

Monday, November 30, 2020

Hon. Caroline Mulroney,
Minister of Transportation
5th Floor, 777 Bay St.
Toronto (ON) M7A 1Z8
[sent by email: caroline.mulroney@pc.ola.org]

RE: Greater Municipal Authority for Photo Radar

Dear Minister Mulroney,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Riverside Park Community Association in Ottawa concerning the need for stronger measures to address traffic safety in our community. Speeding is one of our most serious problems. While the Covid-19 pandemic has temporarily reduced the volume of traffic, vehicle speeds have generally increased, detrimentally affecting the safety of our community.

Automated speed enforcement – photo radar – is an important way to address speeding, and we welcome steps taken by the Ontario Government over the last two years to allow it to be used again.

The effectiveness of photo radar, and other automated speed enforcement measures, to improving traffic safety has been clearly demonstrated. It increases speed compliance, alters driver behaviour, and enhances public awareness about the critical need to slow down.

We are concerned, however, that the parameters established by the Ontario Government for the use of photo radar, particularly limiting its use to community safety zones or school zones designated by municipal by-laws, are far too restrictive and significantly constrain its effectiveness as a traffic safety tool. Partly as a result, photo radar is initially being implemented in just eight locations in Ottawa, a city of one million people, far short of its potential to slow traffic and save lives!

Municipal authorities should be given greater authority and flexibility to use photo radar on arterial roads and neighbourhood streets where the communities involved believe that enhanced traffic safety measures are necessary. In the case of Riverside Park, this would help facilitate the implementation of photo radar on West Walkley Road and Riverside Drive, our community's two main thoroughfares where speeding is a serious and growing problem, especially as traffic volumes continue to recover from the current pandemic.

We encourage your early attention to this matter and look forward to hearing from you in support of our community's improved traffic safety.

Thank you.



Joel Duff
President
Riverside Park Community Association

c.c.
Honourable Lisa MacLeod, MPP (Nepean)
Councillor Riley Brockington, River Ward Ottawa