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# Photo radar cuts speeds, OPP says

Photo radar has had a "radical impact" on the way people drive, according to a Toronto OPP spokesman.

OPP Superintendent Colin Brittan, director of the province's Integrated Safety Project, doesn't buy arguments that photo radar has no impact on safety on the highways.

"We're satisfied with what we've seen and we're certain it's having a radical impact on the driving patterns of individuals," he said.

He said anecdotal evidence suggests people are driving slower on photo radar-patrolled highways.

And he noted in the first month of operation, 24 per cent of the people ticketed exceeded the speed limit by 30 kilometres an hour or more.

But by November, only six per cent of motorists ticketed were exceeding the 30 kilometre barrier.

"It's an indication that people are slowing down, that they are aware of photo radar presence," Brittan said.

OPP statistics released this week, however, show no reduction in traffic accidents in Metro since photo radar was introduced in

August.

But Brittan said the statistics are misleading because they include highways that are not covered by photo radar. He said more accurate statistics will be released by the Ministry of Transportation in June.

At Queen's Park, Liberal Leader Lyn McLeod said if Liberals are elected to government they will abandon photo radar if it cannot be proven that the devices improve safety.

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