

**Ministry of  
Transportation**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère des  
Transports**

Bureau de la ministre

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**RECEIVED**

June 3, 2020

REGION OF PEEL  
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

Ms. Johanna Downey  
Peel Regional Councillor  
Ward 2, Caledon  
Johanna.Downey@caledon.ca

Dear Councillor Downey:

Thank you for your letter regarding school bus stop arm camera regulations. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

The safety of occupants in all vehicle types is a priority for my ministry — especially the safety of our children travelling on 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 for new ways to make Ontario’s roads safer.

With respect to school bus stop arm cameras, I would like to thank you and the working group for supporting the implementation of this technology to better hold drivers accountable for breaking the school bus stopping law — Section 175 of the *Highway Traffic Act* (HTA). The HTA does not prohibit adding video equipment to school buses that record drivers who illegally pass stopped school buses, provided that the equipment does not extend beyond the allowable width of the vehicle and the video/photo evidence is introduced by a witness when admitted in court.

As you already noted in your proposed motion, to further support the use of stop arm cameras on school buses the Ontario government passed legislation, which:

- Expands the school bus passing offence to include when the stop arm is actuated
- Allows for the development of regulations that would establish the evidentiary requirements to prove a driver improperly passed a stopped school bus without the need to have a witness present in court.

REFERRAL TO \_\_\_\_\_ .../2  
 RECOMMENDED \_\_\_\_\_  
 DIRECTION REQUIRED \_\_\_\_\_  
 RECEIPT RECOMMENDED  \_\_\_\_\_

Once a regulatory framework is in place, it will be up to municipalities and/or school boards to decide whether they will pursue the implementation of a school bus stop arm camera program within their own jurisdictions. I am pleased to see your working group making efforts to implement camera technology so that kids, our most precious resource, can be safer while exiting and entering the school bus.

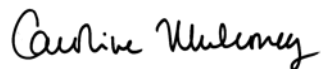
In addition, as you may already know, *Bill 107, Getting Ontario Moving Act* received Royal Assent on June 6, 2019. As a result, the *Highway Traffic Act* will be amended to provide the authority for municipalities to establish administrative monetary penalty (AMP) regimes.

These changes will further support the use of camera technology to record drivers endangering children. Once supporting regulations are developed and approved and operation and IT changes are made, municipalities who wish to adopt this AMP framework, will be able to more efficiently process school bus passing offences captured by a camera. This would save municipalities time and money, which would further encourage them to adopt school bus cameras in their region.

I look forward to working with Peel Region on this important issue.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Mulroney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caroline Mulroney  
Minister of Transportation