

# Ministry of Transportation

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Highway 35/115 & Schools

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#### 1) Are students and parents safe when accessing the schools off Highway 35/115?

- The schools' entrance is safe for the operation of motor vehicles.
- Following recent site visits to monitor for any risk of queuing or excessive speeding, the ministry has determined that the entrances continue to operate as designed.

#### 2) Are students permitted to walk along the shoulder of the highway?

- No. Pedestrians are restricted from walking along Highway 35/115, in accordance with the Highway Traffic Act.

#### 3) What is MTO doing to prevent students from walking on/near the Highway 35/115?

- The ministry has taken action to ensure safer access to the schools and to prevent students from walking along the highway, including:
  - Extending auxiliary lanes along the highway;
  - Installing signs to redirect pedestrians off the right-of-way;
  - Installing oversized and additional school zones signs;
  - Installing fencing on top of the concrete median barrier to prevent students from crossing the highway; and
  - Supporting the designation of the area near the schools as a community safety zone, which increases fines for speeding when applied.
- As well, the ministry continues taking active steps to ensure the safety of the schools' communities by:
  - Undertaking an educational campaign for students; and
  - Installing an MTO camera along the highway to enhance the ministry's ability to monitor traffic activities near the schools.

**4) Can the ministry reduce speed limits along this section of the highway?**

- The ministry has determined that reducing the speed limit may not be beneficial as it has the potential to increase speed differentials which can increase the risk of collisions.
- Furthermore, a reduction in speed limit to 80 km/h or 70 km/h would not materially reduce the theoretical probability or severity of injuries to pedestrians in case there is an unfortunate incident.

**5) Can barriers be installed along the highway to protect students who are walking to adjacent businesses?**

- MTO has determined the installation of a barrier system that would effectively protect pedestrians walking along the highway's right of way is not practical at this location, due to the inadequate length available.
- An effective barrier system needs to have a minimum length that enables the system as a whole to absorb the impact and contain or redirect the movement of a vehicle in the event of a collision.
- The length available at this location is lesser than the minimum length needed for an effective barrier system.
- Implementing a barrier system that does not adhere to these technical specifications would increase the risk of injury to pedestrians, rather than reducing it.