



**Councillor Paul W. Ainslie**  
City of Toronto Councillor  
Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood

Chair, General Government Committee  
Chair, Scarborough Community Council  
Chair, Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo  
Chair, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority  
Chair, Federation of Ontario Public Libraries  
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Councillor Paul Ainslie Scarborough-Guildwood

Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood

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Date: October 21, 2024  
To: Mayor Olivia Chow and Executive Committee Members  
Re: Establishment of Ontario Rural Road Safety Program.

### **Recommendation,**

1. City Council support the Good Road Association in their request to the Province of Ontario to establish an Ontario Rural Road Safety Program.
2. City Council forward a copy of the Item to the Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, the Hon. King Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, the Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs, the Hon. Trevor Jones, Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response, the Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, and the Good Roads Association.

### **Background**

As a Good Roads Board of Directors representing the City of Toronto, I am writing to express the strong support for the establishment of an Ontario Rural Road Safety Program, as outlined in the recent proposal by Good Roads.

Ontario roads are experiencing a troubling rise in fatalities. In 2023, there were 616 deaths and 36,090 injuries, with fatalities increasing nearly 20% over the past decade. The 2021 Ontario Road Safety Annual Report (ORSAR) reveals a concerning disparity: while rural Ontario has only 17% of the province's population, 55% of road fatalities occur on its roads. This disproportionate risk necessitates immediate action.

Simultaneously, municipal insurance premiums continue to rise. In the absence of joint and several liability reform, municipalities must explore innovative ways to manage risk, particularly on their roads.

This program is critical to addressing the alarming rise in fatalities and injuries on rural roads in our province. As the data clearly demonstrates, rural roads disproportionately pose a greater risk to drivers and pedestrians, despite representing a smaller portion of the population.

The program's multifaceted approach, which includes targeted safety audits, installation of modern safety infrastructure, and a focus on cost-effectiveness, offers a promising solution to this pressing issue. By the Province investing in rural road safety, we can not only save lives but also alleviate the burden on our healthcare system and reduce the financial strain on municipalities.

I am requesting that the City Council adopt this resolution supporting this program and forward it to the Premier and Minister of Transportation. By acting now, The City of Toronto can demonstrate support and commitment to the safety of all Ontarians and make a significant difference in reducing road fatalities.

Good Roads believes, the program is not only important for rural communities but also has broader implications for the entire province. By improving road safety in rural areas, we can reduce the number of accidents that occur on major highways and improve overall traffic flow.

We urge you to prioritize this issue and take immediate action to support the Ontario Rural Road Safety Program. Thank you for your immediate attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Ainslie  
City of Toronto, Councillor, Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood

Attachment 1 – Letter from the Good Roads Association on the Establishment of an Ontario Rural Road Safety Program

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