



Hon. Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation
Ministry of Transportation
3rd Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Z8

Nov. 18, 2016

Dear Minister Del Duca,

Walk Toronto was pleased to hear that the Government of Ontario is proposing legislation to allow municipal governments to install safety cameras to enforce vehicle speed limits. As you know, vehicle speed is one of the most significant factors in causing injuries and deaths to pedestrians.

However, Walk Toronto is disappointed that these safety cameras will only be enabled in a limited number of locations, specifically around schools and in designated “safety zones”.

While it is extremely important to protect children and enable them to walk to school safely, seniors are also very vulnerable to being hit by vehicles. In most years, over half the pedestrians killed by vehicles in Toronto are over the age of 65. The City of Toronto is in the process of identifying locations where seniors are highly represented in order to improve pedestrian safety measures. There are too many of these locations to be easily covered under restrictive legislation. It would be much more effective for the City of Toronto to be able to apply safety cameras wherever it identifies a potentially vulnerable population.

As well, some of the locations where pedestrians are most likely to be struck and injured or killed are on arterial roads, where traffic is heavy and posted speeds are often ignored. These locations, crucial for improving pedestrian safety, would normally not fall into the categories of school zones or special safety zones.

We realize that safety cameras are not viewed positively by some people. However, by giving municipalities the ability to apply them, the Government of Ontario is already ensuring that they are only used in locations where the local population, as represented by their municipal council, will welcome them. If local opinion is not in favour of safety cameras, local politicians will not apply them. However, for cities like Toronto where there is widespread support for improving pedestrian safety, it makes sense to give the city government the latitude to apply safety cameras to any location that has been identified as a dangerous area, and to be able to move them as necessary.



Walk Toronto therefore urges the Government of Ontario to revise the proposed legislation to allow municipalities to install safety cameras on any municipal road where they deem them necessary, without any limit as to the number of such cameras allowed.

Walk Toronto is a grassroots, volunteer advocacy group dedicated to making Toronto a better city for walking.

Thank you,

Dylan Reid
On behalf of Walk Toronto

cc.

John Tory, Mayor of Toronto

Jaye Robinson, Chair, Public Works and Infrastructure Committee, City of Toronto
City of Toronto, Transportation Services, Pedestrian Projects

Michael Harris MPP, PC Critic, Transportation

Wayne Gates MPP, NDP Critic, Transportation