

Ontario Traffic Council

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Geoff Wilkinson

June 28, 2024

Ministry of Transportation
Road Safety Program Development Office
Safety Program Development Branch
87 Sir William Hearst Avenue Building "A", Room 212
Toronto ON M3M 0B4

Re: Safer Roads and Communities Act, 2024

The Ontario Traffic Council (OTC) would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the Safer Roads and Communities Act, 2024. The OTC is a not-for-profit association representing municipalities across Ontario, consultants and industry suppliers and all their multi-modal transportation engineers, designers, planners, and road safety professionals.

The OTC would like to applaud the Ontario Government for bringing forth the initiatives within this Act and supports the categorizing of e-bikes into distinct classes with specific operator and vehicle safety requirements complimented by a tool or tools for law enforcement to identify these different categories (i.e. mandatory identification stickers), and we look forward to working with the MTO through Regulation consultation. The OTC is also in support of the proposals pertaining to drug and alcohol impaired driving, an escalating license suspension framework upon conviction of motor vehicle theft, mandatory minimum license suspensions for stunt driving, and enhanced MTO Transportation Enforcement Officer authorities.

During consultations around the Safer Roads and Communities Act, the OTC advocated for changes to the definition of a School Zone increasing the length beyond the current 150 m, the inclusion of roads on all sides of a school block, and an increase in fines in School Zones to be doubled, consistent with Community Safety Zones. The OTC further recommends an increase in all speeding fines to align with other Provinces across Canada. This consistent approach, after all, was communicated as one of the reasons Ontario speed limits were raised on some provincial highways to 110 km/h (a change to which the OTC will debate within other advocacy stakeholder consultations).

MTO has up until recently proclaimed to have the safest roads in North America and legislation such as the Safer Roads and Communities Act, 2024 is a step in the right direction in reclaiming that top position. The OTC would recommend this legislation be broadened to increase speed fines, improve the definition, and double the fines for School Zones to further demonstrate the Government's commitment to road safety in Ontario.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide Ontario Traffic Council feedback.

Sincerely,



Geoff Wilkinson