

Proposed Changes to the Low-Speed Vehicle Pilot

Background:

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) recognizes the importance of new and emerging vehicle technology, especially if it expands mobility options for Ontarians; however, safety remains a top priority. The safe integration of new or existing vehicle types with pedestrians and other vehicles is a key consideration before any new vehicle type will be allowed on-road.

Since 2005, Ontario's *Highway Traffic Act* has given the ministry the authority to implement and evaluate pilot projects by regulation, to test the safe integration of new and existing vehicles on Ontario's public roads.

On July 1, 2017, MTO introduced a pilot project to permit low-speed vehicles (LSVs) on Ontario's roads. LSVs are permitted on roads with a speed limit of up to 50 km/h if permitted by municipal by-law. The pilot framework permits these vehicles to be driven under certain conditions (i.e., can only drive through an intersection with a speed limit not greater than 60 km/h, requires LSVs to have doors, limits the number of occupants allowed in an LSV and restricts them to only operate on select municipal roads).

Under these conditions, this pilot permits LSVs to be used in limited scenarios and on select municipal roads to provide an additional mobility option to members of the public. "Low-Speed Vehicle" is a federally prescribed vehicle type which must satisfy safety standards as stipulated in Schedule III of the *Motor Vehicle Safety Regulations*.

The pilot is intended to evaluate the use of LSVs over a 10-year period to examine their ability to safely integrate with mixed traffic and whether the current rules of the roads are adequate for their usage.

Currently, only two other provinces allow LSVs on their roads -- British Columbia and Quebec.

Based on stakeholder feedback that some of the requirements under Ontario's LSV pilot are seen as too restrictive and to more closely align with other provinces that allow LSVs, MTO is considering the following changes to the LSV pilot and invites you to submit your comments for consideration.

Proposed Changes:

- 1. Insurance requirements for LSVs** - Currently, LSVs require higher insurance coverage than a passenger car. LSVs must be insured in accordance with the *Compulsory Automobile Insurance Act* and must have a minimum of \$5M in third-party liability insurance, \$1M for non-catastrophic injuries and \$2M for catastrophic injuries.

This proposal would lower the insurance requirements for LSVs to a minimum of \$1M in third-party liability insurance, \$65,000 for non-catastrophic injuries and \$1M for catastrophic injuries.

- 2. Allow LSVs to cross an intersection with a speed limit not greater than 80 km/hr** - Currently, LSVs are allowed to be driven through an intersection with a speed limit not greater than 60 km/h.

This proposal would increase the intersection crossing speed to not greater than 80 km/h, where there is a traffic signal, stop sign or roundabout.

- 3. Remove the requirement to have doors on LSVs** - Currently, Ontario's LSV pilot framework requires the LSV to have doors.

This proposal would remove the requirement for LSVs to have doors.

- 4. Remove the limit on the number of occupants allowed in an LSV** - Currently, Ontario's LSV pilot requires that the vehicle must not carry more occupants than the number of seating positions in the vehicle, or more than four occupants, whichever is less.

This proposal would remove the limit on the number of occupants allowed in an LSV as long as there are the required number of seating positions.