

July 10, 2020

Dear Municipal Stakeholder,

I am pleased to announce that as of **July 1, 2020** the province expanded the types of off-road vehicles permitted on-road to two new additional types: off-road motorcycles commonly known as dirt bikes; and, extreme terrain vehicles, which are semi-amphibious vehicles with six or more wheels. This updated regulation can be found at <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/030316>.

It is important to note that the same on-road access rules for existing off-road vehicles continue to apply for these new vehicles on provincial roadways (Please see Schedule B of *Ontario Regulation 316/03: Operation of Off-Road Vehicles on Highways*). Similarly to the previously permitted vehicle types, municipalities may permit the use of off-road motorcycles and extreme terrain vehicles in their local jurisdiction through by-law. However, municipalities with existing by-laws permitting off-road vehicles will need to amend their by-law after July 1, 2020 if they want to allow these the new types of vehicles on their local roads. By-laws created before July 1, 2020 apply only to those classes of off-road vehicle which were permitted to operate on-road at the time: all-terrain vehicles, two-up all-terrain vehicles, and side by sides (utility terrain-vehicles, recreational off highway vehicles).

To support municipalities with these changes, the ministry has developed guidance documents to help municipalities decide whether to permit these new vehicles on their local roadways. These documents also provide guidance for proposed, yet to be proclaimed, changes for municipalities listed in Ontario Regulation 8/03 which will amend the way off-road vehicles are permitted on-road access to municipal roads. In municipalities listed in Ontario Regulation 8/03, off-road vehicles will automatically be allowed on municipal roads unless the municipality creates a by-law to prohibit or restrict their use. These new provisions have a target implementation date of January 1, 2021 and will replace the current requirement that those municipalities listed in Ontario Regulation 8/03 must enact a by-law to permit off-road vehicles to operate on identified municipal roads. If you have any questions regarding these future changes, please contact the general inquiry line for the Safety and Information Management office of the Operations Division at 905-704-2960.

For reference, the guidance documents are attached.

I would ask that you please forward this notice and enclosed guidance material to the attention of municipal staff in charge of traffic safety and those responsible for enforcing off-road vehicle laws in your area. If there are any questions regarding these amendments, please do not hesitate to contact the Acting Manager at the Safety Program Development Office Erik Thomsen at (647)-638-5210 or erik.thomsen@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your assistance in communicating this change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela Litrenta". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Angela Litrenta
A/Director
Safety Program Development Branch
Ministry of Transportation

Attachment – Municipal Guidance Materials