



OFFICE of the MAYOR
CITY of BURLINGTON

Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria
Minister of Transportation
777 Bay St. 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8
Via email: minister.mto@ontario.ca

Re: City of Burlington Council Endorsed Motion, *Safer Drivers, Safer Roads*

June 12, 2025

Dear Honourable Sarkaria,

On May 20, 2025, Burlington City Council unanimously endorsed the “Safer Drivers, Safer Roads – A Call for the Provincial Government to Act” motion, which supports the Office of the Auditor General’s December 2023 Value-for-Money Audit: Driver Training and Examination (the “AG Report”). The Report’s 18 recommendations aim to strengthen Ontario’s driver training, examination, and monitoring programs—changes that are critical to making our roads safer.

The AG Report concluded that:

“...the Ministry of Transportation did not have effective evidence-based driver examination programs to evaluate and test novice drivers thoroughly and consistently. ... It does not regulate driver training services outside of the optional Beginner Driver Education program, curbing its ability to identify and/or deter substandard training practices within the industry. In addition, the Ministry’s monitoring programs were not designed to proactively identify drivers with repeat suspensions or high-risk medical conditions, impeding the effectiveness of these programs to maximize road safety in Ontario.”

These findings directly affect the safety of our community. While municipalities are responsible for designing safe roadways and traffic-management strategies, those efforts are only meaningful if all motorists receive consistent, high-quality training and testing. For Burlington residents—whether they are new drivers, professional drivers, or families sharing the road with school buses and cyclists—these gaps pose a real and present danger.

Burlington Council therefore requests:

1. A formal update on any actions or timelines the Ministry has established in response to the AG Report's recommendations.
2. An opportunity to meet with you (or a designated staff member) to discuss in greater detail:
 - a) Enhancing evidence-based testing protocols for novice drivers.
 - b) Expanding regulation and oversight of driver training providers beyond the current Beginner Driver Education framework.
 - c) Implementing proactive measures to identify repeat-offender drivers and those with high-risk medical conditions.

While the Province retains jurisdiction over driver training, licensing, and enforcement, municipalities directly manage road safety education, roadway design, and local data collection. A two-way dialogue would allow Burlington to share traffic and collision data—and permit the Ministry to explain how its planned changes will align with municipal road-safety initiatives. We believe this collaborative approach is the most effective way to reduce at-fault collisions and prevent injuries in our community.

I would welcome an opportunity to meet with you or your staff directly to learn more about the proactive measures your Ministry is taking to ensure the efficacy and safety of Ontario's driver training and licensing programs. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Burlington stands ready to support the Ministry to ensure safer drivers and safer roads for all Ontarians.

Sincerely,



Mayor Marianne Meed Ward
City of Burlington



C.c. Hon. Zee Hamid, Associate Solicitor General for Auto Theft and Bail Reform
Natalie Pierre, M.P.P., Burlington
Effie Triantafilopoulos, M.P.P., Oakville—North Burlington