2011. Geometric Design Guide for Canadian Roads Part 1. 1.2.5.2 - 1.2.5.4.

### Staff Recommendation

Given the history of the Municipality's issue with perceived speeding by all vehicle types on residential streets, the Municipality is recommending the following speed limit reductions to be adopted by Council:

- Reduce the Townsite speed limit from 50km/hr to 40km/hr;
  - This change excludes Mission Road and Main Street as they are part of the provincial highway system (Highway 101) and cannot have speed limits less than 50km/hr as identified by the MTO.
- Reduce the Michipicoten River Village speed limit from 50km/hr to 40km/hr;
  - This change excludes the Michipicoten River Village Road and Michipicoten Harbour Road.

Please see Figure 1 – Proposed Speed Changes for Wawa Townsite, and Figure 2 – Proposed Speed Changes for Michipicoten River Village for an illustration of the proposed speed limit changes. The red areas on both maps indicate 50km/hr zones, with yellow zones indicating a change to the 40km/hr speed limit.

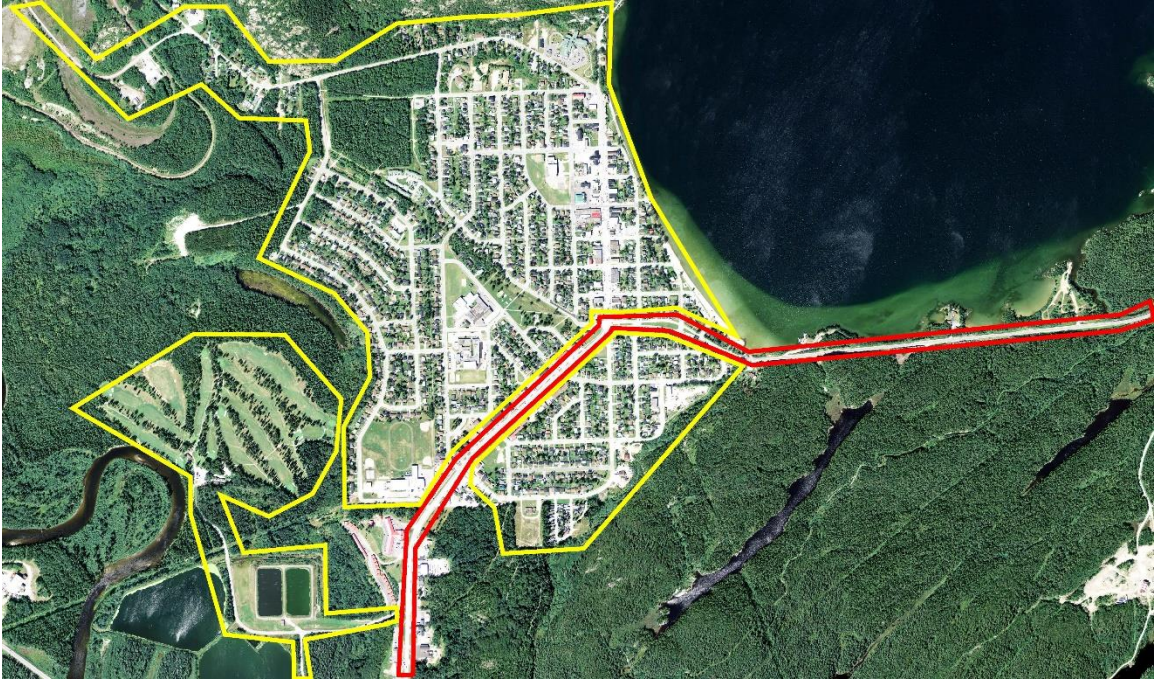


Figure 1– Proposed Speed Changes for Wawa Townsite

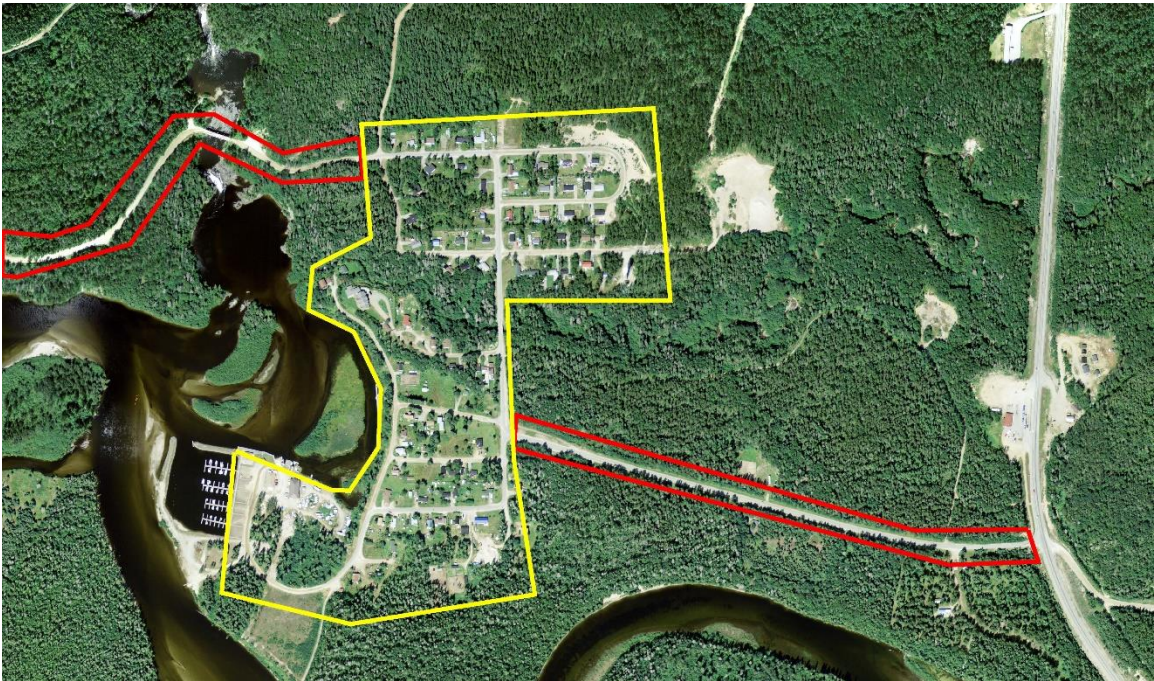


Figure 2 – Proposed Speed Changes for Michipicoten River Village

Despite the speed limit changes noted above, Municipal Staff would like to remind and encourage Municipal Council and residents to notify the OPP if they identify a perceived speeding issue.

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**Recommended Next Steps**

If Council finds it agreeable to move towards changing the speed limit to 40km/hr on the residential streets indicated on Figures 1 and 2, Municipal Staff will take the following next steps:

- 1) Host Public Consultation Opportunities
- 2) Amend Traffic By-Laws and/or Develop New Municipal Policies
- 3) Order Signage
- 4) Provide Public Education Opportunities
- 5) Implement Signage for Summer 2023

Council should note that Municipal Staff have increased the Operational Budget for signage in anticipation of moving forward with the 40km/hr speed limit changes.

**Attachments**

Attachment 1: Speed Spy Report – Churchill Avenue – Wawa May 2021

Attachment 2: Speed Spy Report – Government Road – Wawa May 2021



# Ontario Provincial Police

## North East Region

Superior East (Wawa) Detachment  
 34 Pinewood Drive, Hwy 17, Wawa, ON P0S 1K0  
 Tel.: 705-856-2233 Fax: 705-856-7572

Intelligence File: N/A Date: 9-Jun-21

Prepared by: Kevin Fellingner, Admin Sergeant Superior East Detachment.

## Speed Spy Study

### Lower Churchill Avenue – Town of Wawa

A speed spy study was conducted between the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2021 and the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 as a result of concerns and complaints raised by local residents and Township employees of speeding in the area of the Michipicoten High School on Churchill Avenue in the Town of Wawa. This is a posted 50 km/hr zone and is not classified as a school / community safety zone.

The results are as follows:

#### Northbound Traffic – April 12-16, 2021

Posted Speed Limit:	50 km/h
Average Speed (km/h):	36-38 km/h
Highest Speed (km/h):	103 km/h
50th Percentile:	38 - 40 km/h
85th Percentile:	48 - 50 km/h
Number Above Speed Limit:	666
Number Above Speed Limit (+15 km/hr):	59
Percentage above Speed limit (+15 km/hr)	1.1 %
Total Number of Vehicles:	5173

#### Southbound Traffic – May 3-9, 2021

Posted Speed Limit:	50 km/h
Average Speed (km/h):	34 km/h
Highest Speed (km/h):	78 km/h
50th Percentile:	36 km/h
85th Percentile:	47 km/h
Number Above Speed Limit:	781
Number Above Speed Limit (+15 km/hr):	14
Percentage above Speed limit (+15 km/hr)	0.1 %
Total Number of Vehicles:	9549

In reviewing the data for N/B traffic, 5173 vehicles were recorded with the average speed was 36-38 km/h. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile was travelling at 48-50 km/h. The highest speed recorded was 103 km/h. The data also indicated that of the 5173 vehicles recorded, 59 of them were travelling at least 15 km/hr over the speed limit representing 1.1 % of the vehicles recorded.

In reviewing the data for S/B traffic, 9549 vehicles were recorded with the average speed at 34 km/h. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile was travelling at 47 km/h. The highest speed recorded was 78 km/h. The data also indicated that of the 9549 vehicles recorded, 14 of them were travelling at least 15 km/hr over the speed limit representing 0.1 % of the vehicles recorded.

Based on the above information, there does not appear to be an issue with speeding in the 50 km/hr zone on Churchill Avenue.

As a result of this information, a reduction of the posted speed limit to 40km/h and creating a "School Safety Zone" would be recommended for this area. Enforcement could then shift to vehicles travelling in the 55 km/h and above category.

Anyone with or requiring additional information is asked to contact the undersigned.

Kevin Fellingner , Sergeant #12650  
 Superior East – Wawa Town Detachment

Dissemination List	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Regional Intelligence Supervisor <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Third Party Rule</b></span>
<input type="checkbox"/>	OPP DL ALL (All Regional Personnel)
<input type="checkbox"/>	OPP Region Generic Email Addresses (Less Serious Offences)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specific Detachments: Superior East – Wawa
<input type="checkbox"/>	West Region
<input type="checkbox"/>	Central Region
<input type="checkbox"/>	East Region
<input type="checkbox"/>	North East Region
<input type="checkbox"/>	North West Region
<input type="checkbox"/>	Highway Safety Division
<input type="checkbox"/>	OPP Specialized Unit(s): <a href="#">Click here to enter specialized unit(s).</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Law Enforcement Agencies: <a href="#">Click here to enter outside law enforcement agencies.</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All municipal police departments (CISO)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other Outside Agencies: Wawa Police Service Board

Date: 06/10/2021 00:00

Report Start Date: 04/12/2021 11:00

Report End Date: 04/13/2021 09:00

Time Interval: 30 minutes

Speed Interval: 5 km/h

Posted Speed Limit: 50 km/h

Average Speed: 38 km/h

Highest Speed: 69 km/h

50th Percentile: 40 km/h

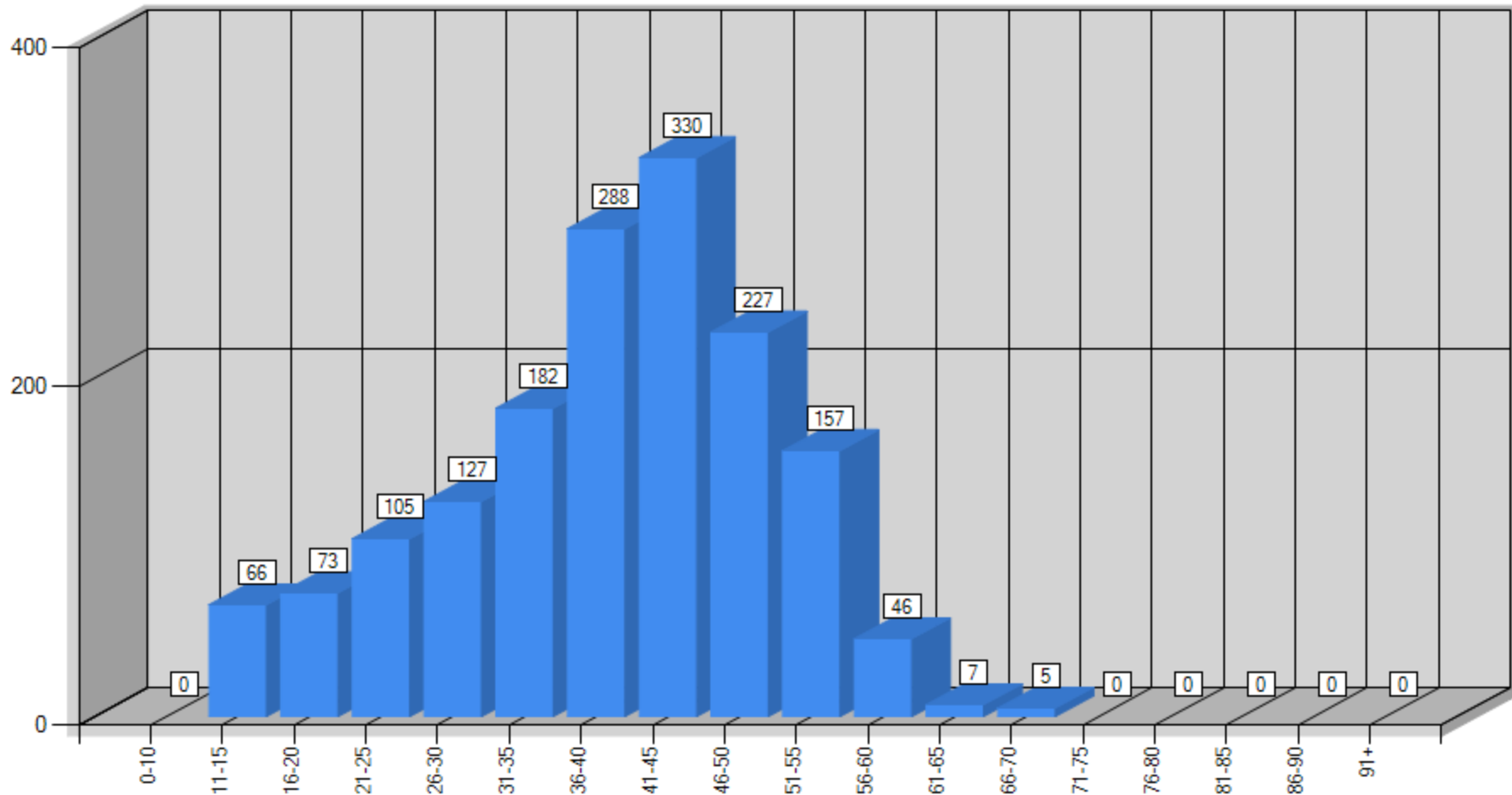
85th Percentile: 50 km/h

Number Above Speed Limit: 215

Total Number of Vehicles: 1613

Comments:

April 12 - 13, 2021  
Wawa - Churchill Avenue  
Posted Speed Limit - 50km/h  
Vehicles travelling N/B  
Sgt. Kevin Fellingner #12650  
Superior East - Wawa OPP





Date: 06/10/2021 00:00

Report Start Date: 04/13/2021 15:00

Report End Date: 04/15/2021 08:00

Time Interval: 30 minutes

Speed Interval: 5 km/h

Posted Speed Limit: 50 km/h

Average Speed: 38 km/h

Highest Speed: 103 km/h

50th Percentile: 40 km/h

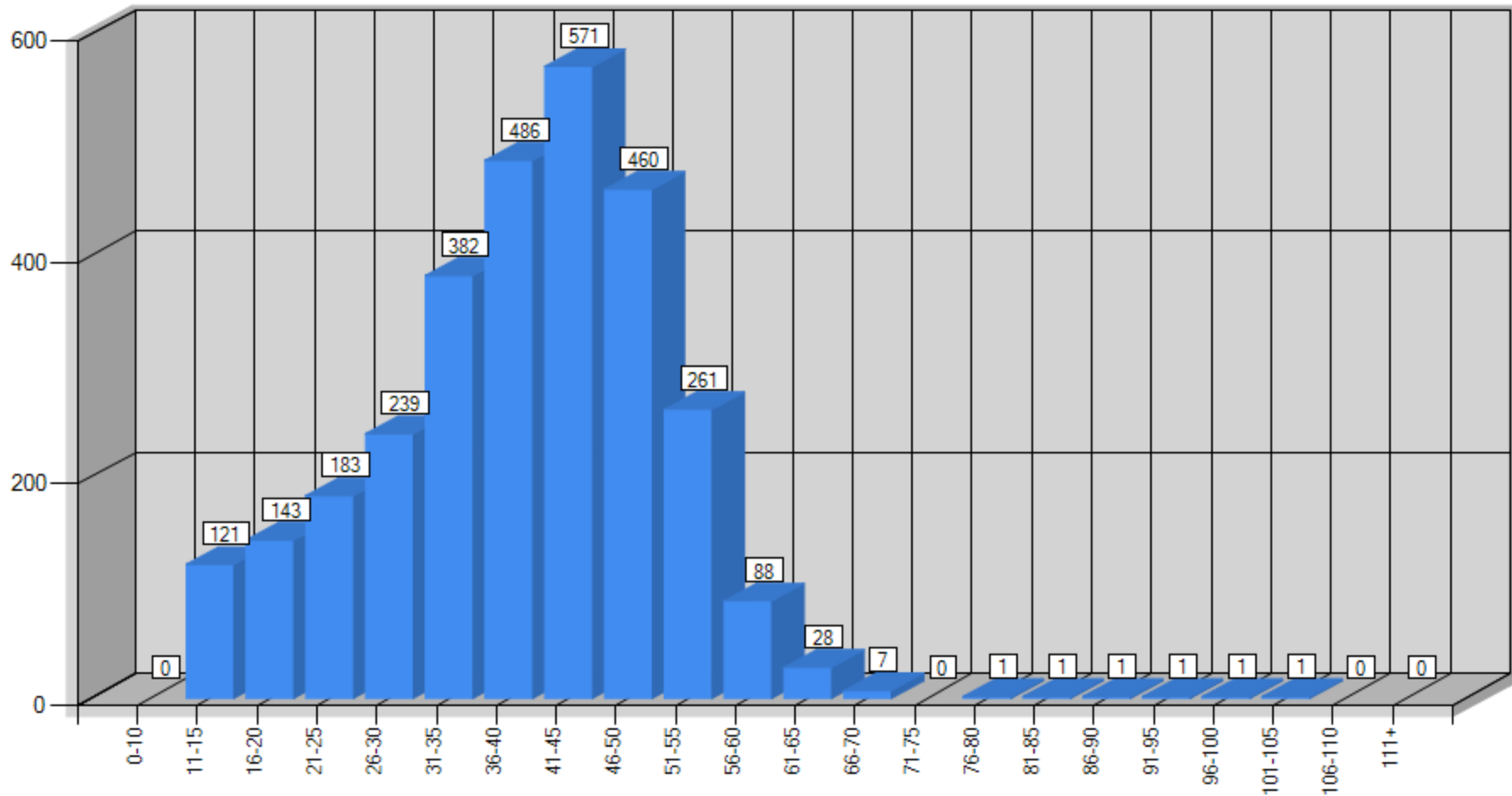
85th Percentile: 50 km/h

Number Above Speed Limit: 390

Total Number of Vehicles: 2975

Comments:

April 13 - 15, 2021  
Wawa - Churchill Avenue  
Posted Speed Limit - 50km/h  
Vehicles travelling N/B  
Sgt. Kevin Fellingner #12650  
Superior East - Wawa OPP



Date: 06/10/2021 00:00

Report Start Date: 04/16/2021 13:00

Report End Date: 04/16/2021 18:00

Time Interval: 30 minutes

Speed Interval: 5 km/h

Posted Speed Limit: 50 km/h

Average Speed: 36 km/h

Highest Speed: 74 km/h

50th Percentile: 38 km/h

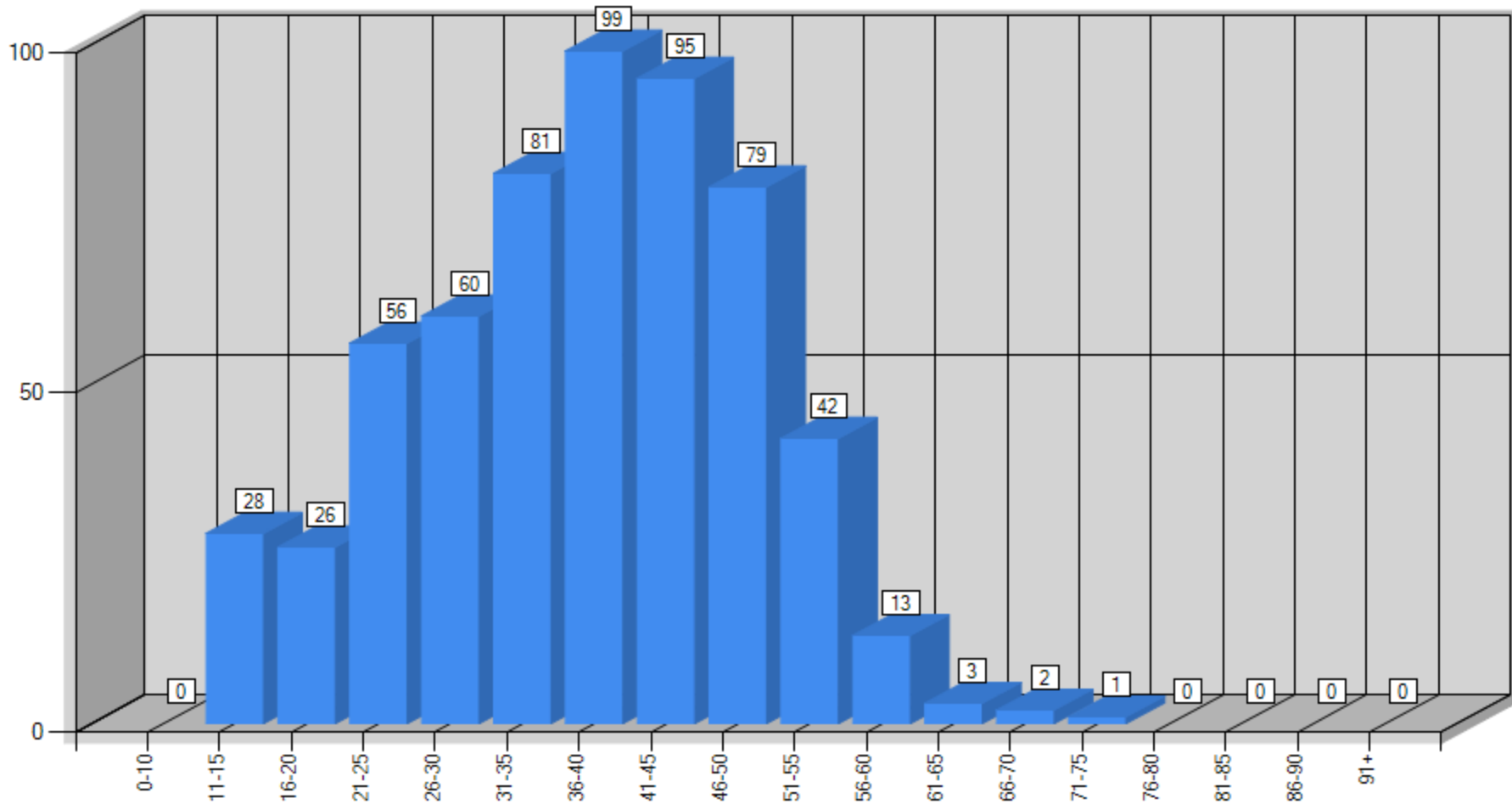
85th Percentile: 48 km/h

Number Above Speed Limit: 61

Total Number of Vehicles: 585

Comments:

April 16, 2021  
Wawa - Churchill Avenue  
Posted Speed Limit - 50km/h  
Vehicles travelling N/B  
Sgt. Kevin Fellingner #12650  
Superior East - Wawa OPP



Date: 06/10/2021 00:00

Report Start Date: 05/03/2021 13:00

Report End Date: 05/09/2021 15:00

Time Interval: 30 minutes

Speed Interval: 5 km/h

Posted Speed Limit: 50 km/h

Average Speed: 34 km/h

Highest Speed: 78 km/h

50th Percentile: 36 km/h

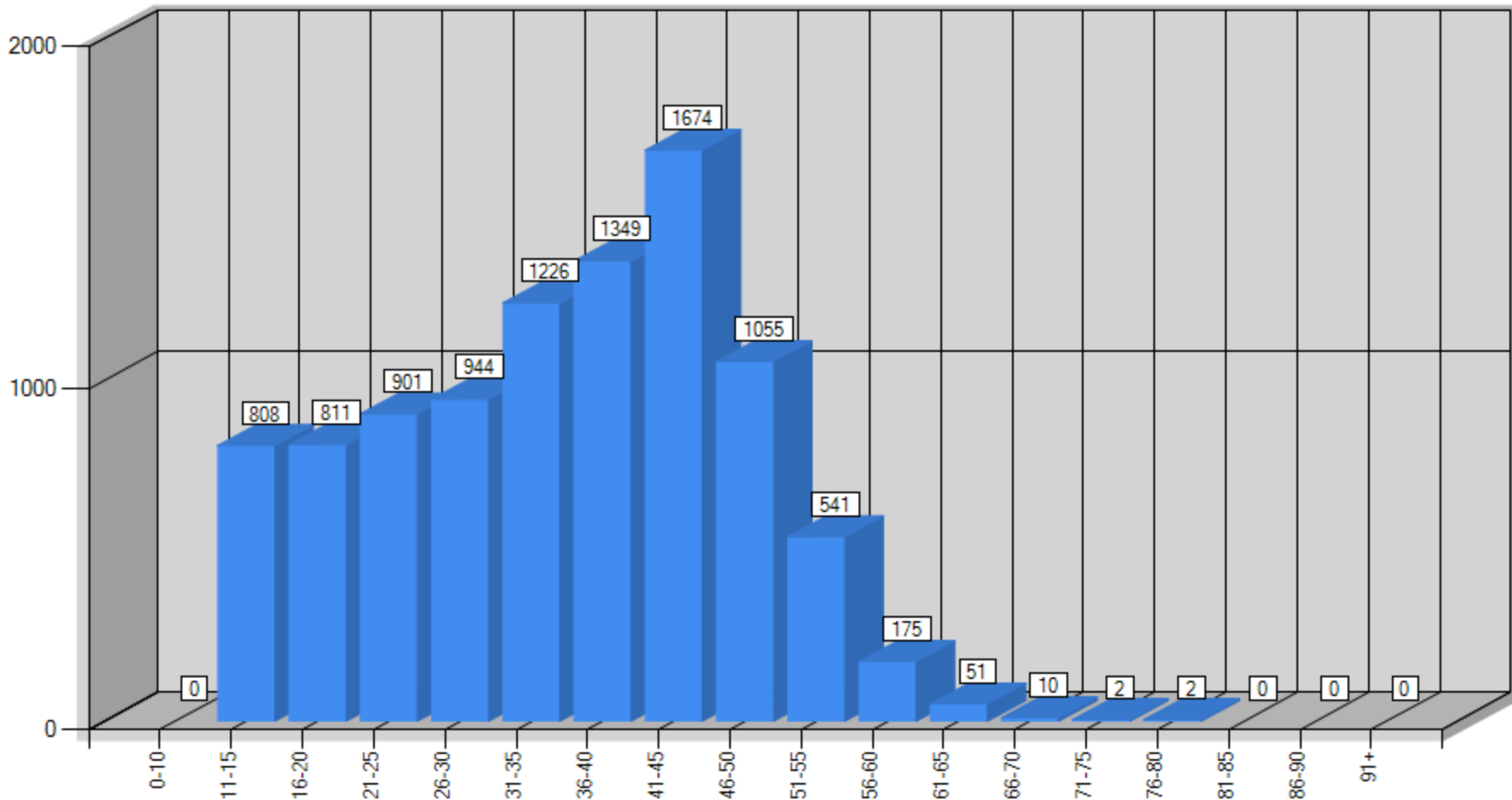
85th Percentile: 47 km/h

Number Above Speed Limit: 781

Total Number of Vehicles: 9549

Comments:

May 3-9, 2021  
Wawa - Churchill Avenue  
Posted Speed Limit - 50km/h  
Vehicles travelling S/B  
Sgt. Kevin Fellingner #12650  
Superior East - Wawa OPP





## Ontario Provincial Police North East Region

Superior East (Wawa) Detachment  
34 Pinewood Drive, Hwy 17, Wawa, ON P0S 1K0  
Tel.: 705-856-2233 Fax: 705-856-7572

Intelligence File: N/A Date: 9-Jun-21

Prepared by: Kevin Fellingner, Admin Sergeant Superior East Detachment.

# Speed Spy Study Government Road – Town of Wawa

A speed spy study was conducted between the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 and the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2021 as a result of concerns and complaints raised by local residents and Township employees of speeding in the area of the Government Road in the Town of Wawa. This is a posted 40 km/hr zone.

The results are as follows:

### May 25-31, 2021

Posted Speed Limit:	40 km/h
Average Speed (km/h):	38 km/h
Highest Speed (km/h):	85 km/h
50th Percentile:	40 km/h
85th Percentile:	52 km/h
Number Above Speed Limit:	1892
Number Above Speed Limit (+20 km/hr):	100
Percentage above Speed limit (+20 km/hr)	2.5%
Total Number of Vehicles:	3857

In reviewing the data for W/B traffic, 3857 vehicles were recorded with the average speed at 38 km/h. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile was travelling at 40 km/h. The highest speed recorded was 85 km/h. The data also indicated that of the 3857 vehicles recorded, 100 of them were travelling at least 20 km/hr over the speed limit representing 2.5 % of the vehicles recorded.

Based on the above information, there does appear to be an issue with speeding in the 40 km/hr zone on Government Road.

As a result of this information, Superior East OPP will target their patrol during the hours of 12:00pm and 4:00pm which shows the highest time that vehicles were recorded above the speed limit. Education and / or Enforcement will concentrate to vehicles travelling in the 50 km/h and above category.

Anyone with or requiring additional information is asked to contact the undersigned.

Kevin Fellingner , Sergeant #12650  
Superior East – Wawa Town Detachment

Dissemination List	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Regional Intelligence Supervisor <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Third Party Rule</b></span>
<input type="checkbox"/>	OPP DL ALL (All Regional Personnel)
<input type="checkbox"/>	OPP Region Generic Email Addresses (Less Serious Offences)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specific Detachments: Superior East – Wawa
<input type="checkbox"/>	West Region
<input type="checkbox"/>	Central Region
<input type="checkbox"/>	East Region
<input type="checkbox"/>	North East Region
<input type="checkbox"/>	North West Region
<input type="checkbox"/>	Highway Safety Division
<input type="checkbox"/>	OPP Specialized Unit(s): <a href="#">Click here to enter specialized unit(s).</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Law Enforcement Agencies: <a href="#">Click here to enter outside law enforcement agencies.</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All municipal police departments (CISO)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other Outside Agencies: Wawa Police Service Board

Date: 05/31/2021 00:00

Report Start Date: 05/25/2021 09:00

Report End Date: 05/31/2021 12:00

Time Interval: 30 minutes

Speed Interval: 5 km/h

Posted Speed Limit: 40 km/h

Average Speed: 38 km/h

Highest Speed: 85 km/h

50th Percentile: 40 km/h

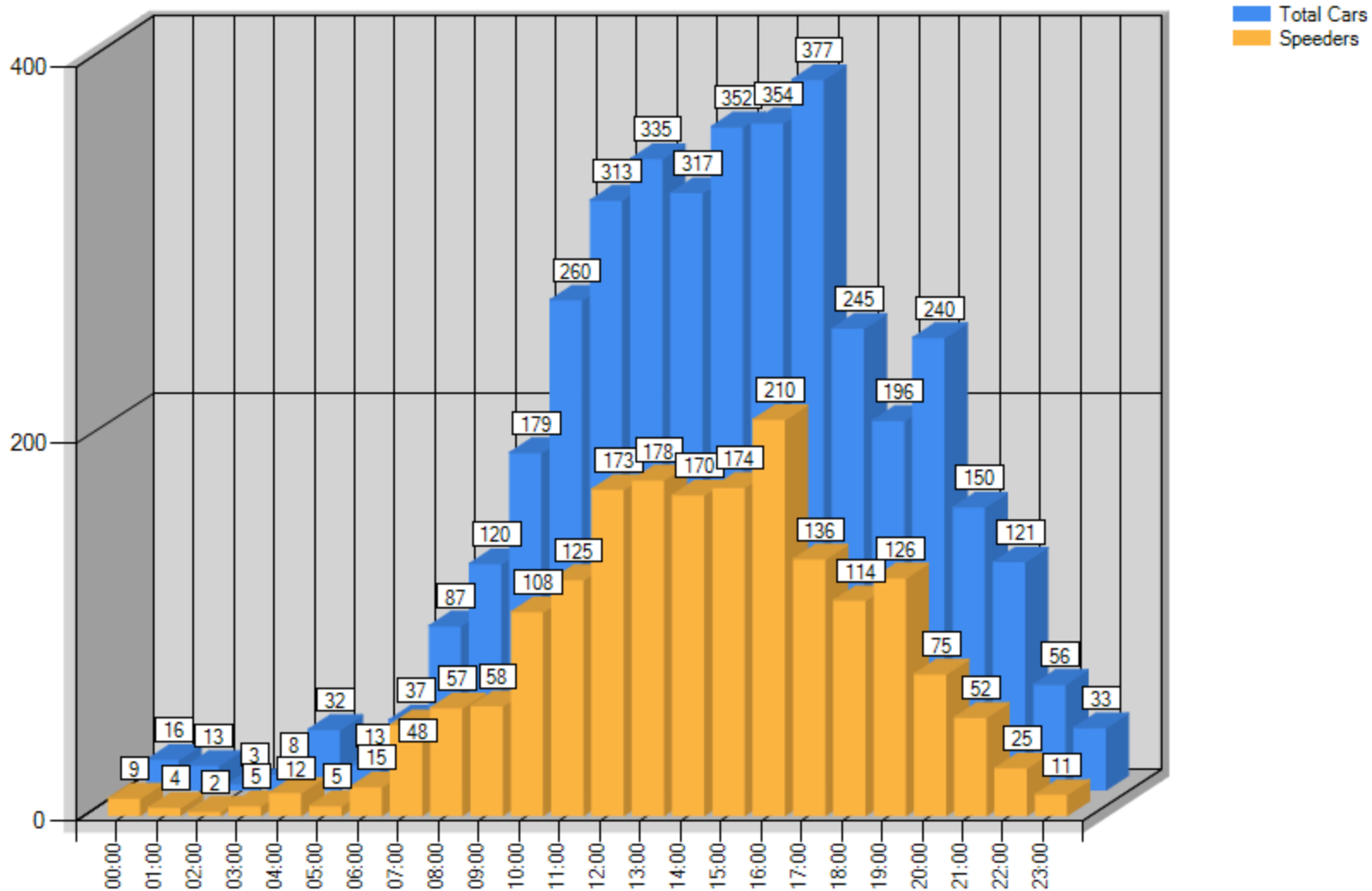
85th Percentile: 52 km/h

Number Above Speed Limit: 1892

Total Number of Vehicles: 3857

Comments:

Tuesday May 24 - Monday May 31, 2021  
Wawa - Government Road  
Vehicle Count vs. Hour  
Produced by Sgt. Kevin Fellingner #12650  
Superior East OPP



Date: 05/31/2021 00:00

Report Start Date: 05/25/2021 09:00

Report End Date: 05/31/2021 12:00

Time Interval: 30 minutes

Speed Interval: 5 km/h

Posted Speed Limit: 40 km/h

Average Speed: 38 km/h

Highest Speed: 85 km/h

50th Percentile: 40 km/h

85th Percentile: 52 km/h

Number Above Speed Limit: 1892

Total Number of Vehicles: 3857

Comments:

Tuesday May 24 - Monday May 31, 2021  
Wawa - Government Road  
Vehicle Count vs. Speed  
Produced by Sgt. Kevin Fellingner #12650  
Superior East OPP

