

# Red light cameras will be put to test this fall

By IRENE GENTLE  
The Champion

After more than a year of perceived foot-dragging, red light cameras are at last poised to keep Halton drivers on their toes.

At least one camera is set to start snapping this October.

The two-year test project aims to determine if a camera, which will be set up at alternating Oakville and Burlington intersections, can effectively slam the brakes on red light runners.

"They're going to show the effectiveness of red light cameras versus police enforcement," said Halton's director of long range planning and transportation services Ho Wong.

About \$825,000 has been budgeted for the project over 24 months.

That's about the sum needed to improve one existing intersection, complete with adequate

turn lanes, noted Halton's planning commissioner Pat Murphy.

And though some of the camera costs may be recovered through Provincial Offences Act (POA) revenues, don't bet on it, he warned.

"We don't even know if we're going to get POA revenue," Mr. Murphy told councillors at a late May planning and public works committee meeting.

"If you're going to approve the report, don't do it on the basis of getting POA revenue."

Currently 20 intersections are being examined for the pilot project, all in Oakville and Burlington.

Of those nine, will be selected.

They'll be split into three comparable 'triplet' sites and monitored.

One red light camera will then be rotated between an intersection at each of the triplet sites.

"The camera will rotate between the three,"

**"They're going to show the effectiveness of red light cameras versus police enforcement."**

HO WONG OF HALTON REGION

said Mr. Wong.

"But the casing will be there so you won't know if it's there or not."

Another three of the nine chosen sites will boast increased police enforcement.

The remaining three intersections will act as control areas, which will be monitored, though no camera casing or police enforcement will be present.

The project was welcomed by Burlington

Councillor Joan Lougheed.

"All the improvements in the world won't change driver behaviour but I think these cameras will," she said.

"I think they'll show resounding success. That's what I project in my crystal ball."

She said her constituents are tired of boorish behind the wheel behaviour.

"It's probably the single item I get the most calls about in terms of when is it coming," said Ms Lougheed.

"I think it's absolutely vital in terms of community safety."

The Province approved the pilot projects for six municipalities including Halton in January of last year.

But progress was slowed when some of the approved regions found the Province's list of requirements difficult to meet.

Final sites will likely be selected in September.

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