

NECA Traffic and Safety AGM Report 2024

With respect to traffic and safety in New Edinburgh, the past year has been one of relative stability without any major incidents or disruptions. We can continue to expect steady, busy peak traffic periods that continuously get even busier in the years ahead as the city population increases and New Edinburgh densifies. The community looks for traffic calming enhancements commensurate with the increasing risks of vehicular collisions to be installed throughout the years ahead.

Most Dangerous Times and Places

Peak traffic periods are the most dangerous times so those are the most important cycles to start capturing traffic data on and focus traffic calming efforts towards. Peak periods in New Edinburgh are:

- School days (Monday-Friday, September-June, holidays excluded)
- Morning: 7:15 AM - 8:45 AM
- Afternoon: 2:45 PM - 6:30 PM

Despite searching, we've never seen any meaningful traffic count data for the residential streets of New Edinburgh, so we've made requests to the City of Ottawa to start formally tracking this. The intersection perceived to be the most dangerous within New Edinburgh based on responses to surveys and other community input we've received is MacKay and Beechwood.

Here's the other intersections with the most community interest for traffic calming (like bulbouts or raised intersections) in order of priority:

- Crichton and Dufferin
- Crichton and Keefer
- Crichton and Union
- Stanley and Keefer
- Stanley at the crosswalk between the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse and the pathway on the public grass space across the road
- MacKay and Dufferin

Speed Enforcement

This fall an automated speed enforcement camera has been installed on Crichton Street between Vaughan Street and Beechwood Avenue. The posted speed limit for this section of Crichton Street is 40 km/h. Threshold speeds for triggering fines are not disclosed. According to aseontario.com, the official automated speed enforcement information site for Ontario, "As

speed limits are not guidelines – they are the law - there is no need to disclose threshold speeds. Driving at, or below, the posted limit will ensure a ticket is not issued.”

The City of Ottawa website states their year long pilot study had the following impact:

- 200 percent increase in compliance with the speed limit
- 11 percent decrease in 85th percentile speed (the speed at which 85 percent of traffic is travelling or below)
- 72 percent decrease in drivers traveling at 15 km/h over the speed limit

The City of Ottawa also indicates *“All revenue generated from tickets issued via the Automated Speed Enforcement program is reinvested into the City of Ottawa’s Road Safety Action Plan program, which uses education, engineering and enforcement to promote road safety for all road users.”*

Beechwood Avenue

2024 was yet another year of disappointment due to the lack of improvements to safety and streetscaping along Beechwood Avenue. One brightspot is that Minto is delivering on appealing new streetscapes on Beechwood and Barrette, together with the bike track in front of their new development at 88 Beechwood.

Kudos to our Councillor’s Office

I wanted to acknowledge the support and responsiveness from Councillor King and his team to NECA in general, particularly around traffic and safety issues. On several occasions this year, the Councillor’s office has organized on site meetings with NECA representatives, City of Ottawa staff, and other stakeholders towards resolving community concerns. One such example of this was around the Bike Parking Corral installed for customers of the Union Street Cafe. Our elected representative raised a community need for more bike parking to City staff. The City immediately (perhaps too quickly) took action. In response to community input that this original solution was sub-optimal, our Councillor gathered stakeholders to devise refinements that would better fit the neighborhood. A new iteration of the solution that resolved the main issues was then swiftly completed. Through liaising with NECA, the Councillor’s team has initiated other refinements that benefit our community, included to the traffic calming along Stanley Avenue near the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse.