

Dear Guy,

I write to you in response to your proposed legislative changes to current laws pertaining to unsafe passing on our Ontario roadways.

Current legislation allows charges can be laid under sections 148 and 149(1) of the Highway Traffic Act of Ontario. These sections relate to the unsafe passing on or near the crest of a hill, bridge or viaduct.

While these laws are good, they are sadly, reactionary offences. Often police are laying these charges because of a motor vehicle collision, the fact a collision has occurred allows for the facts in issue of the charge to be more easily prosecuted.

I support the addition of an offence simply for passing a vehicle where the Ministry of Transport Engineers have determined that a double solid line be installed indicating drivers should not pass other vehicles.

The ease of enforcing this charge without waiting for the result of an unsafe maneuver by an aggressive driver causing a collision will save lives.

Our two laned highways in Ontario are engineered to a very safe standard, however aggressive drivers make our highways unsafe. In my former career as a police officer I have witnessed the tragic results of poor choices made by drivers.

Should this new proposal become law, the ability to educate drivers and enforce unsafe passing will be greatly enhanced.

I commend you and your team in your efforts to save lives.

Mark Andrews

Traffic Inspector (Ret)