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Ministry of
Transportation

Ministère des
Transports

Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

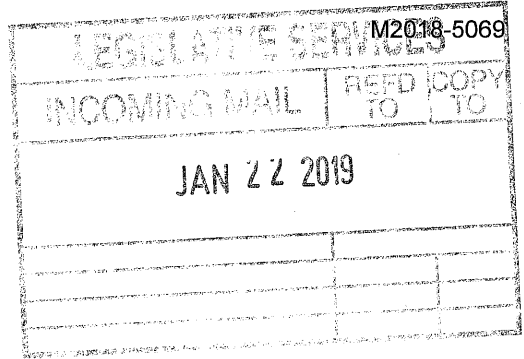
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DEC 20 2018

Ms. Lisa Lyons
Town Clerk
Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive, PO Box 328 Station Main
Newmarket ON L3Y 4X7



Dear Ms. Lyons:

Thank you for the Town of Newmarket's letter regarding school bus cameras. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

The safety of occupants in all vehicle types is a priority for my ministry — especially the safety of children travelling in school buses. I want to assure you that school buses are among the safest ways for children to travel. Research shows that riding on a school bus is 16 times safer than travelling in the family car. That being said, my ministry is constantly looking at ways to improve road safety.

I want to thank Newmarket Council for supporting stop-arm cameras. The implementation of this technology will better hold drivers accountable for breaking the school bus stopping law (Section 175 of the *Highway Traffic Act*).

As indicated in the town's letter, on December 12, 2017, Ontario passed the *Cannabis, Smoke-Free Ontario and Road Safety Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017*, which:

- Allows the province to create specialized evidentiary rules that would clarify what evidence could be used to prove a driver improperly passed a stopped school bus without the need to have a witness present in court.
- Will expand the current school bus passing offence to include when the stop-arm is actuated (in addition to the existing overhead red lights flashing requirement).

These changes will come into effect once a regulatory framework for stop-arm camera offences is created.

It is also important to note that the ministry intends to follow an implementation similar to the model being used with automated speed enforcement in school zones.

Specifically, the province would be looking for municipalities to:

- Identify the preferred technology they would like to use.
- Procure the needed equipment.
- Enter into an agreement with the province and school bus technology vendor.
- Set up a framework for the processing of offence notices.

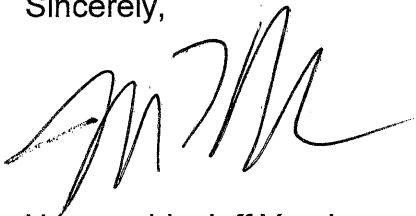
The province would then be responsible for:

- Developing regulations to govern stop-arm cameras.
- Supporting municipalities by advising of the regulatory process and participating in program design.
- Entering into agreements with participating municipalities to provide plate registrant information to the municipalities via a joint processing centre once procurement and program design is complete.

To ensure consistency across the province with respect to technology and processing of offences, we strongly encourage all interested municipalities to work together to identify preferred camera systems and a common approach to offence processing. Once vendor selection and offence processing protocols are established, the province can then draft supporting regulations naming the preferred technology to allow for it to be used in court without the need for a witness.

I look forward to working with Newmarket Council on this important issue. Thanks again for this opportunity to respond. Ontario's Government for the People is committed to giving Ontarians a direct say in how we can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of provincial programs and services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Yurek', written in a cursive style.

Honourable Jeff Yurek
Minister of Transportation

c. The Honourable Christine Elliott, MPP, Newmarket-Aurora