

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA-CARLETON  
MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT  
RAPPORT

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Our File/N/Réf.  
Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 14 April 1997

TO/DEST. Transportation Committee

FROM/EXP. Co-ordinator, Transportation Committee

SUBJECT/OBJET **REGIONAL COUNCIL MOTION NO. 81 - PHOTO RADAR**

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**REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Transportation Committee receive this report for information.**

**BACKGROUND**

On 9 April 1997, Regional Council approved the following Motion:

*RESOLVED THAT Communication No. 20 re: Photo Radar be REFERRED to the Transportation Committee.*

The attached letter dated 20 February 1997 from the Minister of Transportation details the province's position on photo-based enforcement technologies at intersections.

*Approved by  
Rosemary Nelson*

Attach. ( 1 )

Ministry of  
Transportation

Office of the Minister

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February 20, 1997

Ms. Mary Jo Woollam  
Regional Clerk  
Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton  
Ottawa-Carleton Centre, Cartier Square  
111 Lisgar Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K2P 2L7

Dear Ms. Woollam:

Thank you for your letter dated January 23, 1997, in which you were inquiring about the application of photo-based enforcement technologies at intersections.

As noted in my previous correspondence to you, this government recognizes that red light violations are a serious traffic safety issue; however, there are other driving practices which also place road users at risk. The government believes there is a need for a more comprehensive approach to road safety. The goal is to not only control speeders and those who run red lights but also to further combat the driving practices which photo radar failed to prevent, such as impaired driving, aggressive driving, tailgating and improper lane changes.

This government is not supportive of the use of photo-based enforcement technologies because they target the registered owner of the vehicle rather than the driver of that vehicle at the time of the offence. It is important that the driver bear responsibility for his or her actions. For this reason, this government believes that the driver be apprehended for violations of the Highway Traffic Act wherever possible.

When the photo radar project was cancelled on July 8, 1995, it was announced that a plan addressing many issues of road safety would be prepared. On October 24, 1995 my colleagues, Attorney General Charles Harnick, Solicitor General Robert W. Runciman and I announced this new comprehensive Road Safety Plan.

The plan looks at a full range of road safety problems and it targets three crucial areas at this time: truck safety, increased enforcement and impaired driving.

We considered all road users when developing the plan to ensure that it would be both comprehensive and effective. Implementation of Road Safety Plan initiatives will help to improve safety on Ontario's roads and lessen the burden on the medical system.

Thank you for bringing your region's concerns and regional council's resolution to my attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Al Palladini', followed by a horizontal flourish.

Al Palladini  
Minister