



## Why we did this audit

Consistent with other municipalities, the City of Ottawa has adopted automated technologies to enhance road safety and reduce traffic violations. Red light cameras are being used to capture images of vehicles running red lights, deterring dangerous behavior and improving safety at intersections. Automated speed cameras help monitor and enforce speed limits, thereby reducing speeding-related collisions.

Given that both these programs are key components of the City's Road Safety Action Plan, it is essential the City manage these programs in order to maximize safety benefits, maintain public trust, and ensure resources are used effectively.

## What we found

The Red Light Camera program is well-established, with formalized processes and controls. Similarly, while the Automated Speed Enforcement program is newer and expanding, it also operates with standardized practices. Our audit highlighted best practices within the City's programs, such as data-driven camera placement. In anticipation of program growth, the City proactively opened its own processing center in February 2024 to manage the increasing volume of speed camera infractions. Despite the recent commencement of operations, the processing centre has formalized standards and controls.

Our audit also identified opportunities to improve the effectiveness of the programs and enhance the ability to demonstrate how they contribute to the overall objective of improving road safety within the City. This included opportunities to review the site selection methodology along with program key performance indicators and reporting. Additionally, the audit found that revenue generated from red light cameras installed after 2020 has not been allocated to the Road Safety Reserve Fund (designated for road safety initiatives), as required by Council direction.

## We made four recommendations to ensure that:

- Appropriate revenues from the Red Light Camera Program are allocated to the Road Safety Reserve Fund in alignment with Council expectations;
- Automated speed site selection is reviewed to incorporate a more balanced approach;
- Program measurement and reporting is revisited to ensure the City fully demonstrates the contributions of the programs to road safety expected outcomes; and
- Automation technology opportunities are explored within the processing centre to best position the City for future growth and expanded services.

For more details on this report please visit our [website](#).

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