



## Yield to Bus

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### What is Yield to Bus?

Yield to Bus is a new provincial law designed to improve transit flow and make transit service more reliable and efficient. The new law requires drivers to yield the right-of-way to buses leaving bus bays to merge with the traffic.

### Why is it needed?

It is very difficult to keep a bus on schedule when other drivers don't let the bus back into the travel lane. The new law makes it easier for buses to merge back into traffic and helps to keep buses on schedule. This law improves transit service reliability, especially during rush hours.

### Who recommended this initiative?

The Yield to Bus legislation was introduced by the Province to help improve transit flow in urban areas. It was requested by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA), and a number of individual municipal transit systems.

### Don't we have something like this already?

No. A number of transit systems (TTC, OC Transpo, Mississauga Transit, etc.) had *voluntary* programs whereby drivers were encouraged to let the bus back in as a courtesy. The new law makes it *mandatory*.

### What is the legislative basis for this initiative?

The requirement to yield to buses leaving bus bays is provincial legislation, contained in Section 142.1 of the [Highway Traffic Act](#) (HTA).

### **When does the law come into effect?**

Section 142.1 of the HTA is in effect as of January 2, 2004.

### **Will the new law apply to all municipalities?**

The new law applies to every municipality in Ontario that has transit service with the Yield to Bus sign on the rear of their buses.

### **Does any other jurisdiction have Yield to Bus legislation?**

Yes. Yield to Bus legislation has been implemented in a number of jurisdictions in North America. In Canada, it has been the law in Quebec since 1982 and in BC since 1999. In the USA it has been implemented in a number of states including Washington State (since 1993), Oregon (since 1998) and Florida (since 1999).

### **Which buses does the new law apply to?**

The new law applies to municipal transit and to GO Transit buses displaying this sign on the rear, above the left turn signal.

### **Does it apply to school buses?**

No. The current requirement for stopping for school buses is unchanged and will not be affected by the new law.

### **How does it work?**

When a bus displaying the Yield to Bus sign signals its intention to leave a bus bay by activating the left turn signal, drivers approaching from the rear in the lane adjacent to the bus bay are required to slow down or stop to allow the bus to re-enter the lane, unless it is unsafe to do so.

### **What's a bus bay?**

For the purpose of this law, bus bays are bus stops that require buses to exit from and re-enter an adjacent lane of traffic. They include mid-block indented bays, the indentation in the sidewalk immediately before and after intersections, and bus stops between legally parked cars.

### **What if I drive a taxi or a truck, do I have to yield to buses as well?**

Yes. The law applies to "every driver of a *vehicle*". That includes cars, taxis, trucks, motorcycles, bicycles and other buses.

### **What is the penalty for not yielding to buses?**

Infractions under the Yield to Bus law carry a fine of \$90. Drivers charged could settle out of court by paying the fine, much like other traffic tickets.

Source: <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/faq/other.htm#ytb>