

Re: **MM36.9 Expanded Use of Automated Speed Enforcement** and
MM36.15 Protecting All Vulnerable Pedestrians With Speed Enforcement Cameras

Dear Toronto City Councillors,

As many of you likely know, Friends and Families for Safe Streets is a group of people whose lives have been shattered and destroyed by preventable, senseless road violence. The crashes that killed our loved ones - our spouses, our children and grandchildren, our siblings, our parents - or destroyed our physical and mental health were easily preventable, had our elected leaders taken their responsibility for road safety seriously. The crashes that blew our lives apart could have been prevented by simple evidence-based actions such as Vision Zero street re-design, and Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE), which these member motions are about.

We are writing to beg you to adopt these motions and implement ASE cameras as widely and as quickly as possible, especially on arterial roads where most road violence is inflicted.

Despite how easy it is to prevent the road violence unleashed on a daily basis on Toronto's deadly streets, compared with how hard it is to suddenly bury a loved one and spend a life enduring the unbearable pain and grief of the aftermath, some members of council still choose to fight against these lifesaving measures and perversely characterise them as a "war on the car" and, especially in the case of ASE, as a "cash grab." This is wrongheaded, and the act of denigrating lifesaving measures in order to score cheap political points is horrifying to anyone who has ever been on the inside of road violence.

at 30 km/h – 1 in 10 will die



at 50 km/h – 5 in 10 will die



at 60 km/h – 9 in 10 will die



There is *only* evidence that ASE works. There is no evidence that it does not work. At locations where cameras are installed, fewer and fewer tickets are issued month over month as drivers change their behaviour to avoid future consequences for illegal speeding. This reduction in motor vehicle speed saves the lives and health of people struck by drivers.

If you've read any of the Vision Zero materials issued by city staff, you'll already know that controlling motor vehicle speed is one of the best ways to save the lives of vulnerable road users who are struck by drivers. **Which speed would you prefer YOUR loved one - your child or spouse - to be struck at?**

If you would prefer your loved ones to be struck at lower, more survivable speeds, please vote for these two member motions and dramatically expand Toronto's ASE program to as many locations as possible. This is a significant action that can be deployed quickly, at a reasonable cost, all over the city in support of the Vision Zero program, which otherwise seems to be languishing.

As an elected leader in Toronto, we remind you that **road safety is your job**. You have power to make life-saving changes and spare other families from suffering the same violence and grief that our members have been subjected to on Toronto's poorly designed streets. If you choose to vote against expanding ASE in Toronto, you are sending a clear message to every resident of Toronto that you would prefer to see other families continue being shattered by preventable road violence than do something effective. That is not acceptable. That is not leadership. Leadership is standing up for what's right and doing what saves lives.

Sincerely,

Friends and Families for Safe Streets