

Ministry of Transportation

Ministère des Transports

Highway Standards Branch  
301 St. Paul Street 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
St. Catharines ON L2R 7R4  
Tel.: 905-704-2089  
Fax: 905-704-2055

Direction des normes routières  
301 rue St. Paul, 2<sup>e</sup> étage  
St. Catharines ON L2R 7R4  
Tél. : 905-704-2089  
Télec. : 905-704-2055



Ontario

July 12, 2017

His Worship Fred Eisenberger  
Mayor, City of Hamilton  
71 Main Street West, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

Thank you for your letter regarding reduced speed limits during storm events on Ontario highways. I have been asked to respond on behalf of the ministry.

Ontario has among the safest roads in North America. In the last several years, the ministry has introduced some legislative changes for transport trucks, such as requiring the use of electronic speed limiters. As a result, the number of fatalities involving large trucks has fallen dramatically from 158 in 2004 to 109 in 2014 (a 31% reduction).

As part of the ministry's commitment to continuously improve road safety, we regularly review our policies and practices to determine if they are current with research findings and best practices worldwide. Reducing speed limits during severe winter storms would require the implementation of Variable Speed Limits. Variable Speed Limits have been implemented in a limited number of jurisdictions throughout the world. Unfortunately, there is currently little documentation on the safety impacts. The Province of British Columbia recently implemented Variable Speed Limits and the ministry will monitor developments in this area and continue to look for opportunities to improve road safety.

All drivers are advised to slow down and stay in control during winter weather. Sections 120 and 158 of the Highway Traffic Act address careless driving and following too closely, taking into consideration road, weather and traffic conditions.

Thank you again for forwarding your City Council resolution.

Sincerely,

for: Dino Bagnariol, P. Eng.  
Director

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK	
AUG 03 2017	
REF'D TO	Council Aug 18/17
REF'D TO	_____
REF'D TO	_____
ACTION _____	