

# 2025 Speed Safety Report



The St. Thomas Police Service continues to use CypressVue GPS tracking software in police vehicles. The primary purpose of the St. Thomas Police Service Speed Safety Initiative (SSI) is to encourage members to adopt a learned approach of emergency response and patrol driving that includes the conscious consideration of the ramifications and associated consequences that may result from the operation of an STPS vehicle at an excessive rate of speed.

Relevant legislation is applicable in cases where police officers operate police motor vehicles in excess of posted speed limits:

**Ontario Highway Traffic Act – Section 128(13) (Speeding) reads;**

Fire Department and Police Vehicles – the speed limits prescribed under this section or any regulation passed or by-law passed under this section do not apply to,

*b) a police department's vehicle while being used in lawful performance of a police officer's duties*

Although legislation justifies officers to travel in excess of posted speed limits this must be done prudently, with constant consideration given to various factors that may impact the safety of the public and officers. The Speed Safety Initiative is a tool employed by the STPS to educate members on the dangers of excessive speed while operating a police vehicle. The Speed Safety Initiative is intended to recognize any police vehicle travelling at speeds greater than the defined acceptable speed relative to the posted speed limits on each roadway. When a member exceeds that threshold there must be a justifiable reason for doing so, taking into consideration the:

- 1) Type and urgency of the incident being responded to;
- 2) Availability and/or presence of other units attending the call for service;
- 3) Designated speed limit;
- 4) Nature and condition of the roads being travelled;
- 5) Presence of pedestrian and/or vehicular traffic;
- 6) Time of day;
- 7) Road and weather conditions;
- 8) Member's ability to operate their vehicle, including but not limited to, experience, fatigue and training; and
- 9) The type of STPS vehicle being operated.

It is the role of the Coordinator (Inspector of Operations) to monitor and review all speed Safety Alerts. Upon receiving a Speed Safety Alert that requires clarification or explanation the coordinator will request a Speed Safety Report from the Supervisor of the officer operating the police vehicle in question.

Upon receipt of a Speed Safety Initiative notification from the coordinator, the supervisor shall:

- 1) Review the circumstances surrounding the incident;
- 2) Investigate the circumstances surrounding the reason the member's speed generated the notice;
- 3) Debrief the incident with the member to determine their reasons for the excessive speed;
- 4) Review the member's Speed Safety Initiative record for the previous 12 months to determine if any pattern of behavior exists;

- 5) Make a determination on whether the actions of the member were justified at the time of the Speed Safety Initiative activation;
- 6) If the excessive speed cannot be reasonably and objectively explained, document the particulars of the incident and place an entry in the member's Performance Management file (Performance Development Update) entitled Speed Safety; and
- 7) May be used for disciplinary purposes internally and/or as an investigative aid externally by the OIPRD, SIU, or any other regulatory body within the authority to demand such data;
- 8) When required, ensure appropriate recommendations are forwarded for a member who has demonstrated driving behaviours contrary to this procedure and its fundamental purpose of safe vehicular operation; and
- 9) Notify the Speed Safety Coordinator of their determination regarding the notification.

Since the introduction of GPS monitoring of police vehicles in 2018 there has been a yearly steady decline in the number of requests for Speed Safety Reports from Supervisors and Officers. This year there was a slight increase over the past 3 years for Speed Safety Reports that were requested and required further explanation/justification.

<b>Number of Requested Speed Safety Reports</b>							
<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>

Each Speed Safety review is an opportunity for a supervisor to review policy and the associated dangers to travelling in excess of the posted speed limits with individual officers. In 2025, the Speed Safety review provided meaningful dialogue with the officers involved. Each of the officers spoken to took accountability and mentoring very well. It is apparent that the continual monitoring and mentoring of STPS members is having a positive effect on driving habits considering the single digit numbers for requests for Speed Safety Reports over the past 4 years.

Given the nature of police work, STPS will likely never encounter situations in which officers do not exceed posted speed limits. Emergency vehicles are equipped with lights and sirens specifically to facilitate higher speeds in response to emergencies, allowing for swift action while prioritizing safety. While exceeding speed limits is occasionally necessary, we continuously monitor such instances to ensure that this authorized exception is used judiciously, always with the safety of both officers and the public in mind.



Steve Bogart

Deputy Chief of Police