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Submission on the Definition of "Work-Vehicle" in the Context of the Slow Down Move Over Legislation

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing to propose a clarification and expansion of the definition of a "work-vehicle" in the context of the **Slow Down Move Over** legislation. As municipalities continue to prioritize the safety of their public works employees and contractors, it is essential that the legislation accurately reflects the vehicles and equipment that require protection under this important law.

Considerations For The Proposed Legislation:

1. **Amber Flashing Lights**
   The definition of a "work-vehicle" should include any municipal vehicle displaying amber flashing lights. Amber lights are the most common and universal safety identifier for municipal public works vehicles engaged in maintenance, construction, and other essential roadside operations.

2. **Blue Flashing Lights**
   We recommend that blue flashing lights also be specifically included in the definition. Blue lights are already recognized in provincial legislation as identifiers for winter maintenance vehicles. Given their critical role in keeping Ontario's roads safe and passable during winter weather, they should be explicitly acknowledged in the Slow Down Move Over legislation.

3. **Municipal Work Occurs Across All Roads, 24/7**
   Municipal public works is not limited to construction sites or daytime operations. Work can, and does, take place **24 hours a day, seven days a week**, on all types of roadways across the province—including rural roads, residential streets, and high-speed multi-lane highways. Workers in these environments are exposed to significant risk from passing traffic, making it imperative that they are recognized and protected under the legislation.

4. **Inclusion of Municipal Contractors**
   In many cases, municipal work is carried out not only by municipal staff but also by **contractors working on behalf of municipalities**. These individuals face the same risks and perform the same duties, and therefore deserve the same protections. Contractors are typically identified through the use of reflective markings and amber lighting on their vehicles and equipment. The legislation should ensure that these workers and their vehicles are explicitly covered.

5. **Clear Identification of Work-Vehicles**
   In addition to amber or blue flashing lights, municipal work vehicles often feature distinctive

municipal markings, reflective striping, and safety signage. We encourage the inclusion of broad language that recognizes these identifiers to ensure drivers can clearly and quickly identify roadside work vehicles and adjust their driving behaviour accordingly.

Conclusion

By expanding the definition of a "work-vehicle" to include all municipal vehicles (and contractors working for municipalities) equipped with amber and/or blue flashing lights, we can provide consistent protection for workers across Ontario's roadways. This clarity will help ensure drivers understand when they are required to slow down and move over, ultimately preventing accidents and saving lives.

We trust that this submission will be given careful consideration as part of your ongoing efforts to enhance public safety through the Slow Down Move Over legislation.

Sincerely,

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