



February 23, 2021

107-2020-320

Her Worship Bonnie Crombie
Mayor
City of Mississauga
Mayor@Mississauga.ca

Dear Mayor Crombie:

Thank you for your letter about safety on Ontario roads and Vision Zero. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is strongly committed to promoting the highest standards of safety for all Ontarians who travel on our roads -- including drivers, pedestrians and cyclists -- and will continue working with our partners on measures that enhance this objective.

We recognize that a combination of legislative, engineering, enforcement and public education efforts are necessary to achieve desired road user behaviour changes, which is why the government has taken steps to keep vulnerable road users safe:

- Effective September 1, 2018, under the *Cannabis, Smoke-Free Ontario and Road Safety Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017*, new measures came into force designed to better protect vulnerable road users:
 - A new offence for careless driving causing bodily harm and/or death;
 - Increased penalties (fines and demerit points) for motorists and cyclists who fail to yield to pedestrians at crosswalks, crossovers and school crossings.
 - Tougher penalties for distracted driving -- such as using a cell phone while operating a vehicle -- including higher fines, more demerit points, and license suspensions, came into force January 1, 2019.
- Effective July 1, 2018, also under the *Cannabis, Smoke-Free Ontario and Road Safety Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017*, the general penalty fine range in the *Highway Traffic Act* (HTA) was raised so that motorists and cyclists can be held to a higher degree of accountability for all general traffic violations.

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- Effective January 1, 2016, under the *Making Ontario's Roads Safer Act, 2015*, drivers and cyclists must stop and yield the entire roadway to pedestrians at pedestrian crossovers, school crossings and all locations where there is a crossing guard.

It is important to note that, with respect to the enforcement of these laws, the police act independently when carrying out their duties. The day-to-day operations of police services and the actions of its officers are the responsibility of the chief of police or his/her representative. As such, individuals concerned about the way that provincial laws are being enforced should contact their local police service directly.

The ministry continues to reinforce the relevant HTA provisions and pedestrian safety through public education activities. We believe strongly that public education is key to road safety for all Ontarians. That is why we continue to provide education to both motorists and pedestrians to promote safe sharing of the road. In this endeavor, the ministry works with police services, injury prevention advocates and community groups.

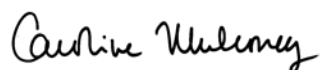
As you may already know, Ontario is committed to the National Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators (CCMTA) Road Safety Strategy 2025 (RSS 2025). RSS 2025 has the long-term vision of Making Canada's roads the safest in the world and sets "Towards Zero" as an aspirational target.

I have asked ministry staff to contact your municipal staff to discuss our respective programs. We are very interested to learn from the experiences of others as a way to continue to improve safety on our highways. Your staff may also be interested in work being undertaken by the Transportation Association of Canada regarding Vision Zero. Part of the initiative will be to review Vision Zero against CCMTA in addition to promoting information exchange related to best practices.

Our government is committed to making sure our roads stay safe and to improve road safety. We will continue to explore additional enforcement and safety measures to ensure the safety of our roadways. Our government will continue to consult and support municipalities in our joined efforts to keep Ontario's roads the safest roads in North America.

Thank you again for your letter and for your interest in road safety.

Sincerely,



Caroline Mulroney
Minister of Transportation

c. The Honourable Kinga Surma, Associate Minister of Transportation (GTA)