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THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BARRIE
Mayor's Office

Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria
Minister of Transportation
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Z8
Minister.MTO@Ontario.ca

February 27, 2023

Dear Minister Sarkaria:

As you may be aware the City of Barrie has recently implemented Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) cameras in a few school zones within the City of Barrie limits. We have also partnered with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) through LAS Business Services to be a Joint Processing Centre that a number of municipalities in addition to Barrie will use for processing of these tickets.

As part of this implementation the city is prohibited under Regulation 615 of the Highway Traffic Act, to to operate the flashing 40 kms per hour lights and the ASE Cameras within the school zones at the same time. The flashing 40 kms per hour could create doubt from an evidentiary perspective, as the flashing lights are not seen in the image captured by the cameras and are located prior to where the cameras are positioned. We are currently reviewing this given a recently passed by-law that moved the speed limit to 40 km/hr to 7 am to 5 pm September 1 to June 30 in all community safety zones.

There has been concern from residents with respect to the removal of the flashing lights in the school zones where ASEs are installed. The complaints involve the perception of reduced safety for pedestrians in school zones as drivers might not be aware of the reduced speed in the community zone during the school day and drivers are also not alerted to the reduced speed limit without the flashing lights, other than through the use of stationary / static signs.

I am writing you today to see if the Ministry could review the requirement to remove the flashing lights in the school zone to accommodate the ASE cameras. To ensure both pedestrian and vehicular safety, is there a way that both the flashing lights and the ASE cameras could operate and be enforced, in our community safety zones?

Aligned with this issue is a further area of interest related to requiring school buses to be equipped with stop arm cameras and the opportunity for funding to be associated with this and the on-going annual costs for Administrative Monetary Penalties. This is in reference to correspondence on this issue received from the Municipality of Grey Highlands.

I look forward to hearing with you with respect to the concern with the Highway Traffic Act. I can be reached at officeofthemayor@barrie.ca or by contacting my office at 705-792-7900.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Nuttall', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mayor Alex Nuttall
City of Barrie

c.c.: CAO Prowse
The Honourable Andrea Khanjin, MPP
The Honourable Doug Downey, MPP