

September 25 2025  
Toronto City Hall  
Infrastructure and Environment Committee  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: IE24.4 Review of Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) Ticket Appeals Process

To Chair Fletcher and Councillors Colle, Chernos Lin, Peruzza, Pasternak, Saxe, and Morley,

Friends and Families for Safe Streets (FFSS) is a group of people whose loved ones were senselessly killed in violent traffic crashes, and people who survived a preventable crash with severe, life altering injuries. All of the trauma, violence and loss that was inflicted on us, very suddenly and utterly against our will, could have been prevented with effective Vision Zero measures like Complete Street design and Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE).

**We are writing today to beg you to be brave and fight as hard as you can against our Premier's foolish war on road safety, to save Torontonians' lives and keep our kids safe.**

When a driver kills your loved one, you are thrust into a lifelong nightmare of anguish and grief, sleepless nights of weeping and painful longing and suffering. When the police knock on your door and hand you a paper bag filled with your loved one's possessions, when you are given back your loved one's blood-stained clothing, when you have to go identify your loved ones bloody and gut-wrenchingly mangled remains, it is devastating beyond words. This is the human carnage and tragedy that effective road safety measures prevent. This is why they must be preserved, and not destroyed.

Having a child be killed by a motorist is every parent's worst nightmare. Parents clutch their kids' little hands so tightly near roadways, and are too afraid to let their kids walk or bike in their own neighbourhoods, or even play outside near a sidewalk. Unfortunately, nothing a parent can restrict their kids from doing can alter an adult's decision to break the law while driving and hit someone. The only effective way to prevent a driver from hurting or killing an innocent child (or any person) is to use Vision Zero measures like speed-calming road design and speed enforcement.

The data is perfectly clear: speed kills. The faster a motor vehicle is moving at the time of a collision, it becomes exponentially more likely that a person struck will be killed. At lower speeds, collisions become minor nuisance events instead of life-shattering, devastating events.

The data is also perfectly clear: speed enforcement cameras are effective at getting motorists to obey the law, drive the speed limit, and not pose a risk to public safety.

Everyone with any expertise already knows that the Premier's proposals of "big huge signs," "big flashing lights," "the little circles," and "turnabouts" DO. NOT. WORK. Speed bumps are effective, but our provincial government's own road design regulations prohibit speed bumps from being placed on our most dangerous streets, collectors and arterials. It's not clear that Doug Ford has any knowledge of his own government's regulations.

In fact, nothing about this proposal is internally coherent. It was Doug Ford himself who enacted speed camera legislation in the first place. Though Doug Ford calls a penalty for choosing to break the law a "tax grab," if he fulfills his promise of giving municipalities "lots of money" to install ineffective flashing signs, THAT will be a tax grab on EVERY taxpayer as their taxes increase to pay for it, instead of focusing the financial penalty on the dangerous drivers. Doug Ford likes to posture as being tough on crime, yet on this issue he is allowing criminals to dictate public health policy and get more Ontarians killed in car crashes that would otherwise have been prevented. Doug Ford attacked bike lanes for slowing down traffic and was blocked by a court from destroying the ones on Bloor, Yonge and University, yet now he wants to slow down car traffic after all.

Everyone with any expertise in this matter unanimously agrees: speed cameras save lives. Everyone with a heart unanimously agrees: kids in school zones must be kept safe by adults.

Doug Ford has already essentially banned further lifesaving complete streets from being built with Bill 212, and now he wants to destroy the next best safety measure: automated speed enforcement. Please be brave. Please don't just roll over. Please stand up to our provincial government and do everything you possibly can to resist Doug Ford's war on road safety.

Thank you,



Jessica Spieker  
Chair, Friends and Families for Safe Streets