

Traffic and Safety Report – 2025 Year-End Summary

New Edinburgh Community Alliance

The past year has been a challenging one for New Edinburgh on both the safety and transportation fronts.

Community Safety and Crime

The most concerning issue in 2025 has been the wave of vandalism and break-ins affecting businesses along Beechwood Avenue. Repeated incidents of smashed windows, stolen merchandise, and property damage have struck multiple businesses—some two or three times. This ongoing problem is devastating for local entrepreneurs and contributes to a climate of uncertainty and insecurity on our main street. Small businesses already face significant economic pressures, and the added burden of crime undermines efforts to maintain a vibrant, welcoming commercial district.

Residents have also expressed alarm about increasing thefts and scams across the community. Particularly troubling are reports of crimes targeting elderly residents. These incidents underscore the need for continued vigilance, stronger policing strategies, and community awareness to help protect vulnerable residents.

Traffic Conditions

Traffic congestion across the city has continued to worsen as Ottawa's population grows. In New Edinburgh, peak-period surges remain a daily frustration. Between 7:15 and 8:45 a.m. and again between 2:45 and 6:30 p.m., Beechwood Avenue and Sussex Drive often become gridlocked, with heavy through-traffic mixing with local users. As both citywide population and neighbourhood density increase, we can expect these trends to intensify. The community continues to call for traffic-calming measures that reflect the growing risks of vehicular collisions and ensure safety for all road users.

Automated Speed Enforcement

Automated speed enforcement cameras drew considerable attention in 2025. The camera operating on Crichton Street issued hundreds of tickets, contributing to the thousands of tickets issued by the broader citywide effort to reduce speeding. However, uncertainty looms as the provincial government has signalled its intent to eliminate these programs. This development could have significant implications for community safety, especially on streets where enforcement has proven effective.

St. Patrick Street Bridge Renewal

The renewal of the St. Patrick Street and Porter's Island bridges began in the spring and is expected to continue until at least fall 2026. While this rehabilitation will ultimately extend the life of these critical crossings, the short-term impacts have been difficult. Beechwood Avenue traffic has worsened due to lane restrictions. Of particular concern is the downgraded temporary active transportation pathways, which has made conditions more dangerous for cyclists and

pedestrians. Residents and commuters will continue to face these challenges until construction is complete.

Looking Ahead

As New Edinburgh continues to grow within an expanding city, traffic pressures, pedestrian safety, and community security will remain top priorities. NECA will continue to advocate for traffic-calming enhancements, improved safety infrastructure, and coordinated policing responses that ensure our community remains both livable and secure.