

Delegation Request to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation

Subject: Concerns Related to the DriveOn Vehicle Inspection System

The County of Elgin would like to express concerns regarding the increased costs associated with the implementation of Ontario's new DriveON vehicle inspection system.

While Elgin fully supports the Ministry's goal of enhancing road safety, reducing fraud, and streamlining the inspection process, the new system has led to significant financial burdens for municipalities. While the price of inspection certificates and standards has remained unchanged, the added time, labour, and specialized equipment required under DriveON are resulting in higher service fees. These additional costs are being passed on to municipalities and ultimately are transferred to taxpayers.

One of the key changes that has led to increased expenses is the requirement for more detailed documentation. For instance, the need to remove wheels for photo documentation and precise measurements of components such as brakes and tires can lead to incidental damage, requiring additional parts such as seals to be replaced. These unforeseen repairs are added to the overall inspection cost.

Additionally, new trucks and trailers need Commercial Vehicle Operator's Registration (CVOR) certificates and must be inspected under the same criteria. Taking apart a new vehicle is unnecessary, costly, and could affect warranty coverage.

While we understand that these enhanced standards are necessary for vehicle safety and accountability, we urge the Ministry to consider the financial impact on municipalities. Increased costs are putting significant pressure on municipal maintenance budgets, and we are concerned that these rising fees will further strain municipal resources and affect the affordability of maintaining safe and compliant fleets.

We respectfully request that the Ministry explore potential solutions to help offset these increased costs, such as providing temporary financial relief or transitional support for municipalities and fleet operators as they adapt to the new system.

Additionally, Elgin suggests that any new purchase vehicle or trailer needing an immediate CVOR inspection be exempt from a full inspection and instead be inspected in a manner that does not require dismantling.

We remain committed to ensuring the safety and reliability of our municipal fleet, and we look forward to the opportunity to discuss this matter at the AMO Conference in August.