



MEDIA RELEASE – October 7, 2025

The Crane Institute for Sustainability asks when Sault Ste. Marie will see city-endorsed Automated Speed Enforcement, and identifies key insights into the populist political rhetoric contributing to unsafe road user experiences on streets in municipalities across Ontario

In response to recent news about the [Sudbury experience](#), a [CAA report](#), and a [study](#) by the Hospital for Sick Children and the University of Toronto, an [outcry from 22 Ontario mayors](#) and [urging](#) from the Ontario Traffic Council to maintain the ASE systems in the wake of threats to ban them, and many others all lauding the benefits of Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) as important road safety features, Saultites want to know: When will our city implement promised ASE?

Speeding is one of the primary causes of collisions, injuries and death. The city established the speed management task force to identify safety actions to protect all road users. One of those actions is to implement ASE.

Council endorsed “the implementation of Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) supported by development of an Administrative Monetary Penalty System (AMPS)” in April 2024, almost a year and a half ago now.

However, in a bizarre and fiscally reckless decision, council defeated a motion “for the AMPS supporting the ASE at a cost of \$0” at the 2025 municipal budget meeting in December 2024.

With no rationale to defeat the AMPS motion, we investigated the December 2024 council conversation.

What we discovered is deeply disturbing.

A short preliminary summary of some of our initial analysis results can be found [here](#). We also provide a short summary of preliminary analysis results from the [Mayor](#) and [one member of council](#) who contributed the dissenting comments.

Our results shed light on the political rhetoric militating against road user safety not only in Sault Ste. Marie, but across the province.

As a result our analysis of the December 2024 vote by Sault Ste. Marie municipal council, the Crane Institute for Sustainability has the following questions:

- 1) will the city explain when and how the ASE system is going to be implemented, including
 - a. which option staff ultimately selected to use as the AMPS alternate, if not the POA court system,
 - b. how the selected alternate option will raise revenue to ensure a revenue neutral or positive

system similar to the AMPS to maintain an equivalency of accountability to the taxpayer, and

- c. what the current status of staff implementation of that option is?
- 2) which of the tasks endorsed by council at the April 8, 2024 council meeting have been completed by staff, when were they completed, and at what cost/benefit to taxpayers?
- 3) what actions have been taken by staff since December 2024 to progress ASE?
- 4) will ASE still be operational by 2026, and if not, when?

The Crane Institute for Sustainability calls on members of council who opposed the AMPS motion to publicly explain their rationale and why this was not raised during the council discussion.

We also call on council to cease impeding staff so that staff can do in a timely manner what council has directed them to do to protect road user safety.

The Crane Institute also calls on the province to start taking road user safety seriously, and stop the use of disinformation that places the lives and wellbeing of citizens of Ontario—especially children, youth, seniors, cyclists, pedestrians and vulnerable populations—at unnecessary and avoidable risk.

Whether it's a city impeding staff from taking action to increase road user safety, or a province impeding cities from taking action to increase road user safety, the results are the same: completely avoidable serious injuries and deaths, mostly for our most vulnerable road users and citizens. This practice has to stop.

For further information or questions on the research, or for interested citizens in Sault Ste. Marie who would like to see better and more road safety measures in the community or to join the community road user safety group, please email the Crane Institute at: <info@ci4s.org>.