



ONTARIO PUBLIC
SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION

Leading Education's Advocates

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October 2, 2019

Ministry of Transportation
Road Safety Policy Office
Safety Policy and Education Branch
87 Sir William Hearst Avenue
Building "A", Room 212
Toronto, Ontario

SPEBontario.ca

Re: Proposed Regulations re: Enhancing Municipal Road Safety through Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE)

The Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding the Ministry of Transportation's proposed regulations aimed at improving road safety, including the areas near and around public schools in the province.

It is our understanding the framework to be developed will allow municipalities to introduce automated speed enforcement (photo radar) in school zones and community safety zones. Our Association has commented on this issue previously in our submission to Bill 65, *Safe School Zones Act* (May 2017). At that time, we indicated our strong support for increased safety measures for our students, parents, school staff and community members. We have also supported the use of school bus cameras to target drivers who drive past school buses with their stop-arms out (equipped with a camera) and drivers who are speeding near schools via Bill 107, *The Getting Ontario Moving Act* (May 2019).

We share the concerns of many about the growing number of incidents due to speeding drivers and believe that more can be done with a coordinated effort by all stakeholders. We point out the recent media coverage regarding tragedies in Scarborough where pedestrians have died while crossing busy streets.

The proposed regulation indicates that, "municipalities will be responsible for all aspects of an ASE program administration, including the installation of devices, location selection, and the processing and distribution of evidence and tickets." Individual municipalities will be given the option of whether to pursue ASE or not.

We suggest school boards and local councils discuss neighbourhood issues together and make final decisions that support the entire community. School boards have valuable information to share about the safety concerns and risk factors they have experienced at their local schools. School boards also want to be able to coordinate efforts that slow traffic down and reduce irresponsible

driver behaviour near schools. This could also involve working with local police services for better, targeted enforcement in problem areas.

Schools are often community hubs in which many child care centres are located. As well, many other community organizations are using their facilities, either indoor or outdoor, on a regular basis. School boards are also very much interested in continuing the discussion about active transportation and the concept of walking school buses, where this is appropriate.

We will continue our outreach with the Ministry of Education, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the City of Toronto.

Sincerely,



Cathy Abraham
President
Ontario Public School Boards' Association



The Ontario Public School Boards' Association represents public district school boards and public school authorities across Ontario, which together serve more than 1.3 million public elementary and secondary students. The Association advocates on behalf of the best interests and needs of the public school system in Ontario. OPSBA is seen as the credible voice of public education in Ontario and is routinely called on by the provincial government for input and advice on legislation and the impact of government policy directions.

cc.

Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
Jamie McGarvey, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
John Tory, Mayor of the City of Toronto