

February 27, 2025

Hello Mr. Mayor and Council,

My name is Noah Irvine, a Ward 4 resident and Guelph road user.

At the outset, please note that I am not opposed to keeping children and youth safe when they go to school.

When I was 14 and Mr. Mayor, you may remember this, I started a petition at Westwood Public School, signed by students asking for Willow Road, in front of Westwood, to be made 40kph with flashing lights to promote student safety. However, I temper support for speed cameras.

I find issues with speed cameras both locally and nationally.

Nationally, each and every one of us has heard the rhetoric from south of the border.

At this time, our country's legitimacy has been questioned.

Our right to exist has been undermined and joked about.

This is where I want to highlight and underscore key central problems with these cameras.

- 1) Why should a company in the US receive 80% of the revenue generated by these cameras?
- 2) Why should a company in the US receive money from Canadians at a time when the US doesn't believe we have a right to exist?

Seeking to further expand the cameras at a time when we are under sustained threat by the US is tone deaf to the geopolitical situation of the day and flies in the face of the "Team Canada" approach.

On March 4th, we will be waiting to see if the tariff threats south of the border materialize.

Should they proceed, Guelph is the 6th most at-risk city in Canada. Guelph companies and workers, such as Linamar, and their employees will be most at risk.

At a time when we are most vulnerable to the external threat of the US ideally, we should look to sever ties with this US company but at minimum, we should definitely NOT increase our business with this company.

As noted, 80% of the money per ticket, goes to some US company profiting off Canadians when the head of their nation believes our border is some arbitrary line.

To consider doing more business with the US at this time flies in the face of the national unity. Imminently, a hard-working Linamar employee may find him or herself without a job. Why should that employee be ticketed when 80% of the revenue leaves Canada to a nation which took his or her job?

In no way, should any Guelph resident be taxed by these cameras to line the coffers of a company in the US.

Our national sovereignty is not negotiable, now or ever.

Furthermore, on the local impact, the city has entered into a space where we are penalizing our fellow citizens for simple mistakes with no room for discretion. Speed enforcement cameras do not allow for the humanity of the moment to be taken into account.

The cameras are inhuman and remove human thought from the equation. Speed cameras take discretion away from enforcement. This flies in the face of how law enforcement operates.

A uniformed officer, through Common Law, has the discretion to determine whether an individual deserves a ticket or not. Discretionary enforcement should not be abdicated by this city and the city plan for vision zero.

Justice is a thought experiment and not a mindless exercise.

Machines in this country do not prosecute or judge in our courtrooms because our system requires thought and consideration of a multitude of factors regarding the prosecution of an individual. Therefore, I assert that machines, such as speed cameras, should have no place in penalizing our fellow citizens.

I urge you to reconsider expansion of this program and whether it is time to remove them entirely based on my above concerns.

Regards,

Noah Irvine