



YORK REGIONAL POLICE
ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY
2023 – 2025



CONTENTS

- 4 A Region on the Move**
- 5 Road Safety Strategy Goal**
- 6 Top Five Road Safety Community Concerns**
- 8 Safe People**
- 10 Safe Vehicles**
- 12 Safe Streets**
- 14 Safe Speeds**
- 16 Desired Driving Behaviours**
- 16 How Can You Help With Road Safety?**
- 18 Traffic Statistics**
- 20 York Regional Police Collision Stats**
- 23 2023 Road Safety Calendar**

A REGION ON THE MOVE

York Region is home to 1.2 million people in nine municipalities and our population is forecast to grow by another 300,000 by 2031. We have more than 4,100 urban and rural roads, 2,000 intersections and almost 900 traffic signals to facilitate the 2.6 million vehicle trips taken daily¹.

For the past 10 years, York Region has seen a trending decrease in the overall number of vehicle-on-vehicle collisions involving serious injury and death. This can be attributed to several factors, including advancements in the automobile safety industry, thoughtful road design and infrastructure, traveller safety education and police enforcement initiatives. The COVID-19 pandemic had a drastic effect on road safety as traffic volumes decreased significantly, thereby reducing the overall collision rate. Now that vehicle use is returning to pre-pandemic levels, there has been a notable increase in motor vehicle collisions. York Regional Police is committed to reducing serious and fatal injury collisions for all road users across York Region. We continue to work diligently with

our partners at the Region of York, our nine municipalities, the Canadian Automobile Association, York Region Boards of Education, community-based road safety organizations and members of our community.

The *2023–2025 Road Safety Strategy* encompasses the combined efforts of York Regional Police and our partners in identifying the causes of collisions and pursuing our shared targeted initiatives to continue reducing serious injury and fatal collisions on our roads and trails. The strategy also addresses our community's top five road safety concerns as outlined in the *2023-2025 York Regional Police Business Plan*, which are:

- Aggressive Driving
- Speeding
- Distracted Driving
- Impaired Driving
- Pedestrian Safety

York Regional Police tackles these concerns through the following objectives and actions to make York Region a safer place for our residents to live, work and enjoy.

ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY GOAL:

To reduce serious injury and fatal collisions by working with our community, our members and our partners to promote safe driving, walking and cycling behaviours through education and enforcement, while also supporting the engineering of safer road infrastructure and design to develop safer streets and speeds for people and vehicles throughout our communities.



TOP FIVE ROAD SAFETY COMMUNITY CONCERNS

The Road Safety Strategy addresses our community's top five road safety concerns as outlined in the 2023-2025 York Regional Police Business Plan, by placing an emphasis on education, engineering and enforcement actions in the strategic objectives of safe people, safe vehicles, safe streets and safe speeds.

Aggressive Driving

- Targeted education and enforcement initiatives to promote safe driving behaviours
- Combatting street racing and stunt driving activities through Project E.R.A.S.E. and strict enforcement of the Moving Ontarians More Safely Act 2021
- Highlight community involvement with our Road Watch Campaign

Speeding

- Working with our partners to increase automated speed enforcement cameras in community safety zones to protect our children
- Recommending traffic calming measures like speed cushions in residential areas
- Targeted enforcement in complaint zones across the region

Distracted Driving

- Public education through social media, highlighting the dangers of distracted driving
- Proactive enforcement of hand-held communication device-use while driving
- Promote safe driving behaviours with our community partners



Impaired Driving

- Year-round proactive impaired driving education and enforcement through R.I.D.E. (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere)
- Utilizing leading technology with our Standard Field Sobriety Testing digital application for conducting roadside tests
- Safe Roads –Your Call campaign: encouraging all community members to call 9-1-1 to report impaired drivers

Pedestrian Safety

- Community education for our aging population with safe street-crossing strategies and the Be Safe — Be Seen initiative — avoiding dark clothing at night
- Project Always Be Careful (ABC) to protect our school-aged children in and around school zones
- Working with our community partners to enhance road infrastructure to create safer pedestrian crossings
- Targeted enforcement at intersections and pedestrian crosswalks ensuring driver compliance

SAFE PEOPLE

Vulnerable road users (pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists) are generally susceptible to more severe injuries in the event of a collision. The frequency of serious injury and fatal collisions involving our vulnerable road users is on the rise following the pandemic.

Impaired driving by drugs and alcohol also continues to be a major concern among our community members and we have seen a 7.32 per cent increase in Impaired Alcohol/Over 80 charges over a five-year period. This is due in part to more robust legislation supporting enforcement activities and to the dedication of York Regional Police combating these criminal offences.

By focusing our engineering, education, stakeholder engagement and enforcement initiatives around intersections and crosswalks, enhancing police visibility and targeting impaired driving, we are working to prevent further serious injury and fatal collisions for vulnerable road users and reduce the number of families left broken by those who choose to use alcohol and or drugs before driving.



Actions:

1. Conduct education, enforcement and media campaigns for school zones, school buses, intersection crosswalks and crossing zones to protect our children, seniors and pedestrians.

Initiatives: Project Always Be Careful (ABC), Be Safe — Be Seen, Community Safety Zone speed reduction and enforcement.

2. Provide safety tips for road cyclists, e-bike riders and e-scooter users to reduce serious injury collisions and promote sharing our roads.

Initiatives: Social media education campaigns, which include initiative results and postcard distribution to community members

3. Year-round impaired driving education and enforcement through R.I.D.E. (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere), Safe Roads: Your Call and targeted initiatives at known drinking establishments.

Initiatives: R.I.D.E. campaigns, Safe Roads: Your Call and targeted enforcement for alcohol and drug consumption. Compliance checks for offenders with driving prohibitions and court-imposed suspensions who are at risk to reoffend.

SAFE VEHICLES

Advancements in vehicle safety have contributed greatly to the reduction of serious injury and fatal collisions, including the addition of side, curtain and rear airbags, advanced braking systems and collision avoidance technology. Technology keeps progressing at an incredible rate and we are already preparing for autonomous vehicles on our roadways and the impact they will have on all facets of road safety. Our Regional Enforcement Priorities (REP) Unit ensures that commercial vehicles, large trucks and modified vehicles are inspected regularly with the assistance of partnering agencies such as the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario. Members in our more northern districts and Marine Unit provide education and enforcement on York Region's trails year-round and on our frozen lakes for vehicles, off-road vehicles and snowmobiles during the winter months.



Actions:

1. Continuous commercial and modified motor vehicle inspections, along with enforcement blitzes with our enforcement partners.

Initiatives: Joint-forces inspection blitzes and regional enforcement with Community Oriented Response Units targeting large transport trucks and other commercial vehicles. Provide additional training for district frontline members to enhance overall road safety.

2. Stakeholder consultations for the safe use of autonomous vehicles on our roadways.

Initiatives: Create a new portfolio within York Regional Police focused on advanced transportation and autonomous technology. The goal would be public safety education, awareness of emerging automotive technology and the responsible use of driver-assist features and vehicle autonomy.

3. Recreational vehicle education and enforcement initiatives for our roads, trails and frozen lakes in the winter.

Initiatives: Recreational vehicle education campaigns, year-round trail and frozen lake enforcement and proper vehicle safety and maintenance.

4. Use of advanced technology to conduct productive road safety enforcement.

Initiative: Deployment of Automated Licence Plate Recognition cameras in all frontline cruisers to assist officers in detecting vehicles, licence plates and drivers in poor standing.

SAFE STREETS

Safe streets begin with enhanced planning principles, safer physical road designs and leading technological infrastructure. York Regional Police analyzes post-collision data and works in collaboration with our external partners to make design improvements to our roads, intersections and transportation substructure to prevent further serious injury and fatal collisions and to provide a safer traveller experience across our region.



Actions:

- 1. Analyze, recommend and review new traffic infrastructure through the York Region Traffic Safety Strategy Committee to reduce high-risk driving behaviours that lead to serious injury and fatal collisions.**

Initiatives: Recommend speed cushions, tables and bollards for traffic calming, dedicated bicycle lanes, roundabouts, advanced/dedicated left-turn signals in high collision areas.

- 2. Determine the root causes of serious injury and fatal collisions through the Post-Collision Review Committee to enhance road infrastructure designs, vehicle safety mechanisms and provide area-specific targeted police enforcement and public education.**

Initiatives: Targeted intersection and driver behaviour enforcement

- 3. Provide public education on new technology to improve road safety for all users..**

Initiatives: Conduct public education sessions and highlight new technology like Leading Pedestrian Intervals at automated traffic signalized intersections, which give pedestrians a head start to cross these intersections.

SAFE SPEEDS

Aggressive driving, distracted driving and speeding continue to be the top concerns for our community members and greatly contribute to the severity of collisions and the resulting injuries. In working with our community partners, we support the establishment of speed reduction measures and complement those efforts with several enforcement initiatives to combat dangerous driving behaviours.



Actions:

1. Support community partners with the establishment of red light cameras, Automated Speed Enforcement cameras in Community Safety Zones, speed feedback boards and speed reductions in our school zones.

Initiatives: Analyze public complaint zones to identify areas requiring these measures to complement police enforcement.

2. Ongoing targeted enforcement of street racing and stunt driving through joint-forces operations with our partnering police agencies.

Initiatives: Project E.R.A.S.E. (Eliminate Racing Activity on Streets Everywhere) and targeted enforcement on organized street racing and stunt driving activities.

3. Public education through social media campaigns and targeted enforcement for complaint areas.

Initiatives: Project Speed, York Region Road Watch, distracted driving education campaigns.

DESIRED DRIVING BEHAVIOURS

- Reduce your speed
- Leave more space between you and other vehicles/road users
- Do not consume alcohol or drugs before driving
- Stay focused on driving — ignore your phone and devices
- Adjust your driving for the weather and road conditions
- Watch for cyclists, pedestrians and other vulnerable road users
- Ensure your vehicle is mechanically safe to operate
- Always wear your seatbelt/safety equipment

HOW CAN YOU HELP WITH ROAD SAFETY?

- Report suspected impaired drivers by calling 9-1-1
- Pay attention when crossing the road – just because you have the right of way doesn't mean it's safe to proceed
- Cyclists should always wear a helmet and use front and rear lights for greater visibility
- Always follow the rules of the road



TRAFFIC STATISTICS

- 88 per cent of all motor vehicle collisions are caused by improper driving behaviours
- Fatal collision statistics from 2020 show more than 30 per cent of all fatal collisions were related to speeding
- Most collisions occur on Fridays between 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. during the winter months, with rear-end collisions being the most common type
- For the past three years, over 60 per cent of collisions have occurred at an intersection
- More than 80 per cent of pedestrian and cycling collisions result in injuries or death
- 87 per cent of pedestrian collisions occur at intersections
- 68 per cent of pedestrian collisions involve vehicles making turns, when pedestrians are crossing with the right-of-way
- 60 per cent of stunt driving and speeding infractions are caused by drivers 30 years of age or younger
- Dedicated left-hand turn signals can reduce vehicle-to-vehicle collisions by as much as 80 per cent
- 22 per cent of at-fault drivers were distracted
- 71 per cent of motorcycle collisions resulted in injuries or fatalities
- The most common collision types involving trucks are sideswipe (40 per cent) and rear-end (30 per cent)
- Top at-fault truck driver action in a collision is following too closely
- Roundabouts have the lowest number of intersection-related collisions, as compared to signalized intersections and all-way stops

Source: 2021 Traveller Safety Report by the Regional Municipality of York



YORK REGIONAL POLICE COLLISION STATS

Indicator	2017	2018
Fatal Collisions	18	30
Number of Vehicle Fatalities	20	31
Pedestrian Fatalities	7	9
Personal Injury Collisions	3,059	2,917
Persons Injured	4,129	3,904
Property Damage Collisions	11,452	10,997
Reportable MVCs	14,529	13,944

	2019	2020	2021	2022
	27	21	20	29
	28	23	21	34
	4	7	6	8
	2,817	1,652	1,818	2,290
	3,743	2,128	2,267	2,925
	10,241	7,125	6,945	9,567
	13,085	8,798	8,783	11,886

2023 ROAD SAFETY CALENDAR

Month	Title	Strategy Focus
YEAR ROUND	Project Speed High Risk Targets CMV Enforcement	Safe Speeds— Safe Vehicles Aggressive Driving Vulnerable Road Users
JAN	Project “S_PACE” Festive R.I.D.E.	Safe People— Safe Streets Aggressive Driving Emergency Workers Safety
FEB/ MAR	Fishing For Impaired Festive R.I.D.E.	Safe Streets Impaired Driving
APR	Seatbelt Campaign	Safe People— Safe Vehicles Seatbelt Compliance
MAY	OACP— Canada Safe Driving Week Motorcycle Safety	Safe People— Safe Streets Vulnerable Road Users
JUN	Project “Heads Up” Bike Safety Month E-bike/e-scooter	Safe People Distracted Driving Cycle Smart/ Active Transportation
MAY/ JUN JUL/ AUG	E.R.A.S.E.	Safe Vehicles— Safe Speeds Safe Streets Stunt/dangerous Events Modified Vehicles
SEPT	Operation ABC Operation Yellow Bird Rail Safety Week	Safe People Vulnerable Road Users
OCT	National Teen Driver Safety Week Cycling Safety	Safe People Vulnerable Road Users
NOV/ DEC	Festive R.I.D.E. Be Safe Be Seen	Safe People— Safe Streets Vulnerable Roads Users Impaired Driving

Description
Complaint Area Speed Enforcement Focus CMV Blitzes/Inspections Including Joint Agency Compliance Checks On Driving Conditions
Former "Slow Down Move Over" Slow Your Pace And Leave Space
3 District — Lake Simcoe Ice Fishing R.I.D.E. Initiative
Seatbelts Being Worn Properly By All Occupants Focus On Kids National Seatbelt Awareness Week
Follow The OACP Focus
Focus On Hand Held Devices, Cycling, And Other Modes Of Active Transportation
RSB-REP Will Be Focused On E.R.A.S.E. Including Joint Agency Initiatives
Focus On Cyclist/Pedestrians Going To/From School And Drivers Failing To Stop For School Buses Joint Metrolinx Events — Operation Lifesaver
Education And Enforcement Around High Schools
Be Seen Campaign Around Time Change Mobile And Stationary R.I.D.E. — Focus In Key District Locations With Festive R.I.D.E. Kick-off Date In Nov

PARTNERSHIPS

- Regional Municipality of York
- Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO)
- Ministry of Health
- Canadian Automobile Association (CAA)
- Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP)
- Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACCP)
- York Region District School Boards (YRDSB /YCDSB)
- Greater Toronto Area police services
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) York Region
- Arrive Alive Drive Sober Canada
- Parachute Canada
- Metrolinx
- Partners in Autonomous Vehicle Education (PAVE Canada)





yrp.ca