

Memo

To: Mayor Burton and Members of Council

From: Paul Cripps – Director, Transportation and Engineering

CC: Jane Clohecy, Chief Administrative Officer
Phoebe Fu – Commissioner, Community Infrastructure

Date: April 14, 2025

Subject: Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) Camera Deployment in Flashing 40 km/h Zones

Purpose:

The purpose of this memo is to provide clarity regarding the deployment of Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) cameras in the Community Safety Zones with designated flashing 40 km/h zones.

Comments:

Flashing 40 km/h School Zones.

Flashing 40 km/h beacons are a safety feature implemented in designated school zones to enhance safety for the vulnerable road users, particularly children. As outlined in Ontario's Highway Traffic Act (HTA) Regulation 615 - Signs, these flashing beacons must be used in conjunction with appropriate school area signage and maximum speed limit signs to be enforceable. They are typically installed on roadways where the regular posted speed limit is higher but needs to be temporarily reduced during specific school times. When activated, the amber flashing beacons signal to drivers that the speed limit is reduced by 10 km/h (commonly from 50 km/h to 40 km/h) due to increased pedestrian activity near schools. These systems are essential for enhancing driver awareness and compliance, particularly in locations where time-based speed adjustments are necessary to accommodate the presence of schoolchildren. Importantly, the use of such beacons is



restricted to school zones only, as their application outside of school zones is not supported under the HTA and may diminish their intended impact and enforceability.

ASE Camera Installation in Flashing 40 km/h zones

When an Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) camera is deployed in a Community Safety Zone that has flashing 40 km/h zone, as part of the implementation of the ASE program, Community Safety Zones with flashing 40 km/h speed limits are required to be converted to permanent 40 km/h speed limits because ASE cameras and flashing beacons operate independently and cannot be synchronized. ASE cameras function continuously, regardless of time-specific speed limits. As a result, deploying ASE cameras in areas with fluctuating speed limits could lead to the issuance of penalties during times when the reduced speed limit is not in effect, particularly if the flashing beacons are malfunctioning or fail to operate during school start and dismissal times. This creates legal uncertainty and complicates the adjudication process. If a motorist disputes a ticket on the grounds that the beacons were not active at the time of the violation, there is currently no mechanism to verify the beacon status at the exact moment the ASE camera captured the infraction. This lack of verifiable evidence can result in the dismissal of penalty notices, thereby undermining the credibility and effectiveness of the enforcement program. This approach is consistent with the industry's best practices and is rooted in the principles of fairness, transparency, legal defensibility, and operational effectiveness. Flashing 40 km/h school zones have two speed limits. These zones have by default 50 km/h speed limit. The 40 km/h speed limit takes into effect by activating the flashing beacons during the school start and dismissal times. These time-dependent speed limits, while valuable in specific contexts, introduce inherent variability and uncertainty for motorists.

To ensure a consistent and clearly understood enforcement environment, any Community Safety Zone with existing flashing 40 km/h zones are converted to permanent 40 km/h zones prior to the installation of ASE cameras. This proactive measure ensures that all motorists encounter a single, unchanging speed limit at all times, eliminating ambiguity and improving overall compliance. Permanent speed limits also support equitable enforcement by applying the same standard to all drivers, regardless of the time of day or situational conditions. In addition to improving enforcement consistency, permanent 40 km/h limits reinforce the safety objectives of Community Safety Zones, particularly in areas surrounding schools by reducing the likelihood of severity of collisions.

The flashing 40 beacons and signs that are removed cannot be relocated to other locations as all the remaining school zones (except four locations listed in below sections) in the Town already have permanent 40 km/h speed limit. The flashing beacon

systems are used to highlight speed limit reductions in school zones, as prescribed under the Highway Traffic Act, by indicating a reduction of the posted speed limit by 10 km/h during designated times. However, since the remaining school zones already have a permanent 40 km/h speed limit, no further reduction is required, and the use of flashing beacon systems in these school zones would be redundant.

Summary of Flashing 40 Zones in Community Safety Zone

Out of the thirty-six designated Community Safety Zones, five were originally equipped with flashing 40 km/h signage. These locations are converted to permanent 40 km/h zones as they are selected for ASE camera deployment.

Locations Completed in September 2024

As part of the first ASE camera deployment, the following two Community Safety Zones were converted from flashing to permanent 40 km/h zones. Flashing beacons were removed and replaced with standard “Maximum 40 km/h” signage:

- Glenashton Drive between Grand Boulevard and Eighth Line.
- Rebecca Street between Sussex Street and Bronte Road.

Locations Scheduled for May 2025

As part of the upcoming ASE camera rotation (end of May 2025), flashing 40 km/h zones in the following three Community Safety Zones will also be converted to permanent 40 km/h zones. A by-law amendment report will be presented to Council in April 2025 to support the required speed limit change. Upon by-law approval, flashing beacons will be removed and permanent “Maximum 40 km/h” signage will be installed.

- Lakeshore Road East between Douglas Avenue and Morrison Road.
- Maple Grove Drive between Devon Road and Lakeshore Road East.
- Rebecca Street between Garden Drive and Sybella Drive.

Flashing 40 km/h Zones Outside of Community Safety Zones

The following four locations currently have flashing 40 km/h signs but are not designated Community Safety Zones. ASE cameras are not being considered at these locations at this time. The flashing beacons will remain in place unless future assessments recommend Community Safety Zone designation and ASE deployment at these locations. Glen Abbey Gate between Third Line and Pilgrims Way.

- Sixth Line between Upper Middle Road and Glenashton Drive.
- Nottingham Gate between Pilgrims Way and Upper Middle Road.
- Lakeshore Road East between Devon Road and Winston Churchill Boulevard.

Communication

During the initial deployment of Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) cameras, communication materials did not include information regarding the conversion of the two existing flashing 40 km/h school zones on Glenashton Drive and Rebecca Street to permanent 40 km/h zones. To improve communication for the upcoming ASE camera rotation, and the conversion of the next three flashing 40 km/h school zones to 24/7 permanent 40 km/h zones, we are implementing enhanced notification measures. Specifically, information signs will be installed adjacent to the existing flashing 40 signs, advising that the speed limit in these school zones will change to a permanent 40 km/h in May 2025. Additionally, once the flashing 40 signs are replaced with permanent 40 km/h signs, “NEW” signs will be affixed above the ‘MAXIMUM 40 km/h’ speed limit signs to draw driver attention to the speed limit change.

Speed limit in this school zone will change from flashing 40 km/h to a 24/7 40 km/h speed limit in May 2025.



Wb-3 Sign (OTM Book 6)

We appreciate Council's continued support for the ASE program and our shared goal of enhancing road safety.